

We all have a role to play — what's yours?

Depending on where you sit in the life cycle of play space or skatepark development, there are a range of lessons learned from this study that can inform your approach.



Let's ...
Monitor the Space

You want to advance the play space development agenda. How can you learn from existing play spaces to inform your work?



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You might relate to someone like Sandi Brundage, project lead of Highland Ave. Park and Salamanca Youth Center Director, who keeps a close eye on the space along with summer teen staff. This helps elevate improvements to the space and its edges (e.g., upgrading crosswalks, improving amenities).

You might be...



Monitor the Space

Measuring outcomes and adapting over time

The skating community of Roc City skatepark in Rochester, NY originally felt the first phase of the skatepark wasn't everything they had been promised. In 2023, the local project team and advocacy group has secured State funds to expand the park with more amenities and achieve the "skate plaza" feel that the community desired.→



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE CITY OF ROCHESTER

Hold pre- and post-visioning sessions with grantees.

Together with grantees embedded in their own communities, use the play space development process as a starting point to think about broader priorities and systems.

- ★ What if, after construction, a foundation facilitated a visioning session where a small group of grantees in the same region can discuss learnings and larger scale goals and priorities for play?

Continuously observe how people are using the space to understand use and adapt accordingly.

Monitor who is using the space, when and how, in order to learn what is working / not working, adapt the space, and contribute to the wider field of research.

- ★ Informal observation of a space can help guide updates over time – for example, many project leads' informal observations have led to changes in accessibility (e.g., crosswalks, paths), play equipment, and amenities (e.g., restrooms, seating).
- ★ Consider more formal observation of play spaces and skateparks, too: What if local organizations across a region recruited volunteers to do public life counts at their respective play spaces? The data could help inform changes to design, and broader priorities for play space development in the region.

Dive deeper into impacts.

Zero in on impacts at one scale of outcomes (individual, site, community, systems) with a more extended research timeline to uncover more deeper insights.

- ★ What if a play space development organization like KABOOM! or The Skatepark Project partnered with a local university to conduct a longitudinal or pre/post impact study looking at communities before and after a new play space opens?