



## BARTRAM'S GARDEN

Mr. Alex Smith  
Director, Philadelphia Art Commission  
1515 Arch Street  
13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

To Mr. Smith and the Philadelphia Art Commission.

For your consideration, Bartram's Garden seeks to install an artistic and environmentally-centered playful learning space designed in collaboration with local design firm TinyWPA, with enthusiastic contribution from our surrounding Southwest Philadelphia community, and with funding support from KaBOOM! This play space is a temporary installation and will be maintained for the duration of its useful life by the Bartram's Garden staff.

Community surveys and feedback identified suitable and high-quality play elements for children as one of the amenities most currently lacking at Bartram's Garden. In response, and with support from KaBOOM's Play Everywhere Philadelphia initiative, Bartram's Garden has worked together with designers at TinyWPA to conduct in-depth community engagement that resulted in the popular design shown here in this rendering, which incorporates elements of nature and landscape found around Bartram's Garden, such as wetlands flora and fauna, to engage youth in play while also offering opportunity to learn more about their environs. As determined in the project's funding agreement, fabrication and installation of the temporary elements are scheduled for this summer, with construction completed in September/October 2025 for ribbon-cutting at the Garden's HarvestFest community event in mid-October, which welcomes approximately 1,200 visitors for a full day of connection and activity.

This project, as seen in the attached images and renderings, will be installed at Bartram's Garden in the site's northwest quadrant, an area that already experiences high visitation and use thanks to our nearby community garden beds, available picnic benches, and paved Bartram's Mile trail. The construction of the temporary installation, which has been approved by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, will be led by design experts TinyWPA in collaboration with the landscape and facilities team at Bartram's Garden, and supported where appropriate

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by volunteer programs facilitated by both teams. Installation and subsequent maintenance will be performed by the dedicated team at Bartram's Garden – this project was designed in consultation with the landscape and horticulture staff at Bartram's Garden so as to ensure upkeep of the installation is easily operationalized within the team's current maintenance routines.

With such excitement from our community around this project, we are eager to deliver a colorful and engaging temporary play installation at Bartram's Garden. We look forward to the Art Commission's review.

Sincerely,



Maitreyi Roy  
Executive Director

cc. Leigh Ann Campbell, PPR  
Bob Allen, PPR

# BARTRAM'S GARDEN

Design Details for the  
Bartram's Garden Playful Learning Space



**Playful learning and community  
space at Bartram's Garden**

Sarkofa Community  
Farm at Bartram's Garden

Admin Building

Bartram House

Bartram's  
Garden

Schuylkill River





## BARTRAM'S GARDEN

*Playful Learning And Community Space at Bartram's Garden*







# SITE CONDITIONS

*A large green space located next to the community garden that is used for youth education, programming and events, and community gatherings.*

-Site dips down around 4 degrees from the top of the hill and the edge of the road.

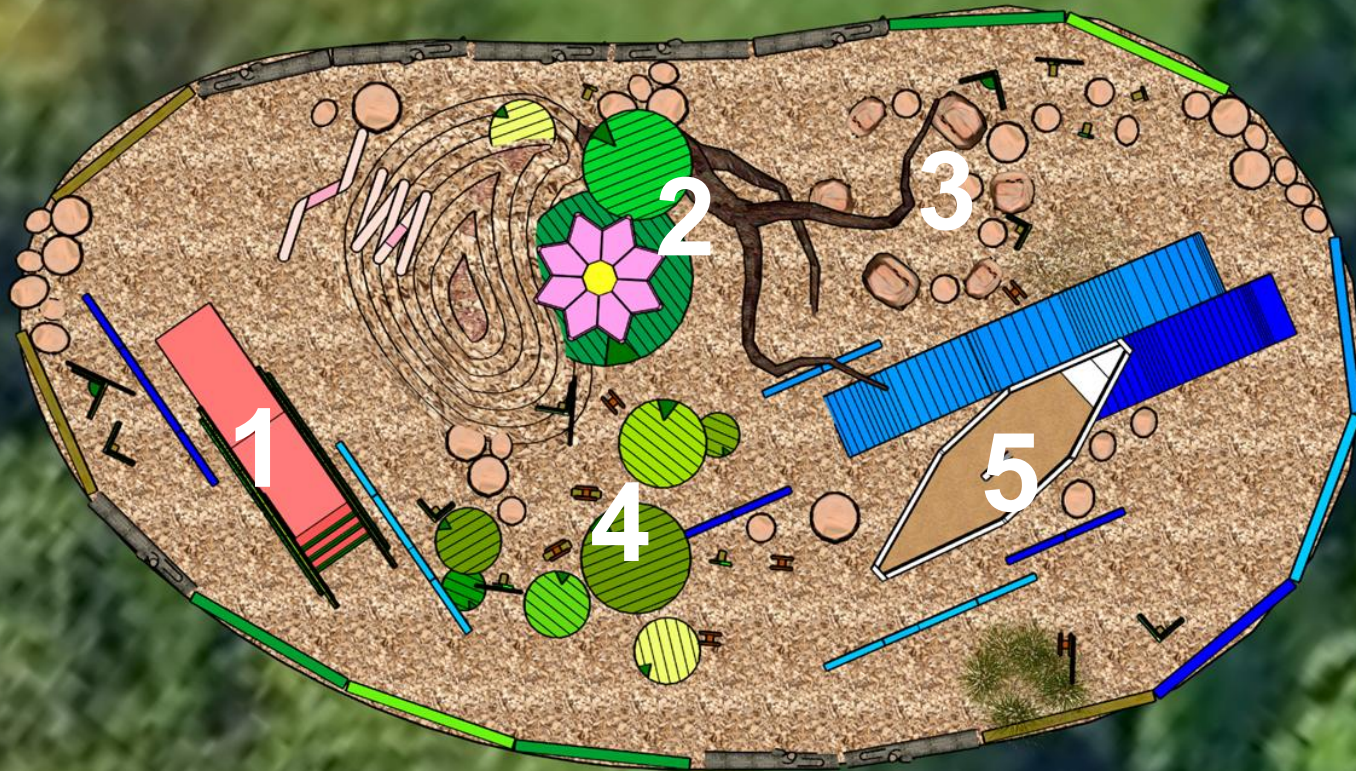
-There is a Colonial gas line going through the site, from the top of the hill down. The installation needs to be 5' from the pipe.

-The site has three large trees in the space already that cast shade throughout the day. One tree has a swing that is added to it seasonally.

-There are railroad tracks to the side of the site blocked off by shrubs.







## ACTIVITY SPACES

*Playful Learning At Bartram's Garden*

1. Frog structure
2. Lotus flower sitting area
3. Gathering space
4. Lily pad platforms
5. Paper boat and wave paths



# Large Structures



## BOAT DIGGING AREA

*A place to dig, run, climb, and play.*

The front/beginning of the playful learning space, where this structure is situated, is the highest point of the playground. The wave path and boat will serve as an enticing initial visual point for those at the top of the hill coming down. The boat will have a mixture of sand and dirt, with hidden artifacts and items at the bottom to serve as a sensory play area. The waves connected to the bow of the ship will serve as an active and imaginary play hub.





## FROGGY STRUCTURE

*A place to learn about frogs while travelling through one.*

The froggy structure will serve as both an area for active play and a spot to learn/observe. Prompts along the inside and outside of the frog will serve as playful learning hubs for kids interacting with the structure.





## LOTUS FLOWER

*A place to relax and gather with friends.*

The hug space created by the lotus flower petals creates an area for people to climb in and gather with friends.





## LILY PAD HOPPING PLATFORMS

*A place to jump and learn or sit and relax.*

Situated towards the middle of the playful learning landscape, the lily pad and cat tail area serves as an active bridge between the boat, frog, and lotus flower. The platforms are large enough for people to use them as a place to sit and relax or jump and play.

The highest lily pad is 27 inches off the ground.  
The lowest lily pad is 6 inches off the ground.



## HDPE

*colorful, environmentally stabilized high-density polyethylene sheet.*



## EXTIRA

*Treated wood composite panel designed for exterior use and high moisture environments.*

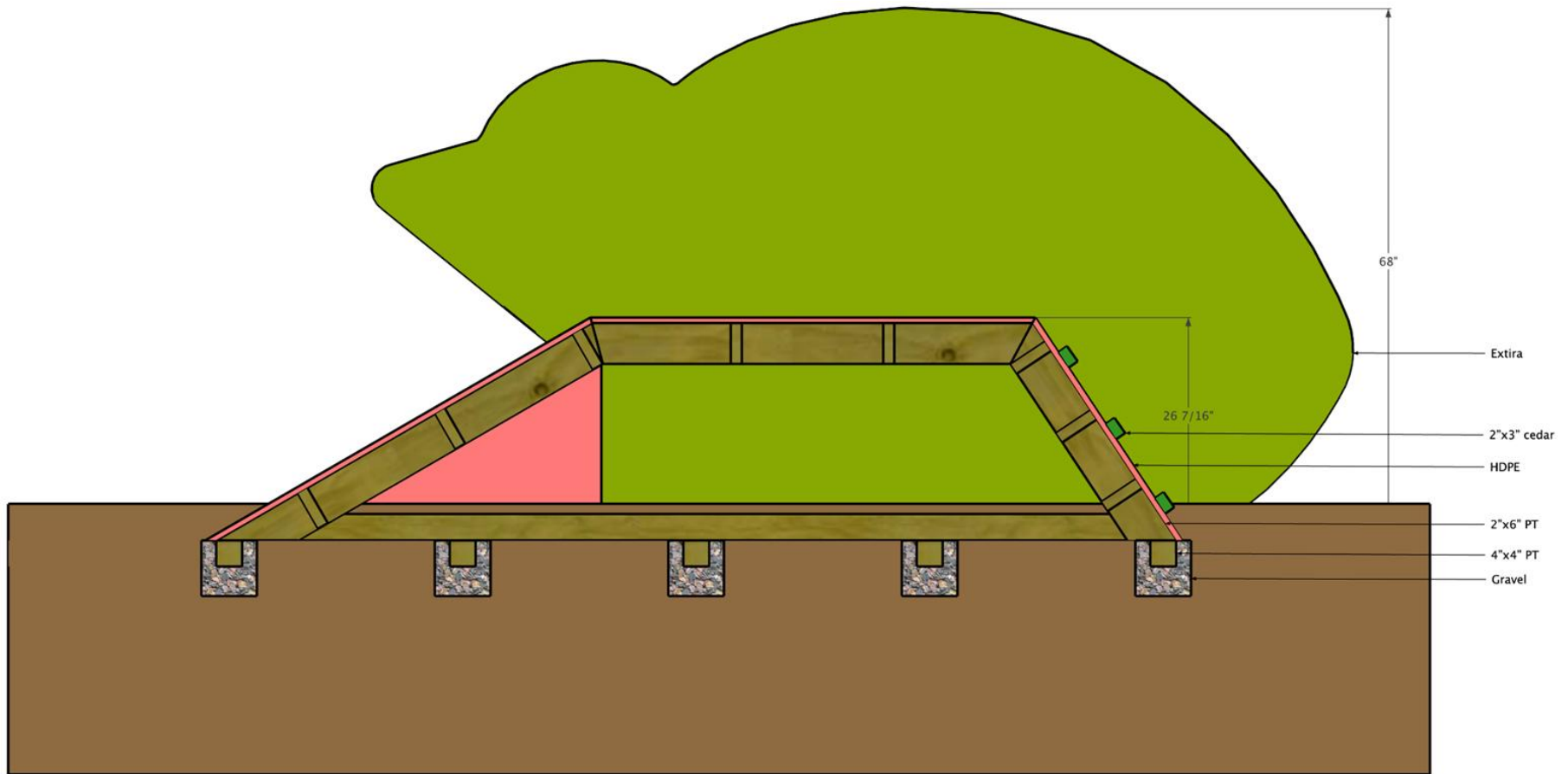


## WOOD CHIPS

*Engineered wood fiber is an organic safety surfacing product recommended for use on playground areas. It is spun from the inside of trees, not the bark. It's compliant with special needs guidelines because it packs down into a smooth surface.*

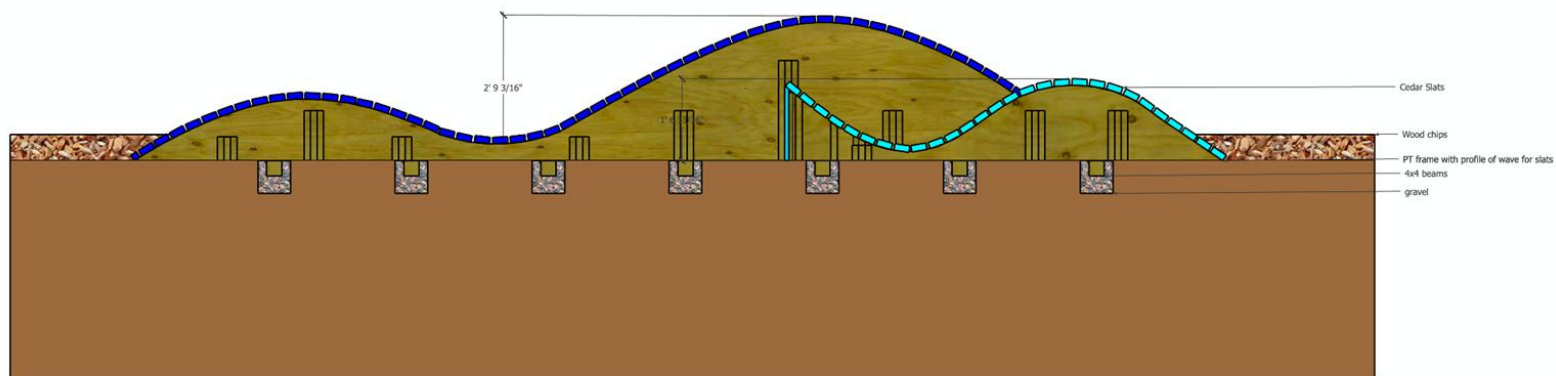
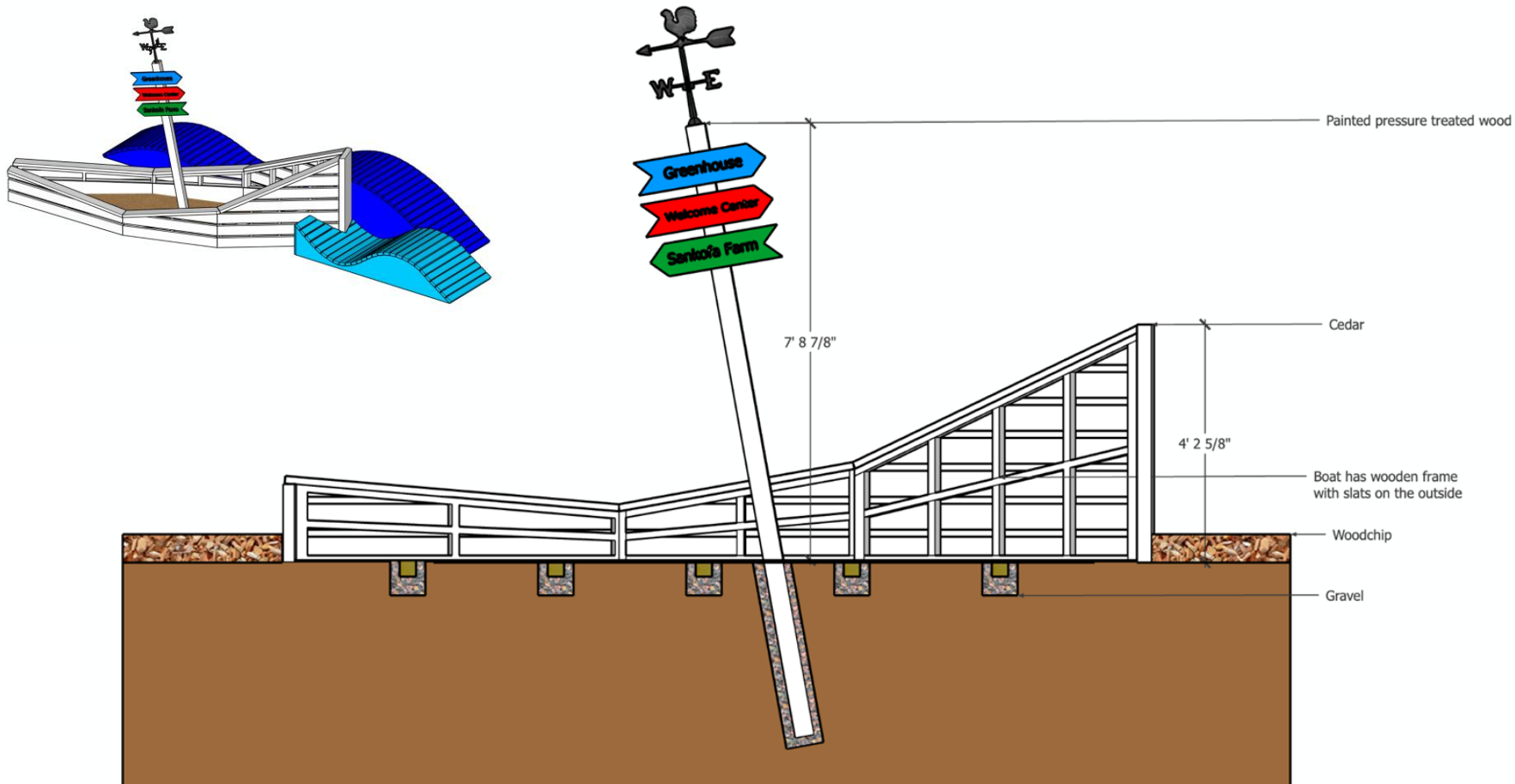




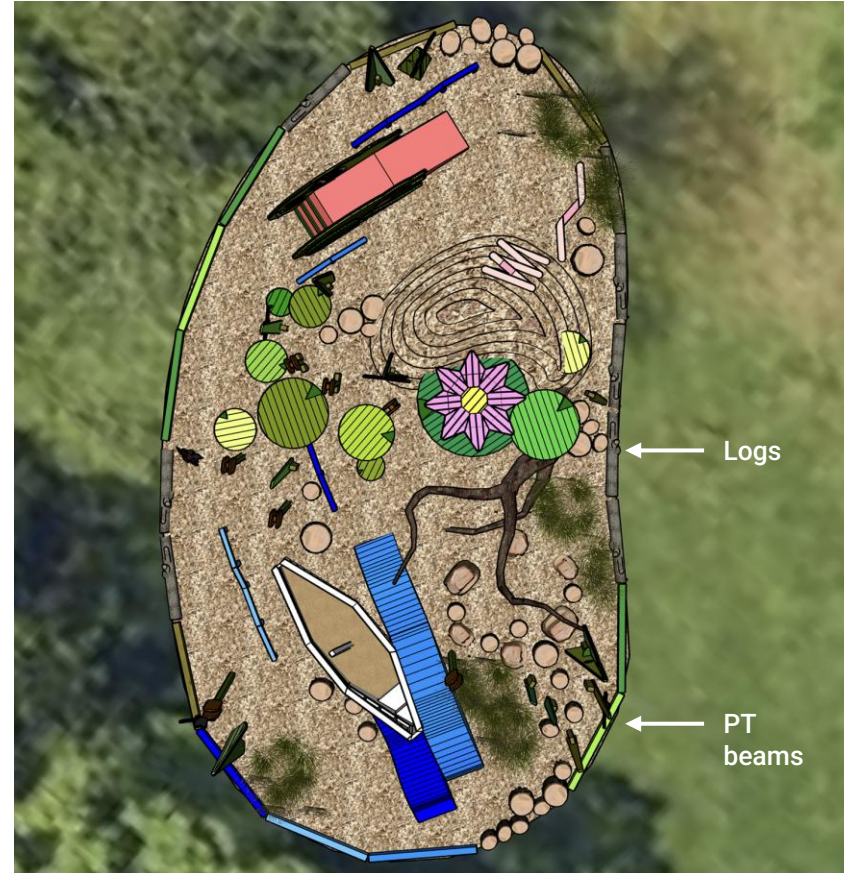
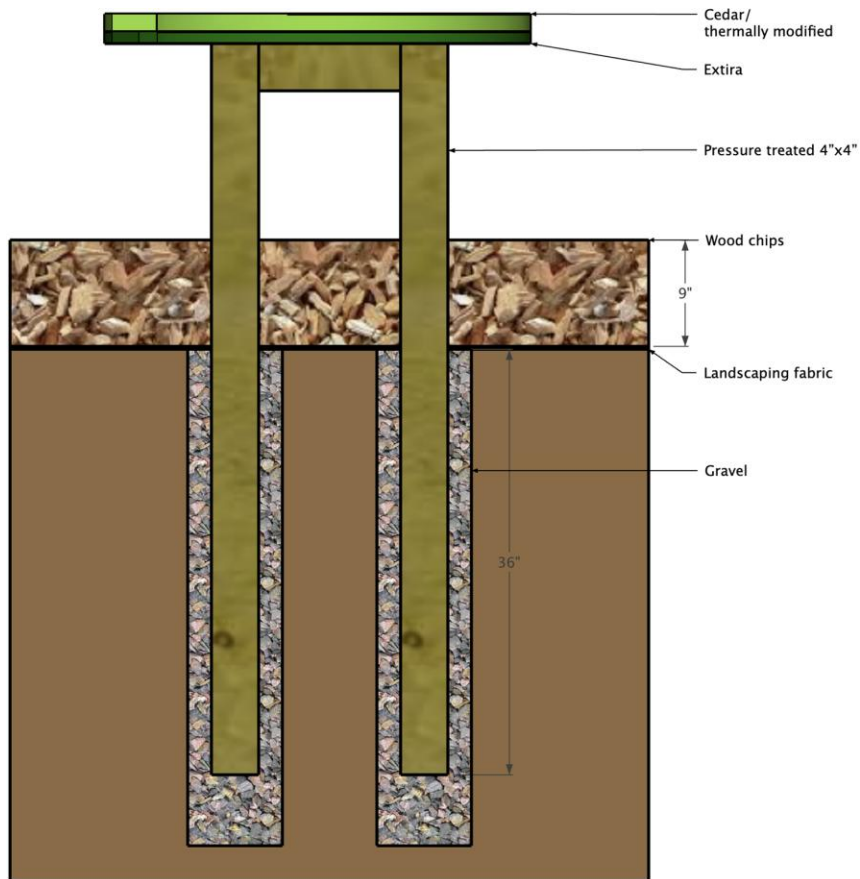


## GROUND BEAMS

*Large play structures will be tied together with 4"x4" beams that will be dry set into the ground.*

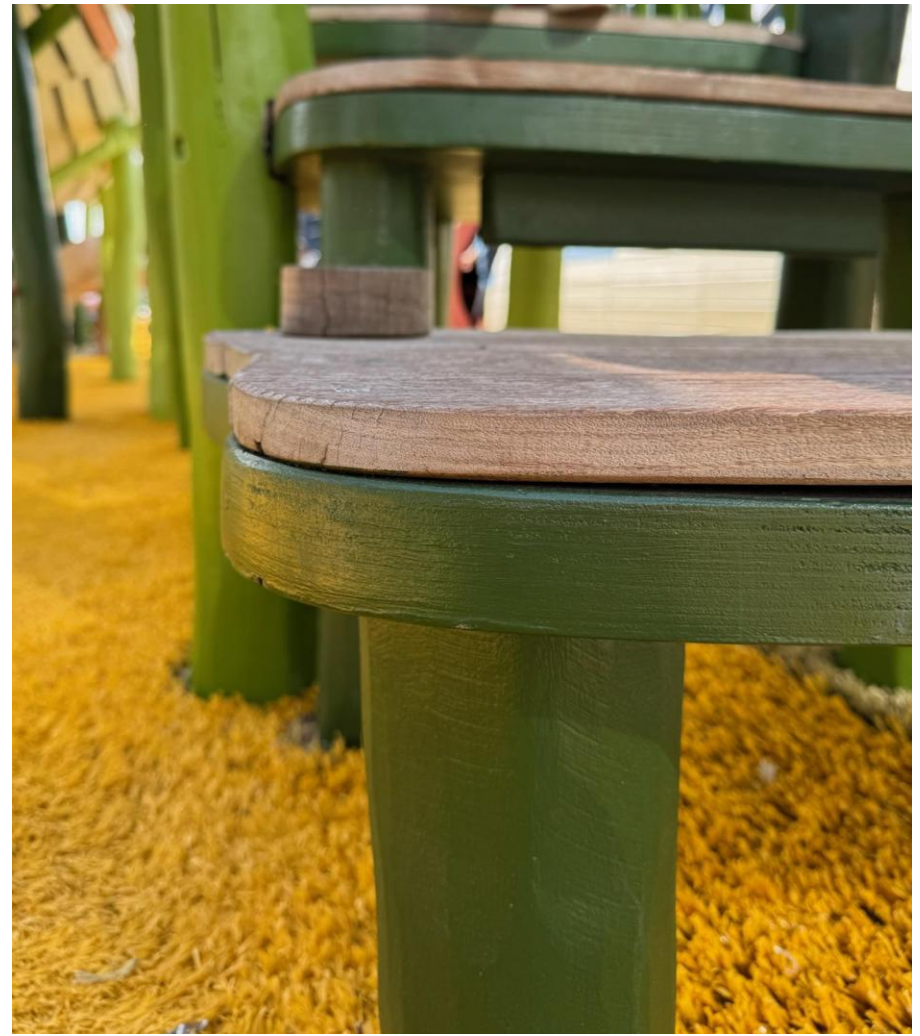






## WOOD CHIPS

*The play area will be covered with a 9" deep layer of wood chips on top of a layer of landscaping fabric. The wood chips will be contained with logs and 4"x6" pressure treated wood beams place along the perimeter of the area.*



## DECKING ASSEMBLY

*Large play structures will be made up of painted cedar or thermally modified slats screwed into sheets of extruded plastic using exterior-grade deck screws.*