

# NatureGrounds® Become a PlayCore NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

*Join our national initiative to build a network of communities promoting highest use of playground environments through integration of the built environment and the living landscape.*

## Guidelines

-  **1. Engage the Community in Planning, Implementation, and Sustainability**  
Ascertain the goal of your project and undergo a carefully considered step-by-step process to ensure your play space meets the desired outcome for usage. This process may include master planning, partnerships, design workshops, and strategies to implement built and natural elements that promote usage.
-  **2. Implement Design Best Practices that Integrate Nature and the Living Landscape**
  - Define play settings that maximize active, social, and sensory play along a developmental continuum while locating the play area in relation to natural site features and functional surroundings.
  - Utilize tools designed to apply planting pocket criteria and plant location rules in relation to equipment.
  - Evaluate naturalization to preserve existing landscape features, select natural plant materials, and integrate a phased planting plan, utilizing rendering tools and the NatureGrounds searchable plant database.
  - Identify programs and processes that inform design and maximize usage.
-  **3. Participate in Local Recognition and National Press Opportunities**  
Submit photos after the installation is complete to validate implementation of best practices, and to provide visuals that can be shared through web reporting, press releases, and other public relations opportunities. Above qualification criteria will be self-reported by completing an application to describe alignment to best practices, and provide additional facts to be used in public relations.
-  **4. Participate in a Research Network**  
Provide a primary point of contact for future data collection and/or research initiatives such as surveys, focus groups, and/or observations. Data will be utilized as an educational resource for other communities and to fuel ongoing research.

# NatureGrounds®

## PLAYCORE NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

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### Benefits

Qualifying as a National Demonstration Site communicates to others that your project planning through implementation has followed best practice guidelines. Additional benefits can be tailored to support your individual project and to promote your leadership nationally for others to replicate.

#### Local Recognition

Receive a complimentary National Demonstration Site sign that can be installed onsite for visitors to learn more about the NatureGrounds initiative, and promote your adherence to best practices. Once your project is registered and has qualified, you will receive the National Demonstration Site seal digitally for usage in outbound marketing, fundraising, website, letterhead, etc. This tool can be utilized to communicate and promote the quality and purpose of your project to stakeholders.

#### National Recognition

Through the National Demonstration Site program, your leadership will be shared through public relations opportunities. Receive national press through PlayCore's Center for Professional Development. To advocate for and build this network, PlayCore will provide a variety of educational resources and highlight case studies to be presented at internationally accredited professional development sessions, and in educational materials, web promotions, national press, collateral, and more. Sharing your story will help others advocate and replicate.

#### Nature Advocacy

Implementing best practices brings a variety of benefits to your local community. You can also stay engaged with a network of communities championing for nature and play by participating in future research that will help inform and improve health across a variety of communities!



### Contact Us

Interested in learning more about how your community can participate in a national movement for promoting nature and play? Contact us to learn more or to apply today!