Lake Conestee Nature Park

Clemson University
Department of Landscape Architecture
School of Architecture

A Project of the South Carolina Design Arts Partnership
2007
Thank you to The Lake Conestee Foundation for providing this opportunity for Clemson students to participate in this wonderful project. We strive to inspire our students by working with projects that are looking for new and innovative ways to plan their environments. We hope that the ideas presented here will provide inspiration for the Lake Conestee Foundation as it moves forward. We also thank Clemson University’s College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities; the Institute for Economic and Community Development; and, the Cooperative Extension Service who have partnered with The South Carolina Arts Commission to form The South Carolina Design Arts Partnership. Our mission is to work throughout the State to improve the quality of the built and natural environment for current and future generations of South Carolinians through design, education, and leadership training.

Special thanks to:

**Lake Conestee Foundation**
Jeff Beacham, Executive Director
Andrea Koppenheffer

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**Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture**
Daniel Nadenicek, Department Chair
Mary Beth McCubbin, Director, a.LINE.ments
Helen Kimsey Blake, Graduate Assistant, Program Summary

**College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities**
Barry Nocks, Associate Dean for Outreach and Special Projects

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**Architecture Studio**
Professor Jori Erdman

**Landscape Architecture Community Design Studio:**
Professor Robert Hewitt
Professor Daniel Nadenicek
Dr. Hala Nassar

**Landscape Architecture Recreation Design Studio:**
Professor Mary Beth McCubbin
Dr. Grant Cunningham
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## School of Architecture

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## Department of Landscape Architecture

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In the 2006-2007 academic year, three separate design studios addressed questions relating to the master planning of the Lake Conestee Nature Park. Graduate students in architecture, under the direction of Professor Jori Erdman, focused on the proposed environmental education center; Professor Robert Hewitt and Dr. Hala Nassar lead a community design studio of undergraduate and graduate students in landscape architecture in exploring how the park could play a role as a component of smart growth; and Professor Mary Beth McCubbin and Dr. Grant Cunningham addressed recreation planning for the park. Following is a synopsis of each of the studios.
Graduate Students:
Miranda Beystehner
Wayne Butler
Justin Dazendorf
Jason Gibson
Ryne Hawkins
Jeremy Hughes
Kathleen Lilly
Brian Miller

Jason Mobraten
Cassie Walker
Chris Watt
Thomas Weir

Professor Jori Erdman

Clemson University School of Architecture Graduate Studio
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Square Footage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education Center</td>
<td>18,920 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>4,350 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>23,270 sf</strong></td>
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**LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK**  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER  

**SPACE AND PROGRAM**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Center</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Square Feet</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lobby/Reception</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200 sf</td>
<td>200 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhibition</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,000 sf</td>
<td>4,000 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demonstration Space</td>
<td></td>
<td>sf</td>
<td>sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditorium</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15 sf</td>
<td>1,200 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room - Large</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>600 sf</td>
<td>600 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Room - Small</td>
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<td>300 sf</td>
<td>300 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classrooms</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>900 sf</td>
<td>3,600 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labs</td>
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<td>1,200 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Lab</td>
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<td>400 sf</td>
<td>400 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library/Media</td>
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<td>900 sf</td>
<td>900 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archive</td>
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<td>900 sf</td>
<td>900 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices - Executive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>200 sf</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices - Admin</td>
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<td>100 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offices - DNR</td>
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<td>200 sf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800 sf</td>
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LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

SPACE AND PROGRAM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space Type</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>sf</th>
<th>sf</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms - public</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms - private</td>
<td>1/1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Café</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td>sf</td>
<td>sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td></td>
<td>sf</td>
<td>sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanical</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17,200</td>
<td>1,720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking / Delivery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Components:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Re-creation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation Decks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Auditorium</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>18,920</td>
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LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

SPACE AND PROGRAM
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>300 sf</th>
<th>300 sf</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reception/Delivery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin Office</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300 sf</td>
<td>300 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Office / Lab</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>400 sf</td>
<td>1600 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Use Research Space</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800 sf</td>
<td>800 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Library</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>400 sf</td>
<td>400 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lounge</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300 sf</td>
<td>300 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Rooms</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>150 sf</td>
<td>150 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Work / Research</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>800 sf</td>
<td>800 sf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,350 sf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

SPACE AND PROGRAM
Community

Park
Picnic
Income
Generator
Community Meeting
Space
Fish Hatchery
Hydroponics
Nursery
Soil
Revitalization
Plants

LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
SPACE AND PROGRAM
1. Reveal the historical, cultural, and ecological layering of the site through a passive building / landscape intervention.

2. Use the building to create connections between the interior and the exterior as well as from the immediate neighborhood to the expanded community.

3. Emphasize three major programmatic elements of the library, the research offices, and the exhibition space.
This project focuses on the existing dam and mill buildings through constructed views and overall orientation.
-- Justin Dezendorf

This project draws on the farm imagery found around the site. It is located on the Henderson Farm area.
-- Jason Gibson

1. Reveal the historical, cultural, and ecological layering of the site through a passive building / landscape intervention.

SITE DESIGN PRINCIPLES
This project creates a corridor that focuses attention from the interior of the building to the exterior.
-- Kathleen Lilly

The project uses placement to create a connection to the neighborhood and the Donaldson Center from Lake Conestee; it is made via an elevated bridge creating a passive revelation of the site.
-- Jason Gibson

2. Use the building to create connections between the interior and the exterior as well as from the immediate neighborhood to the expanded community.
3. Emphasize three major programmatic elements of the library, the research offices, and the exhibition space unity.
1. Use the building to aid in the education of the community by adding informative components to each spatial and environmental condition.

2. Bring people into contact with nature and the environment through combining research and education, allowing for views of and access to the environment, and creating interactive learning spaces.

3. Create an accessible site, bringing people in contact with the lake, dam and river through pathways and visual connections.
This project uses natural materials for the construction of the building itself.
-- Jeremy Hughes

The project provides an exhibition hall that connects to interactive garden spaces for controlled environmental education.
-- Brian Miller

1. Use the building to aid in the education of the community by adding informative components to each spatial and environmental condition.
By allowing spaces to open into one another and expand, the building combines functions.  
-- Jason Gibson

The building focuses on a view to the lake from the main entry down a long exhibit hall.  
-- Chris Watt

2. Bring people into contact with nature and the environment through combining research and education, allowing for views of and access to the environment, and creating interactive learning spaces.

EDUCATION
This project proposes a walkway over the lake just above the dam and provides connections to the larger walkway system. The buildings’ orientation changes to respond to the surroundings and views.
-- Justin Dezendorf

3. Create an accessible site, bringing people in contact with the lake, dam and river through pathways and visual connections.
1. Create a sustainable campus that has little interference with the current passive rehabilitation of the site.

2. Create an environmentally friendly building through the use of day lighting, geothermal heating and reducing the area of impervious surfaces with green roof construction.

3. Reorganization and sustainable re-use of existing mill to create new spatial experiences in the environmental education center.

SUSTAINABILITY

LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK
Both of these projects demonstrate a raised platform approach to the buildings structure that keeps site disturbance to a minimum beneath the building footprint. -- Jason Gibson and Chris Watt

1. Create a sustainable campus that has little interference with the current passive rehabilitation of the site.
2. Create an environmentally friendly building through the use of daylighting, geothermal heating and reducing the area of impervious surfaces with green roof construction.
Adaptive re-use of Conestee Mill buildings.
-- Kevin Hyslop and Miranda Beystehner

3. Reorganization and sustainable re-use of existing materials mill to create new spatial experiences in the environmental education center.
1. The Mauldin Road/Baseball Stadium site provides the greatest public exposure but the Conestee Mill and Donaldson Center sites provide the greatest opportunities for local community connections.

2. The building should be a lesson in local history, sustainability, and environmental awareness through siting, material selection, and spatial arrangement.

3. The building can provide lessons about history and environment even without displays and narrative explanations.

4. Architectural and landscape strategies need to come together in the building to create a center that is not just an object placed on the land, but a structure that works with the land to create continuous circulation along with outdoor and indoor gathering spaces.

LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK
**DEVELOPED DESIGN STRATEGY**

**project building strategies**

- Site on a previously cleared farm site.
- No interference of the site's natural processes (paths connect to the ground where existing or planned paths occur).

**project building principle**

- The architectural form and path respond to the existing makeup of the site—topography, edge/vegetation—and passive elements (sun).
- Take on simple form and structural systems of form structures and look to the dam as a radically industrial ruin.

**PRECEDENTS**

- Use industrial remnants: mill and warehouse structures (metal for roofing) and trees (thick as insulation and trees as path retaining wall).

**PASSIVE CONNECTION**

- Use typical industrial materials: concrete, glass, steel, and wood.

**LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK**

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The river runs through the site.

The dam is built in 1820, creating the lake.

The lake fills with sediments, reducing its size.

Site Analysis

Lake Conestee Nature Park Site
The Conestee Foundation property was created through the construction of a dam in 1820. At the time of construction, the lake comprised over 100 acres of land and provided the mill building with water for power and processing. Over the years, toxic matter from upriver became trapped behind the dam, gradually filling in the lake. As the mill buildings changed functions over the years, the dam function has also changed. It now stands to hold back the toxic sediments and stands as a reminder of the effects of technology and growth on the environment.

Whereas the dam was originally constructed to provide power and water for the mill, it must be preserved to retain the toxic sediments that have accumulated behind it. The dam stands as a testament to the environmental effects of industrial age technology.

Site Photos
Environmental Education Center

The dam, a wall, as origin of the site, also became the origin point for my design. In my design the wall of the dam becomes a series of walls extending through the site to create a path with openings for programmatic space that connects with the system of Park trails. The walls act as a mediation between visitors and the toxicity of the site. Lastly, the walls become permanent marks upon the landscape that speak of another form of human occupation on the site.

The classrooms, offices, and other elements of the environmental education center occur between the walls. The functions of the building are visually and physically disconnected from the walls. The views from these spaces are controlled and minimal. The focus of the center is the exterior environment rather than the interior spaces.
SITE
DEVELOP A COHESIVE BOND BETWEEN MAJOR SITE ZONES ENHANCING EXPERIENCES AND CREATING A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY OF THE SITE.

RECONNECT SITE ZONES ONCE DIVIDED BY LAKE CONESTEE AND NOW DIVIDED BY DISTANCE BY SEPARATING THE PROGRAM INTO THREE PARTS: EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND COMMUNITY. THE THREE PARTS ARE PLACED INTO THREE EXISTING SITE ZONES GIVING EACH ZONE A NEW PURPOSE. THIS CAMPUS (MAJOR) WILL PROMOTE THE USE AND EXPERIENCE OF THE ENTIRE SITE.

EDUCATION
ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER TO EXPERIENCE THE ENTIRE SITE AND INTERACT WITH ITS NATURAL SURROUNDINGS.

THE PROGRAM IS ORGANIZED IN A CAMPUS STRUCTURE ALLOWING VISITORS TO EXPERIENCE NATURE WHILE TRANSITIONING BETWEEN PROGRAMATIC ELEMENTS. INTERSTITIAL INSIDE—OUTSIDE SPACES ARE ESTABLISHED TO ACT AS AN EXTENSION OF THE INTERIOR SPACE. FACADES CAN BE REMOVED REDUCING BUILDINGS TO OPEN AIR PAVILIONS LIKE STRUCTURES. IT IS IN THIS STATE WHICH INTERIOR ACTIVITY IS ENCOURAGED OUT AND NATURE IS INVITED IN.

SUSTAINABILITY
CREATE VISUAL MEMORY AND REFERENCE OF THE HISTORY OF THE SITE. CREATE A WELL VENTILATED ATMOSPHERE THAT MAXIMIZES NATURAL LIGHT. REDUCE OVERALL ENERGY CONSUMPTION.

THE MILL, DAM, AND FOREST, ALL WITH DEEP ROOTS IN THE SITE'S HISTORY, PROVIDE A STANDARD ISSUE PALETTE OF MATERIALS. REMOVABLE FACADES PROVIDE PASSIVE CROSS VENTILATION. EXTENSIVE TENTATION MAXIMIZES DAYLIGHT PENETRATION AIDING IN ACTIVITIES WHILE REDUCING OVERALL ENERGY COST. EACH BUILDING HOUSES ITS OWN MECHANICAL PLANT BELOW GROUND. THIS ALLOWS FOR PARTS OF THE CAMPUS TO BE SHUT DOWN WHEN NOT IN USE.

MASTERPLAN

PRINCIPLES AND STRATEGIES

BRIAN MILLER
FALL 2006

Lake Conestee Nature Park
The environmental education center is located on the north side of the site in the zone closest to Greenville. With direct access to I-85 via Maulding Road, this will serve as the face of Lake Conestee Nature Park and environmental education center. The research park is located in the western most site zone just outside of a quiet neighborhood. These private program spaces are buffered on all sides by forest and is accessed via Henderson Avenue. The community outreach center is located adjacent to the existing mill building. This gives direct access to those still living in what was originally the mill village.
LAKE CONESTEE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

The siting was determined through an analysis of the Lake Conestee Nature Park. Vehicular access to the site (including possible expansion into the adjacent ball field site), location of the lake and river, tree coverage, and heavily disturbed areas were all contributing factors to the decision of siting the building on the Ferreira Farm parcel. The building was placed between two low hills with the intention of creating a funnel into the rest of the park through the building. The design was intended to accommodate circulation from the interior to the exterior through spatial transformation. The two continuous horizontal floor and ceiling planes were extended beyond the walls of the building at the entries in order to achieve this. Two major concepts dealt with in the design of the Environmental Center were geometry and natural light. Pure geometries were used to emphasize three major programmatic elements of the building: the education area, the research offices, and the research facilities. The research and educational areas were separated into two different wings, in order to maintain a division between private and public spaces. The library was designed as a circle and placed between the two wings to act as a hinge. Natural lighting was promoted throughout the building with the intention of creating interesting spaces, encouraging movement, and promoting sustainability. This was achieved by manipulating the size and shape of windows and doors throughout the building.

Lake Conestee Nature Park
Kathleen Lilly
Design Principles
- **discover** natural rhythms and tempos of site through progression
- **cultivate** understanding of human on natural and built environment
- **arrange** elements of the site to compose a living building

Through observation and experience of the entire site, natural rhythms and flows began to unfold. It was these elements as well as other particular moments along the trail network that this project attempts to connect and capture for the visitor.

After an understanding of the implications of the dam that filled Lake Conestee was formed, it was decided to locate this facility at the root of the cause: next to the dam.
Gently, the site and the building are revealed through a sequential experience. Visitors enter the site at the mill building and experience the complex as an artifact. A pathway across the lake above the dam links visitors with the education center. From the education building, a connection to the trail system is established where visitors can explore and discover other intricacies about the lake.
Environmental Education Center
Justin Dezendorf

Lake Conestee Nature Park
Initial thoughts for the Lake Conestee Environmental Education Center site take special note of the natural surroundings and the contamination that affects it. The interrupted life cycle of the natural vegetation and its “scarring” effects must be interpreted as a natural example of environmental education. The large wetland adjacent to both Mauldin road and the lake display scars from the dredging of topsoil for commercial sale.

The four key elements in the life cycle diagram became integral in the design process: sunlight, water, the vegetation itself and the soil. These four elements became the vehicle to address design decisions. Natural elements from the site incorporated into building materials became the dialogue between the natural and the built environment.
The plan arrangement creates a central courtyard that becomes integral in the concept of the natural plant life cycle. In this case a straight corridor would have worked against the initial concept. The courtyard represents the cycle, in which when you enter and leave a particular space one ends up where they began, just like the regenerative life cycle.
The development of the section creates a high percentage of daylighting to all spaces, including the two-story area of the design. Also, the section displays the use of natural materials at the ground condition which becomes the major dialogue between the natural environment and the new built structure.
**DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

1. Juxtaposition of public, private, educational and research spaces to encourage interaction and education throughout the center by the discovery of diverse activities.

2. Expose private spaces, deconstruct primary building materials, and configure unorthodox spatial layout to add a new informative component to every educational and research space.

3. Reorganization and sustainable re-use of existing materials in the mill to create new spatial experiences in the environmental education center.

**DESIGN STRATEGIES**

1. Integrate public, private, educational, and research spaces.

2. Expose private spaces to the public by the re-use and reorganization of deconstructed block and brick walls in the environmental education center.

3. Deconstruction of the mill by cutting and removing or demolishing and re-using to define public, private, educational, and research spaces.

4. Introduce exterior circulation around the building perimeter giving clear visual access to private spaces in the environmental education center.
The concept for the Conestee Environmental Education Center (E.E.C.) stems from the desire to reconnect the community with the Lake Conestee site. This reconnection occurs on three scales: the community, the site, and the mill. The connection at the community scale occurs within the system of proposed trails around Lake Conestee. By using the pre-established trail ends, various programmatic elements can be placed along the trails as destinations. Each destination would either serve as an educational element that connects the visitor to the E.E.C., or as a community space that brings activity back to a previously uncappable area. At the site level, the realigned buildings of the Conestee Mill serve as the connector that bridges the two sides of the trail across the Reedy River. This connection allows for the public visitors to also visit the E.E.C. visually and spatially, without having to actually inhabit the building.
The connection at the mill scale exists on the interior of the existing mill structure. Within the mill, the existing structure and floors have been removed. The circulation and program are then suspended from a new steel roof structure. Each of the interior spaces are then visible from virtually every other space. This allows the visitor to maintain a constant visual connection to the E.E.C. The interior spaces and new shading devices on the exterior are constructed of recycled mill materials.
The mill site at Lake Conestee has a long history of environmental change. The river was altered when the dam was built, creating the lake. Since then, the topography and water depths have changed as the lake has slowly been filling in. In response to these imposed alterations to the site’s water, water becomes the organizing element throughout the new environmental education center. It guides circulation, connects programmatic spaces, and is the main element of each programmatic arrangement (or “module”). In order to record the history of the site, the changes in water levels and depths are impressed on the new environmental education center. Horizontal bands of colored glass create the skins of the modules, allowing certain levels to be highlighted by tying the glass and including text descriptions of the level and year. The new modules are also designed to create spatial conditions that bring the community into the site and encourage learning. Organizing community spaces, educational spaces, and research spaces alongside each other allows everyone to orientate past all spaces and to learn from observation. The new modules and water systems are erected within or on the existing mill walls and foundations to allow for the site’s passive rehabilitation to continue. A series of the center also capture and use rainwater, as well as filter the lake water, helping teach sustainability to the visitors.

Design Principles:
1. The history of the site includes the directing, controlling, and polluting of the water running through it. Nature is now finally allowed to rehabilitate, giving the water the potential to protect, comfort, cleanse, nourish, transport, and memorialize once again. In response to this, water is to be the organizing element of the program and spaces.
2. The history of the site is to be imprinted on the building.
3. Create spatial and environmental conditions that aid in the education of the community.
4. Create a sustainable campus that has little interference with the current passive rehabilitation of the site.

Design Strategies:
1. Water elements will organize groups of program into modules, based on their use of water. This organization will dictate the locations, arrangements, and relationships among the programmatic pieces.
2. The new modules will display the horizontal levels that represent the changes in the site over the years. These bands will be able to be changed as needed in the future to represent additional changes to the site.
3. The water running through the site & modules will also reflect these levels.
4. Provide separate mechanical systems for each module that will provide for energy efficiency and easy upgrading.
5. The historical buildings of the mill are to remain, as well as the foundation of newer buildings. The new education and research center will be built within or on the existing structure where possible, using a new columnar structure to avoid changing the existing topography.
6. Use moveable interior partitions to allow for changing exhibitions and research topics.

Site Location  Water: Plans and Levels from 1919 - 2006  Design Principles + Strategies  Project Description  Site Plan
The site analysis focused on the infrastructure and circulation around the site and its connections to the metropolitan Greenville area. This was done on a variety of scales, including public transit, automobile, and pedestrian modes of transportation. The case studies also focused on circulation, with two buildings using a vertical or horizontal circulation path. The Yokohama Port Terminal was examined as a horizontal circulation example and the CAC Cincinnati was used as an example of a vertical one.

Lake Conestee Nature Park
Ryne Hawkins
The design is focused on framing and illuminating a visual climax on the site. The waterfall is this climax, and all major geometry is derived from it. Two large wedges are created that bisect the existing mill structure while using the outer brick walls to bound them. The negative space created inside the mill boundary becomes greenspace and courtyard areas housing the outdoor program. The income generator is located inside the boundary of the old mill store building.
The materials used were chosen for their visual site integration and their ability to reuse. The floors, ceilings, and wall slats are built from the wood floors of the old mill building, which has been completely gutted. Copper was used for the roof because of its ability to change color over time. The new brownish copper adheres visually to the red brick mill walls that bound the building. Over 3-5 years, the copper will patina into a bluish green color, blending more with the surrounding courtyards, immediate site, and entire nature park. Structurally, trusses and concrete pilasters support the floors and ceilings while steel reinforcements strengthen the standing mill walls.

Lake Conestee Nature Park
Ryne Hawkins
Infrastructure:
An underlying base or foundation especially for an organization or system.

Thesis Statement:
In what way can statistical analysis advance the dialectic sustainability of the site and thereby exploit its current economic-political paradigm?

Lake Conestee Nature Park
The Objectives

1. To allow the site to recover naturally
   - By the sifting of structures, reducing contact with the ground, and the retention of runoff
     made by the structures ( rõ pollutant)
2. To further express the boundary between city/county and the Conestee Foundation in order
   to promote a dialogue
   - By locating the project on the property line, this exploitation of an imaginary boundary forces a
dual relationship and the combining of resources...including political and economic
3. To reinterpreted sustainability in terms of its inherent dialectic relationship with its economic benefits
   - The vast majority of sustainable structures built to current regulations leave the environment
     wanting (lack of money & education)...by the combined resources of city/county and private
     organizations such as The Conestee Foundation, sustainable building serves a common goal
The community design studio explored possibilities for development in the area surrounding Lake Conestee Nature Park. With such a wonderful amenity available, the possibility of new residential and/or commercial development in the area is likely. Understanding various options and impacts is a key exercise in planning the Park’s future. Three development types were researched and applied to the Park area:

- Transit-oriented development
- Pedestrian-oriented development
- Sustainable development
The class began the project with a thorough site analysis looking at both physical and cultural attributes of the site and its context.
SITE ANALYSIS—PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES
Spatial Character Enclosures  
Spatial Character Form  
Vegetation

SITE ANALYSIS—PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES
MASTER PLANS

TRANSPORT-OIENTED COMMUNITY DESIGN

Key Features:

- Light rail connector
- Pedestrian/bicycle paths
- Medium density, mixed-use
- Growth boundary
- Active and passive solar power
- Environmental research and education center
- Reedy river greenway trail connector
- Connector trails to TOD's, environmental center, neighborhoods, and education center
- Civic park spaces
- Neighborhood parks
- Connector trails
- Nature wildlife preserves
- Preservation of ecological corridors
- Woodland conservation buffer
- Watershed conservation buffer
PEDESTRIAN ORIENTED COMMUNITY DESIGN

Key Features:

- Hotel
- Museum
- Education center
- Administrative offices
- Conference facilities
- Community center
- Restaurants
- Visitor center
- Theatre
- Village square and public plaza
- Environmental/cultural education center with classrooms, offices, laboratories
- Commercial office center
- Community parks
- Village green housing that is single family, attached and detached, as well as multi-level
- Green streets to create a pleasant walking experience, reduce heat island effect, aid in surface water management
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DESIGN

Key Features:

- Mill Community and Business Center with technology center, retail, museum and restaurants
- Provide affordable housing in single-family, townhomes, and apartments within the Cottages at Conestee utilizing principles adapted from cohousing communities
- Utilize a portion of the Henderson Farm as a community farm providing for a community garden, kitchen, and wildlife rehabilitation area
- Create a green energy park in conjunction with the City of Greenville’s adjacent capped landfill (solar energy collection, wind energy, capture geothermal)
- Create connections throughout all the proposed communities with a trail system providing for walking and bicycle transportation
- Promote economic sustainability within the community by incorporating sustainable forestry practices
- Community Farm with public gardens, kitchen

MASTER PLANS
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DESIGN

Key Features:
- Shared open space
- Preservation of land surrounding steep slopes
- Connections to Nature Center
- Use of native landscape plantings
As Greenville County continues its pattern of rapid growth, few places will have the potential for shaping the quality of life in the metropolitan area as the Lake Conestee Nature Park. With more than 600 acres of open space, including the 145-acre lake, the Park offers myriad recreational opportunities. Within minutes from their homes, area residents will be able to run a wooded trail, go bird watching, have a family picnic, go for a bike ride, or take in a moonlight concert. It also has been recognized as a major hub in the Reedy River Greenway project. But the Park is more than an open-space playground for area residents—it has many stories to tell of our history, and possibly our future. Nine students in Clemson’s Landscape Architecture program explored the possibility of telling these stories through the design of the park. The studio approached the project with two goals. First, the students were asked to provide proposals that addressed the trail system, recreational programming, entries to the park, and park structures. Second, the design solutions were to draw a story line from what they learned about the site and arrange the program elements to support their concept.

Professor Mary Beth McCubbin
Dr. Grant Cunningham

Graduate Students:
Helen Kimey
Jessica Thrasher

Students:
Ryan Gawler
Ryan Hertzfeld
Bert Manning
TaDerol Russell
Nathan Schaupp
Amy Stroud
Carrie Trebil
Site Analysis/Landscape Character: Constraints and Opportunities

The 300 acres that currently comprise the Park, represent a wide range of landscape experiences. Site observations were made with a tour guided by Jeff Beacham and Tom Kester as well as several independent visits. Five areas or zones were identified as having distinct landscape character that would influence the possibilities for recreational and interpretive programming.
Reedy River and Tributaries (Marrow Bone Creek and Laurel Creek)

The heart of the Park, is the 145-acre lake formed by the damming of the Reedy River. The river runs generally north-south through the site. The channel of the river is wide and shallow and at some points difficult to discern. The geographical influence of the river fluctuates depending on the season and amount of rainfall. The adjacent flood plain is characterized by a young, mixed-hardwood forest and xxxx soils. The summer canopy was fairly high and open providing an airy dappled light. The density of the under story varies, but there are open areas where one can approach the banks of the lake or stream bed, or have long views through the woods. There are other areas where low vegetation is dense and impassable. Birds and small mammals abound and there is evidence of larger animals. Of particular interest is an area occupied by a beaver colony. Steep banks on the north and west sides, and woodland areas to the south and east surround this basin area providing some protection from wind.

Within the basin lies Taylor’s Island, a wooded area of about 5 acres. Thought to be inhabited by Cherokee Indians, the site has had some archeological exploration finding arrowheads and pottery shards, now housed in the State Archives in Columbia.

Opportunities:

• Trails
• The “back to nature portion” of the nature park, this is the area where the initial natural trail system has been developed. Board walks through sensitive and wet areas provide access throughout.
• Key observation stations have been provided and should continue to be identified as the landscape changes. The locations of these can be orchestrated to “interpret” without words. That is, careful placement of stopping points and manipulation of views can help focus attention on a particular chapter of the landscape story.
The Lake

The lake was originally 140 acres, and is currently 90% silted in. There is very little open water remaining; what is present is immediately upstream of the dam.

Opportunities:

- Interpretive center/museum (at or near dam and mill site). Although scenic at most spots, the history of pollution of the lake is still visible as the detritus of more than 100 years of upstream litter still emerges sporadically. On-going efforts to clean it up along with the healing efforts of nature will eventually create the illusion of a pristine water body and mask the pollution of the lakebed. The story of the influence of the Reedy River and Lake Conestee in the area, the ensuing environmental degradation and neglect, and the efforts to bring it all back to life are punctuated by the now beautiful lake.
- Backdrop for public events held at the mill site
- Paddling (canoes, kayaks, paddle boats)
- Floating stage

Constraints:

- Pollution in the lakebed limits the recreational opportunities on the lake
- Cost of restoration of the dam
Landfill

At the north east corner of the site is the Greenville Municipal Landfill. Need specific information here, when it was closed, the type of fill, and cap. The highpoint of the Park is located at the landfill which affords views south over the woodlands, northeast to the Greenville Municipal transfer station, north to the Mauldin Road Wastewater Treatment facility, operated by the Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority, west over a densely wooded area and toward Augusta Acres. It is fairly flat, covered in grasses with steeply banked sides at the bottom of which is a service road running its girth.

Opportunities:

Precedent studies of landfills/brownfields reborn as community parks informed the design solutions presented in the student plans. The large open area provides opportunities for such concepts as the following:

- Dog park
- Frisbee golf course
- Experimental gardens
- Running trails
- Skateboard park
- Solar energy farm
- Open play area
- Festival site
- Interpretive site

*Although some of the plans sought ways to buffer views to the wastewater treatment facility and the transfer station, several students looked at this as an opportunity to inform people about waste cycles and our responsibilities as good stewards of the land.

Constraints:

- Access to this portion of the park currently is only through the transfer station
- The nature of a landfill limits the use of built structures or large vegetation that have the potential to penetrate the clay cap
- Views to waste transfer station and waste water facility (see solution mentioned above)
Henderson Farm
On the southwestern side of the park is the 112-acre Henderson Farm. Primarily a meadow edged with emerging woodlands, the site slopes to the southeast and has slightly rolling topography. Remnants of the family farm that existed here can be found in pieces of the foundation and the distinctive pair of oaks set near the center of the site that probably marked the entry to the homestead.

Opportunities:
The wide-open site and its proximity to Fork Shoals Road lend the Farm to a number of uses that include public events and large gatherings. Student visions for the farm included:

- Picnic pavilions
- Amphitheatre
- Playfields to accommodate weddings, reunions, or musical events for example. Other ideas were to use the site for:

  - Community gardens
  - Frisbee golf course
  - Campground
  - Interpretive site regarding the agricultural history of the area

Constraints:
- Parking or transportation to the site for large events would need to be considered
Forrester Farm

The 41 acre parcel on Mauldin Road is fairly flat and is covered in brush. Portions of the area have been cleared and excavated as a borrow pit.

Opportunities:

• Extensive visibility along Mauldin Road lend it to becoming the gateway to the Park.
• Adjacency of the baseball complex (expansion of this facility is anticipated in 2008) offers opportunities for more active recreation facilities complementing the more passive nature of the Park. Concessions and parking for the complex could be shared by both entities.
• Lack of natural resource values at this time, lend it to provide space for support services for the park and commercial ventures
• Potential site for education/research facility
• Farmers’ market (year-round indoor facility as well)
• Retail outlet for plants grown in experimental gardens on the site
• Native plants nursery
• Community gardens

Constraints:

• If conceived of as the main entry to the Park, care must be taken to maintain an identity separate from the baseball complex
Augusta Woods

Although currently owned by the City of Greenville, the heavily wooded site is under consideration by the Park Board as an extension to the Park. We were not able to traverse the site due its overgrown state, however, we visited the perimeter of the woodland to explore its relationship to the adjacent neighborhood of Augusta Acres. Topographic information tells us the site is fairly steep in spots (exceeds 20%) as it slopes toward the river. Further study is necessary to understand the physical aspects of the site.

Opportunities:
- Neighborhood connector to the Park
- Campsite
- Ropes course/environmental challenge site
- Memorial park
- Trails and overlooks

Constraints:
- Current conditions unknown
Following are the student recommendations for incorporating many of the activities mentioned previously. Each of these solutions offers a variety of active and passive recreational components. There are also nine separate narratives expressed in spatial, built, and programmatic elements. Although each of the projects tells a different story about Lake Conestee, a set of common principles, or guidelines emerged that can direct future development of the Park.

Key principles
Places like Lake Conestee play an important role in planning for healthy, sustainable communities. Open space and connections to nature contribute to our:

- **physical health**—through multiple recreational opportunities;
- **ecological health**—by protecting habitat and filtering systems for our air and water;
- **cultural health**—through education and entertainment;
- **economic health**—by enhancing the communities in which we live.

All of these key components of sustainability were touchstones for the proposed plans for the Park. To support this effort, we recommend that the Park endeavor to—

- Connect trails to other greenway systems—both existing and planned
- Maximize connections to adjacent neighborhoods by providing convenient access points for pedestrians as well as visitors who arrive by car
- Provide alternate gateways to allow for access to different types of activities
- Create activity “zones” to avoid conflicting uses—active to passive
- Celebrate the history(s) of the Lake and adjacent areas
- Educate about the environmental processes at work
- Provide opportunities for private functions—family reunions, weddings, group picnics, etc.
- Encourage community events—art exhibitions, entertainment, farmers’ market, fund raisers
- Take advantage of the activity center at the mill
- Use the Park as a model for sustainable practices

Unique concepts that emerged, and are worth consideration:

- Retreat lodge—available for corporate retreats, private parties, community meetings, etc
- Adventure zone/ropes course (possibly in conjunction with retreat)
- Camping area available for organized groups
- Memorial park or “green” cemetery
- Frisbee golf
- Driving range
- Public garden plots (could be available to groups, or individuals)
- Experimental gardens
- Farmers market
- Art installations throughout the Park (permanent and temporary exhibitions)
- Environmentally sensitive “putt-putt” (yes, there are precedents)
- Recycling center
- Education related to wastewater treatment and landfill operations
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- WCRSA Wetland Restoration Center including education kiosks and displays, and a greenway spur
- Wilderness Center including a high and low ropes course, climbing towers, camping sites, retreat cabins, extended greenway hiking trails, wildlife education, and public parking
- Henderson Farm would include active and passive recreation, paved and dirt trailheads and nature walks
- Landfill site would include a dog park, wildflower display, nature walk trails, and picnic areas
- Forrester Farm would be reinterpreted to house an education center and farmer’s market including experimental gardens, fishing dock and lookout, as well as walking and hiking trails
EDUCATION CENTER - seminars, hands on activities: indoor and outdoor, visual learning, class trips from surrounding schools

FARMER’S MARKET - fresh produce from surrounding farmers, fresh cut flowers, local arts and crafts, seasonal garden shows, brings community together to fellowship

AMPITHEATRE - live music, summer concerts/plays, outdoor classroom, passive recreation area

education center and farmer’s market

ROPES COURSE - teaches problem solving skills, leadership, teamwork, communication, company-client relationships - includes churches, schools, boy scouts, businesses and companies

RETREAT - tent sites for boy scouts or any camper, cabins to accompany weekend long visitors or company retreats

TRAILS - great scenery along greenway spurs on the water’s edge
KEY PRINCIPLES:

Vision Statement:
The land surrounding Lake Conestee has a history of disrepair and neglect. The area is now going under a time of restoration. This restoration should be promoted and displayed through education. Due to the existing restoration, the site provides an opportunity for human restoration involving both the mind and the body. The human restoration activities will coincide with that of nature’s restoration in the plants, the wildlife habitats, and the waters of the Reedy River and Lake Conestee.
Lake Conestee Nature Park includes three primary areas involving human interaction. These three areas refer to the mind, body, and soul. For the mind, education will be a very large aspect of what the new nature park stands for. The Forester Farm will provide areas that will allow students from all over the area to experience hands on activities that will coincide with the education in the classroom. These experiences will take place in the education center along with nodes that will be placed along the walking trails. These nodes will be demonstrations of what they learn in the classroom. These trails lead into the restoration of the body. Active recreation is very important for all ages of people. The nature park will provide something for everyone. Activities range from a dog park to walking and biking trails, fishing ponds, and playgrounds. Along with these active areas there will also be areas that will harbor the soul. Areas of reflection for those who just want to get away. Areas such as the native garden along the Leaser Trail. Areas to pull off of the walking/biking paths that will allow you to observe nature and provide a time to reflect. The Lake Conestee Nature Park will be a landmark that will allow for a multitude of uses and appeal to the communities that surround it.
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Landscape represented through the human life cycle
- Woodland Cemetery
- Overnight facilities located on Henderson Farm
- Environmental Education Center/Welcome Center
- Forrester Farm Welcome Gardens as well as art installations
- Dog park located on capped landfill
- Amphitheater at base of capped landfill
- Additional ball fields adjacent to municipal stadium
- Greenway trail connecting to CU-ICAR
Forrester Farm serves as the main access into Lake Conestee Nature Park. Historically cotton fields, a large garden now stands planted to replicate the form of row crops. As a welcome garden, the site would also include informative signage layered on fabric sculpture kiosks. The history of the textile mill era, is seen throughout the new landscape of the Forrester Farm which is tied into the signage down to the form of the garden. Located on a bluff adjacent to Henderson Farm are overnight facilities for large and small groups, as well as individuals. The cabins may be used in conjunction with events held at the Environmental Education Center. Architecturally, the cabins tie into the Environmental Education Center/Welcome Center housed at Henderson Farm. The Phase III trail system would link into the new facilities. Partial views of cabins are can be seen from the boardwalk near the Henderson Avenue trailhead. A woodland cemetery is placed in the unexplored, 80-acre hardwood forest, located in the northwest corner of the site. Woodland cemeteries are also known as natural burial grounds, eco-cemeteries, or green burial grounds. This growing modern burial practice is an environmentally responsible option that can significantly reduce your footprint. It is a respectful burial practice with a natural burial. The body is returned to nature in a biodegradable coffin or shroud. Native vegetation filler-a natural feel is layered over in near the grave in place of a conventional cemetery monument. The resulting green space establishes a living memorial and forms a protected wildlife preserve. As a cemetery, the green space created is protected in perpetuity from the pressures of modern day development.
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Ropes Course
- Incorporate farm type structures at Henderson Farm for family/group picnics and events
- Bike trails along and up the capped landfill
- Campsites at Taylor Island
- Amphitheater at Forrester Farm
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Access to Augusta Woods by Phase III trailhead
- Henderson Farm amenities: amphitheater, picnic tables, gazebo, native plant demonstrations, multi-purpose building, community and children’s gardens
- Incorporate additional boardwalks
- Bird Sanctuary
- Capped landfill amenities: track for running and walking, playground area, picnic areas, park benches, driving range, Par 3 Golf area, practice area
- Adjacent to municipal baseball stadium: picnic areas, tennis courts, basketball courts
- Forrester Farm amenities: Native Plant Community, Tree planting program, Educational Center
Henderson Farm Blow-Up:
This area is designed to involve children and adults in a collaborative effort to beautify this special area of the park while working with nature.

Amenities include:
- Patch-Plots and row crops
- Fruit Orchard
- Greenhouse
- A children's garden w/ play area
- Adopt-a-garden program
- Picnic Areas/Gathering spots
- Amphitheater
- Native plant demonstration area
- Community Center
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- 18 hole disc golf course
- Trail connection to Donaldson Center
- Education Center and Visitor Center at Forrester Farm
- Dog park on capped landfill
- Wildflower meadows on capped landfill
- Amphitheater
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Adventure site to have ropes course
- Outdoor gallery
- Passive recreation on capped landfill, area for a dog park, pick up games
- Provide for additional trailheads
- Conestee Mill: Education center, picnic areas, viewing piers, fishing piers, trailhead

Amy Stroud
Outdoor Gallery Includes:

**Picnic/Commerce**

The open areas will allow visitors to grill and eat casual meals outside in the open or under shady trees and shrubbery. A sheltered area near the center of the park will provide "green space" for families to meet and enjoy relaxation. The open space will also provide a place for visitors to meet and enjoy.

**Amphitheater**

The amphitheater will allow groups to meet and conduct outdoor activities within the park. The open space will also provide a place for visitors to meet and enjoy.

**Pathways**

The paved pathways will be used by bikers that want to enjoy the park. The paved paths will be located on the lower left and upper right ends of the park. The paved paths will be located on the lower left and upper right ends of the park.

The proposed parks will be used by bikers that want to enjoy the park. The paved paths will be located on the lower left and upper right ends of the park.

**Residential Neighborhood**

The residential neighborhood is located facing each other in the park area. The park will also be used for relaxation and enjoyment. The open space will also provide a place for visitors to meet and enjoy.

**Donaldson Center**

The residential neighborhood is located facing each other in the park area. The park will also be used for relaxation and enjoyment. The open space will also provide a place for visitors to meet and enjoy.

Amy Stroud
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Main entrance at Conestee Lake Road
- Education Center at Forrester Farm
- Henderson Farm Native Plant Nursery: demonstration gardens, children’s gardens
- Art in the Park art installations
- Native planting berms located on the capped landfill
- Phytoremediation demonstration areas
- Observation towers
Forrester Environmental Education Center. Composed of local materials and a vegetated roof the center has information and maps for visitors. Classrooms, labs, a community room, offices and restrooms are also located in the building. Park visitors may park, visit the education center and the overlook, picnic and grill by the trail head, and begin their hike.

Henderson farm is the future home of the Henderson Native Plant Nursery. Access from Henderson Ave and parking are available to persons wishing to visit the nursery. Visitors can enjoy demonstration gardens, and children’s activities, as well as purchase fresh vegetables and native plants. Rest rooms, water stations, and picnic areas are available too.

Native Plants are perfect for the Lake Conestee Nature Park because they will thrive without maintenance, provide many demonstration areas due the numerous habitats, and slowly clean and stabilize the polluted soils. Each of these demonstration areas will be linked by one of many path systems in the Park. The greenway will come from the Greenville area and follow the Reedy River conservation easement hooking up with links to other neighborhoods along the way and finally following the reedy river out of the park. The main greenway and its link to Donaldson Airport will be paved. Trail Phase I and II have been planned, Trail Phase III involves a few connections, and loops.
KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Education and recreation through stewardship
- Play structures for children located throughout
- Forrester Farm Education Center
- Henderson Farm: Pavillion for large gatherings
- Main entrance located at Forrester Farm property

Carrie Trebil

92 LAKE CONESTEE NATURE PARK
STEWARDSHIP
THE CAREFUL AND RESPONSIBLE
MANAGEMENT OF SOMETHING
ENTRUSTED TO ONE'S CARE

Natural Playground
Children that interact with the environment have increased cognitive skills, and like
arenas for the natural world. Many playgrounds are asphalt and plastic, and these do not
fit in with the natural environment. Building play structures using a Tweets and rocks
metals the notion of natural landscapes. Using long, flame-colored roads, sleds, and
climb-on, slides, and structures that mimic the natural landscape can be used. Sandboxes
allow children to create the imagination and constructed gardens or small pictures in the sand. Turnstiles, doors, and
towers can be constructed out of sods giving children interesting play spaces. The trees in
large yards can be used to create small knoll-like structures to play in. Plants that appear
to children’s senses like bunches of hay, straight lines, rocks, water, and
snails give them a natural feel into the design. Many of the play structures in
fact by children’s sense of nature, a natural setting cannot exist within nature spaces. Seating for adults will
be provided for supervision. Maintenance will meet regulation safety standards.

Carrie Trebil