



ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN

LandDesign worked with Ross Elementary School on a new garden / playspace on an community-adopted yard in front of the school. The project was sparked by the poor condition of the large trees, which presented a safety hazard to the building and its inhabitants. The removal of the trees presented a unique opportunity to create more usable space for this urban school with limited open space.

The project demonstrates LandDesign's ability to program a creative mix of activities and experiences in the smallest of spaces. LandDesign created two child-friendly garden concepts: "whimsical" and "woodland." The two alternatives included carefully selected plantings, hardscape, furniture and sculptural elements that would create learning opportunities for students.

The client selected the "woodland" concept, which uses lush plantings, meandering pathways and animal themes to create a natural setting, while simultaneously limiting maintenance to a minimum. The selected trees and shrubs all contain colors or animals in their names, so that children can delight in identifying them.

LOCATION
Washington, DC

CLIENT
District of Columbia, Department of General Services

MARKET
Recreation Planning



Features include a wooden bridge spanning a dry stream bed and plantings that accentuate the school's existing entrance signage. A space at one end incorporates low tables and chairs to create an outdoor classroom for learning.