Sensory Garden for Washington Elementary School

Matthew J.

FAA Competition - Playscape
Proposed Sensory Garden for the Washington Grade School at 507 W Condit St, Robinson, IL

This garden will be incorporated in an unused courtyard in the center of the building. It includes a number of features for both children and adults. The features are designed to redirect behaviors in a school appropriate manner for positive results.

1- 8’ by 10’ log cabin with a private space for children to feel safe and comfortable enough to talk and share their feelings. It will be large enough for adult access.

2- A 5’ wide wood pathway with ramps that would connect both entrances and the log cabin (1) while making the garden wheelchair accessible.

3- A large water stone with water coming out of the center and flowing over the sides. The sides could have a variety of textures in different areas. The water can provide a relaxing auditory and tactile effect.

4- A dry bed for the water from the water stone to flow into and be carried to the storm drain.

5- A log bridge with separated logs to provide a fun way to work on balance. Some logs would be tethered to the ground so the will not move and provide a chance for the children to regain their balance.

6- A treehouse approx. 4’ off the ground with a turret on the northeast corner. There are three entrances which include steps coming off the main wooden path, a rock climbing wall on the south end, and a small hole with a ladder by the tree trunk to prevent children from falling. The west side has two sets of slides to provide a fun activity for the children. The guardrails would be placed so an adult could peer in while the children could not fall out or get their head stuck.

7- This is a swing set that is tethered to the ground. This would be a place where the child could physically work off excess energy caused by emotions such as anxiety or frustration.

8- A rainbow path made of wood or stone that leads to the main path to the greenhouse

9- A set of bushes whose leaves have different textures

10- Landscaping that would include plants such as mint and lavender for the children to smell.

The rest of the area is an open green space for the children to play in or other playground equipment to be set in place. The green spaces are strategically located to provide the best views of the courtyard from all windows.

A- 10’w 5’h windows surrounding the courtyard

B- Double glass doors that are 6’ wide and 7’tall with a concrete pad.
Current Space