Nature-based Play in Northwest MN

What is Nature-based Play?
Nature-based play puts kids in touch with nature by encouraging them to play with rocks, water, sand, leaves, sticks and other materials found outdoors. A nature-based play space looks more like woods, prairie or garden than a playground. Unlike the open woods, though, these spaces usually have a border, so that parents know where their kids are, and so that kids can play freely in the space.

Creating a Nature-based Play Space for Warren
Over the last year, the City of Warren and the Warren Jaycees have been discussing ways of transforming Island Park. In June, a group of community members (both adults and youth) met to share ideas about how to transform a part of the park into a nature-based play space. Their ideas turned into two designs that were presented at the Marshall County Fair in July. Kids and adults gave feedback, which was used to create a final design (on the reverse side). These brainstorming and feedback sessions are part of a bigger process to develop plans for the play space, create and install the space in Island Park, and make it come to life with plants, paths, rocks, logs, art and activity! This timeline describes the process and the groups involved.

Northwest Minnesota Natural Play Spaces Design Timeline

Get Involved
There are lots of ways to get involved in the making the play space. Everyone is welcome: kids, adults, people with skills with plants and trees, educators, naturalists, artists, builders... anyone who's excited about making a new space at Island Park! For more info, contact Frances or Gail (info below), or visit the website below.

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www.umcrookston.edu/childrenandnature

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Design for a Nature-based Play Space at Island Park

Play Space location in Island Park

ISLAND PARK NATURAL PLAY SPACE
WARREN, MN 55762
MASTER PLAN