



New Education News

Corrales Institute for New Education // Instituto Corrales para una Nueva Educación

May 2026

No. 17

neweducation.org

Progress Toward First Learning Park

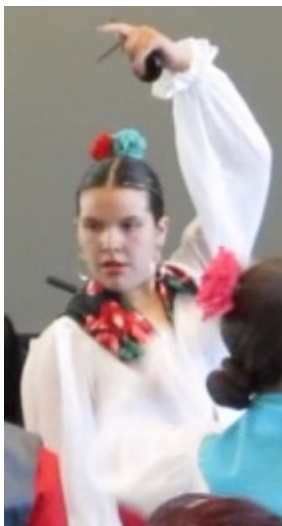
The Tulsa board has grown to nine members: President Shan Glandon, Secretary Beth Kieffer, Treasurer Randy Truelove Chalakee, Andrew Shannon, Kevin Mancini, Paul Tatter, and new members Michael McLendon, who was featured in Newsletter 14, Aaron Ware, introduced in Newsletter 12, and Paige Sicking, who is Assistant Director of School Leadership and Education at the Community Action Project of Tulsa County.

Aaron conversed with a friend who is the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor of Tulsa. He expressed interest in the Learning Park project and will look into arranging a meeting with the mayor. Aaron asked CINE's Executive Director, Paul Tatter, to prepare a one-page, Learning Park Vision and Value statement for him to pass on to the Deputy Chief of Staff. It is included at the end of this newsletter.

Last autumn, board President Kevin Mancini, Tulsa board President Shan Glandon, CINE Secretary Julia Lucero and her daughter, Martha, who last December became a board member, explored potential Learning Park sites in Tulsa and met with local non-profit organizations and communities. They visited Johnson Park, Owen Park and met with its recreation director, Newblock Park and the Gilcrease Museum area with 460 acres of land, including 101-acre Stuart Park with 45 acres already developed with trails and benches. All of these locations were featured in *Newsletter 14*.



Julia, Martha, and Shan at Stuart Park



With Martha's membership the CINE board has become tri-generational, exemplifying a Learning Park's multigenerational commitment and mission. Martha is an accomplished Flamenco dancer, seen here dancing during the recent Día del Libro at the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

In the Charles Page neighborhood, they visited Eden Village, a non-profit that has built a community of tiny homes serving the chronically homeless, reconnecting residents with the community.



Eden Village tiny home with garden plot



Eden Village greenhouse and farm barn

In the Gilcrease Museum area, the group visited Stuart Park, with rich natural landscape, flowing water and paths. The Gilcrease Museum grounds cover 460 acres, with the vast majority being untouched, natural landscape. Stuart park occupies 101 acres of that space. A Learning Park in Stuart park would provide an opportunity to serve the community of Gilcrease Hills, while opening collaboration with the museum.



Natural landscape and pond in Stuart Park

The Gilcrease Museum of Art, History and Nature has reopened after five years of transformation. Collaboration with the Gilcrease would open immediate connections to the Tulsa community.



The new Gilcrease Museum has over 300,000 items from hundreds of cultures spanning 12,000 years.

Flat Rock Creek Park in northern Tulsa is a potential Learning Park site. The area, introduced in Newsletter 15, includes the Tulsa Housing Authority's Comanche Park apartments, and has 1.7 square miles of natural landscape with water, that is ideal for a Learning Park. In light of recent developments resulting from Tulsa's Envision Comanche planning process, locating a Learning Park around Flat Rock Creek would require major collaboration with the City and private philanthropies.

This is because, in addition to the redevelopment of Comanche Park Apartments, Envision Comanche calls for a neighborhood-scale grocery market, an urban farm, the creation of the Flat Rock Creek Urban Wilderness Area and the leveraging of more than \$162 million planned in private development in the area over the next several years. This is the city's largest ever investment in affordable housing – the \$190-plus million 36N development – after the Tulsa Housing Authority and the City of Tulsa were awarded a \$50 million U.S. HUD Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant in 2022. These developments with the demographics for which they are intended remain a high priority for inclusion of a Learning Park.

The Tulsa Housing Authority has completed the first phase of the 36N project, the Phoenix at 36 North complex with mixed-income units and retail space, on the south-east corner of East 36th Street North and North Peoria Avenue. The new Comanche Park Apartments seen here at the bottom left under construction with wood framing, will be comprised of 545 mixed-income



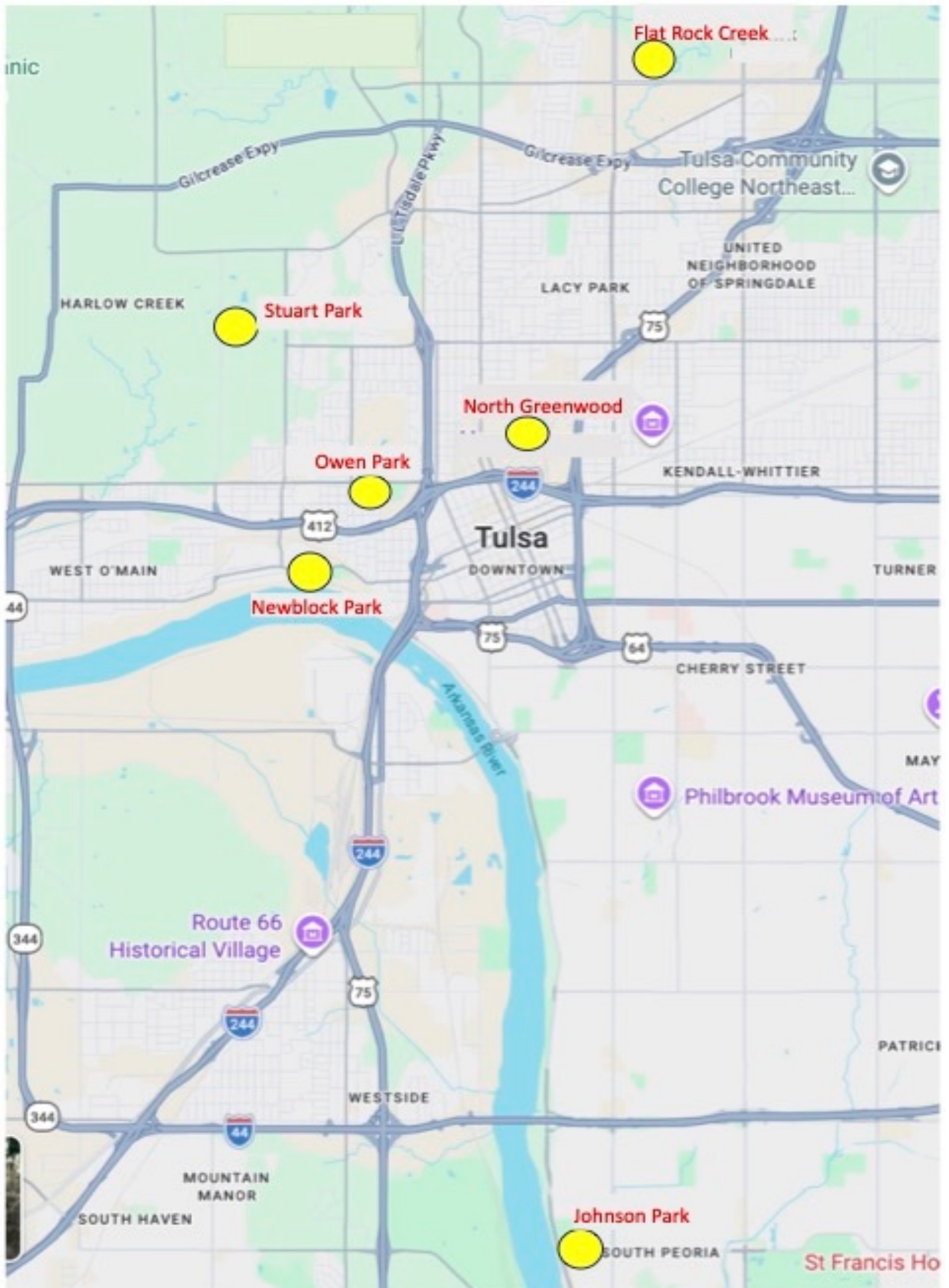
housing units, including single-family homes as well as mixed-use commercial space. The project includes 271 replacement units, offering former Comanche Park residents the first right to return, and 274 additional units.

Financing for The Landing @ 36N includes funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, The Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation, Ascension St. John, George Kaiser Family Foundation and Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies. The financing for 36N requires that the development remain affordable for at least 40 years.

Concept Drawing for the new Comanche Park showing the woods of Rock Creek Park behind, and part of The Landing @ 36N on the south corner of 36th Street at Peoria on the lower right.



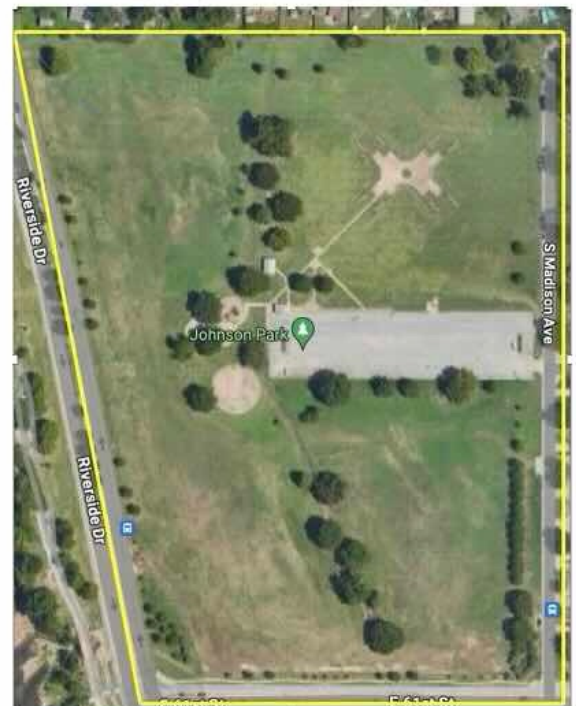
OVERVIEW OF POTENTIAL LEARNING PARK SITES RESEARCHED IN TULSA



North Greenwood Area - approx. 70 acres



Johnson Park - 33 acres



Owen Park - 25 acres



Stuart Park - 101 acres

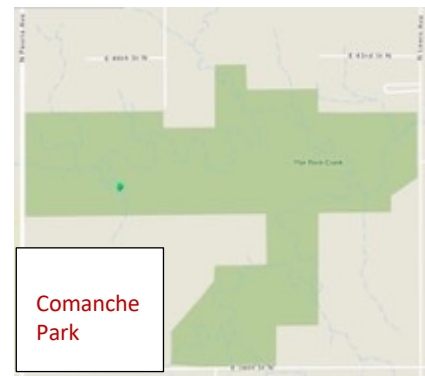


Newblock Park - 85 acres





Flat Rock Creek Park - 211 acres in the area north of 36th Street that bisects this satellite image: the wooded area in the top half of this image, and in green on the park map below. The yellow trapezoid at the top is an ideal area for a Learning Park. The demolished Comanche Park is the dirt area on the left.



Comanche Park: the affordable apartment complex being rebuilt by the city Housing Authority. The concept drawing is on page 3, showing the woods of Rock Creek Park behind it

Kevin, Shan, Julia and Martha spoke with several locals and were particularly impressed with a non-profit called Crossover Health Services, established by the Crossover Bible Church, perhaps through its large nonprofit Crossroads Community Impact with a mission of "Restoring Our Community through Reconciliation, Love, and Justice." Besides the health center, they have established athletic and exercise facilities, day care, a Community Center, a Prep Academy, a development company focused on housing, and community programming and events. Their facilities are top-notch quality. And they were very warm and inviting to CINE.



The final location explored was the Greenwood District. A city library is currently being built in R.S. Roberts Park, which offers 5 acres of additional open space. Oklahoma State University has a branch in the area with open land around their campus and R.S. Roberts Park. There is a wooded area and several areas of undeveloped open space. The City of Tulsa is engaged in revitalizing the former Greenwood community area (see image at top left of previous page).

The Greenwood district was the site of the Tulsa Race Riot or Tulsa Race Massacre over 100 years ago. The city has an interest in finding resources to redevelop the area.

"The Tulsa race massacre was a two-day-long white riot that took place in the Greenwood District between May 31 and June 1, 1921, when a mob of perhaps 10,000 white residents, some of whom had been appointed as deputies and armed by city government officials, attacked black residents and destroyed homes and businesses. The event is considered one of the worst incidents of racial violence in American history. The attackers burned and destroyed more than 35 square blocks of the neighborhood—at the time, one of the wealthiest black communities in the United States, colloquially known as Black Wall Street." [Source: Museum of Tulsa History]



Greenwood in its prime

Greenwood in its prime

"By 1921, Greenwood's population was approximately 10,000 and the district was recognized as one of the preeminent Black communities in the nation.... Segregation made Black Wall Street's insular economy a necessity. This necessity, however, coupled with the vision among Greenwood's residents to create a self-sufficient district, made Black Wall Street one of the most successful and affluent Black communities in U.S. history." [Tulsa Public Library: Black Wall Street]

Possibly High Priority Components of Most Learning Parks

As a way of imagining how a Learning Park may operate, members of the board brainstormed ideas about what possible, high priority components might be included in each park, as well as imagined programming ideas for each component. While every learning park will be unique, in that the community will decide what components to include and how they will go about facilitating the learning in each component, several components may possibly be fundamental.

1. Garden / Greenhouse

This may include a co-op or farmers market to distribute and sell the crops, and also include small, family plots as the neighborhood learns urban farming of fresh, organic food for self and others.

2. Second Hand Store

Reuse and affordability for the community, while providing business learning experience, and preventing the environmental cost of fast fashion and the 59,000 tons of used and unsold clothing abandoned yearly.

3. Machine / Maintenance Shop

Services to be used by the community for repairs and builds, while also maintaining care and functionality of the other park components; bicycle rehab & maintenance

4. Child/Senior Day Care

Integrated together to serve the community and create intergenerational connection and support; spreading the love

5. Health Clinic

Affordable care while building health awareness, skills and methods for self and family care; interns and volunteers learning the basics of multigenerational healthcare, neighborhood first aid, managing medications and healthy lifestyle

6. Cafe/Bistro

Informal meeting place for enjoying conversation or mutual problem solving, and to host events while fostering independent learning and community gathering; growing community relations by spending time in each other's presence

7. Meeting House

Intentionally designed space where all learning park general meetings occur as a participatory and direct democracy, as well as a place for other community, special interest, or committee meetings

A brochure with these possible Learning Park components, as well as some imagined programming ideas for each, is being developed. Here is an example of the information suggested for one of the components.

Garden /Greenhouse

Why: Reduce dependence on unhealthy, expensive, processed food from many stores and restaurants.

Provide opportunities for community members to learn how to grow and harvest crops.

Provide self-sustaining food and nourishment to participating neighborhoods.

What: small family gardens approx. 100 square feet, and large communal gardens up to 1 acre

Activities learned through experience and interaction:



Composting, materials for compost, layering, watering, raised beds, supplies, best locations, best vegetables and other plants for the area, planters, what to grow, how to grow, balcony planter, patio gardens, environmental needs for specific plants, light, temperature, type of soil, amount of water, planting/growing zones, garden pests and predators, beneficial insects, bees, garden tools, weeding, harvesting, waterwise gardening, rock gardening, xeric gardening, companion planting

How: Engaging neighborhood participants across a lifespan through establishment of a vibrant and safe space for the essential purpose of feeding each other with healthy food, with mutual aid emphasizing the value of an individual as well as the collective community, finding joy and empowerment through shared purposes, shared learning, and shared action; offering choice, voice, participation and purpose to all those that wish to collaborate through experiencing, using and sustaining the resources and friendships offered by a Learning Park.

Learning Park Vision and Value — A Learning Park is a collaboration among local government, neighborhoods, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and state agencies working together to create a new place of lifelong learning for a new, lifelong education. A Learning Park offers free, real world education for people of all ages, young and old, and essential services to the neighborhood and community where it is located, and by which it is governed as a participatory and direct democracy. Learning is lifelong: musicians never stop learning their instruments; carpenters their tools. Writers are always learning to write; citizens can continually learn to be better citizens and better listeners.

A community garden, greenhouse, orchard and farmers market provide nutritious food, self-reliance, and lessons in earth and plant science, urban vegetable gardening, and neighborhood cooperative learning opportunities. A health clinic, child and senior day care, vision and mental health clinics provide both essential services and free education as centers for learning human biology, chemistry, physiology, psychology; for learning the needs of healthy living through understanding human development, evolving physical, mental, social and occupational needs; learning to navigate the needs, joys, personal choices and changes during the various stages and turning points of life.

As places of learning, small, nonprofit business components of the Park provide both services and free education in their business operations (such as management, finance, employee relations, maintenance) and in their content specialties. For example, in the restaurant participants learn cooking, food sourcing, flavor and nutrition, customer relations, etc. Elsewhere they learn furniture making and tool use; learn music and musical instruments and singing all genres solo and in groups. A coffee shop, bakery, and soda fountain provide for informal meetings through which people learn to listen to each other, to negotiate how to get along and to help each other.

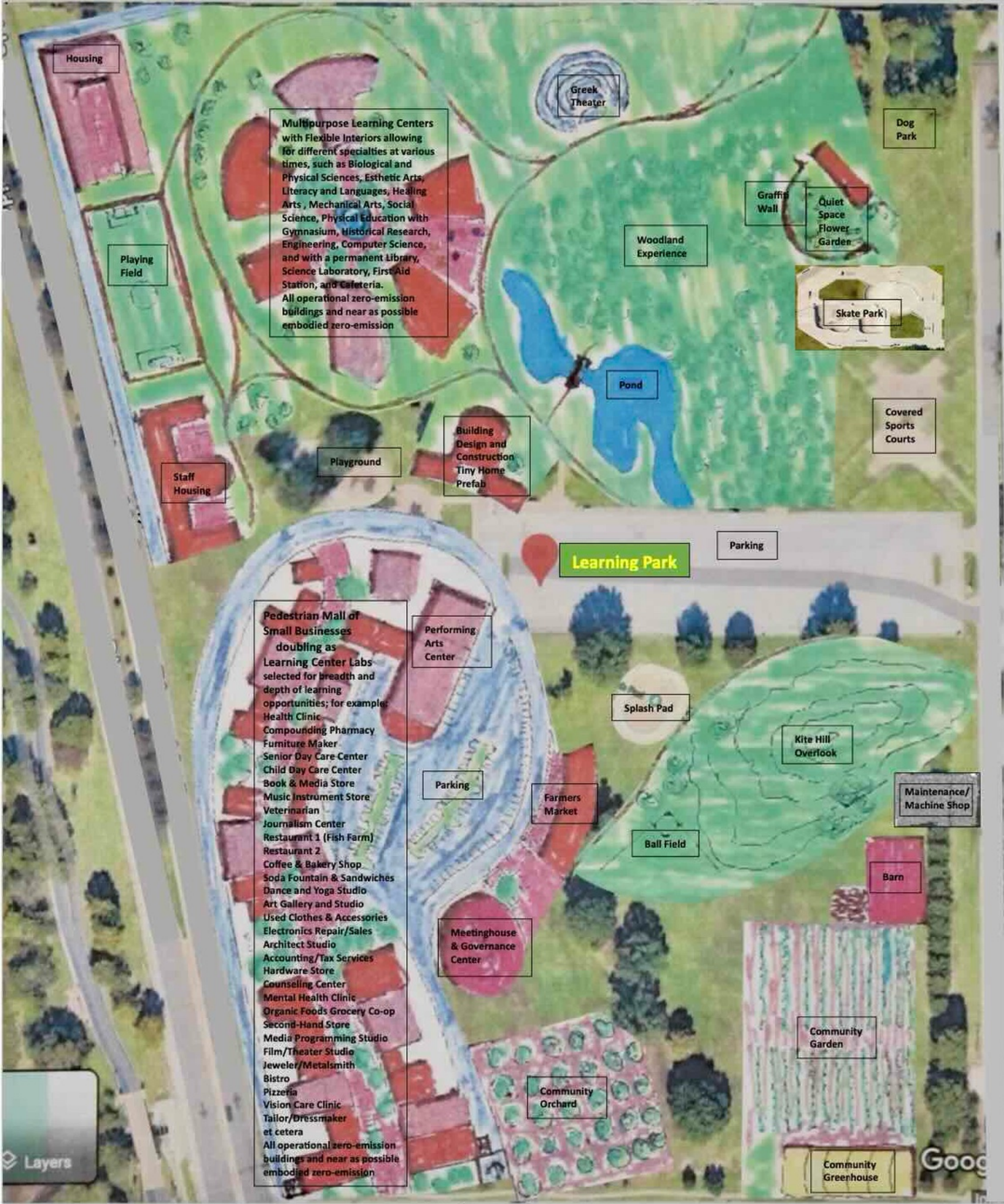


Open spaces with woods, meadows, water and quiet flower gardens provide opportunities to learn from nature and from recreation. Learning the ecology of these spaces leads to understanding the processes of our planet and how we can sustain them. In the building arts center, participants learn construction skills while designing and building tiny homes for the homeless.

A round governance center for mutual discussions and decisions about life in the Learning Park is an educational venue for learning how to participate in non-hierarchical, direct democracy where everyone has a voice; learning to listen with open minds, patience and respect for human dignity; learning to negotiate solutions to issues of the day, accommodating participants' views and needs, supported by consensus. The people mutually create and re-create their shared vision and values.

A Learning Park is a public place of learning, where people want to be because it is vital and nourishing, where people of all ages and backgrounds go by choice to learn; to meet, do and talk, create and make all manner of things, experience and pursue matters of mutual interest; to meditate, to play, to think freely, to challenge each other, to experiment with new things and new ideas, to exercise mind and body in an environment that enhances their relationships with nature, tools and culture, and with their communities and each other as thoughtful, curious, creative, and enthusiastic human beings.

Concept Mockup of a possible, fully realized and labeled, 35-acre Learning Park



SCALE <-----> = APPROX. 80 FEET

Possible, Fully Realized Learning Park Concept: Possible Physical Component List

**Pedestrian Mall of Small Businesses
doubling as Learning Center Labs
selected for breadth and depth
of learning opportunities; for example:**

**Health Clinic
Compounding Pharmacy
Furniture Maker
Senior Day Care Center
Child Day Care Center
Book & Media Store
Music Instrument Store
Veterinarian
Journalism Center
Restaurant 1 (Fish Farm)
Restaurant 2
Coffee & Bakery Shop
Soda Fountain & Sandwiches
Dance and Yoga Studio
Art Gallery and Studio
Used Clothes & Accessories
Electronics Repair/Sales
Architect Studio
Accounting/Tax Services
Hardware Store
Counseling Center
Mental Health Clinic
Organic Foods Grocery
Second-Hand Store
Media Programming Studio
Film/Theater Studio
Jeweler/Metalsmith
Bistro
Pizzeria
Vision Care Clinic
Tailor/Dressmaker**

**Other Components
Meetinghouse & Governance Center
Performing Arts Center
Community Garden
Community Greenhouse
Community Orchard
Barn
Maintenance/ Machine Shop**

**Building Design and Construction/Tiny
Homes for the Homeless Prefab
Manufacturing**

**Ball Field
Kite Hill Overlook
Splash Pad
Parking
Playground
Pond
Woodland Experience
Quiet Space Flower Garden
Covered Sports Courts
Skate Park
Dog Park
Greek Theater
Staff Housing
Playing Field (soccer, etc.)
Housing (seniors, guests)**

**Five Multipurpose Learning Centers with
Flexible Interiors allowing for different
specialties at various times, for example:
Biological and Physical Sciences
Esthetic Arts
Literacy and Language
Healing Arts
Mechanical Arts
Social Science
Physical Education with Gymnasium
Historical Research
Engineering
Computer Science
Library
Science Laboratory
First Aid Station
Cafeteria**

**All operational zero-emission buildings and
built with as nearly as possible all
embodied zero-emission materials, with
on-site-generated electricity**



Please Support the Corrales Institute for New Education

as we transition to creating a functioning, prototype Learning Park.
This requires travel for which we must raise an additional \$15,000.

Any amount you can donate will be appreciated.

The Corrales Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

All contributions are tax-exempt.

You may donate via PayPal from our website at www.neweducation.org

or address checks to: **Corrales Institute for New Education, P.O. Box 972, Corrales, NM 87048.** You also may request bank wiring instructions at the *Connect: Contact Us* page of our website.



Non-profit is a negative term and tells us only what these institutions are not.

But at least it shows that all these institutions, whatever their specific concerns, have something in common.... And we now begin to realize what that "something" is.

It is that they do something very different from either business or government.

Business supplies, either goods or services. Government controls. A business has discharged its task when the customer buys the product, pays for it, and is satisfied with it. Government has discharged its function when its policies are effective.

The "non-profit" institution neither supplies goods or services nor controls.

Its "product" is neither a pair of shoes nor an effective regulation.

Its product is a changed human being.

The non-profit institutions are human change agents.

Their "product" is a cured patient, a child that learns,
a young man or woman grown into a self-respecting adult;
a changed human life altogether.

— Peter F. Drucker

“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead