



# The Natural Playgrounds Company

Ron King  
a r c h i t e c t

*Putting  
The Fun  
Back into  
Playing  
Naturally*

creative design  
& supervision

85 warren street  
concord, nh 03301

www. or ron@  
[naturalplaygrounds.com](http://naturalplaygrounds.com)  
fax 603-228-6018

**603-228-0476**  
**888-290-8405**  
(toll free)

## Why Do Natural Areas Look Inviting? What Makes You Want To Be There?

Survey of 600 students, grades 1-4 \* Compiled by The Natural Playgrounds Company

### Because It's Natural

A lot of green  
Beautiful smells  
Because it is woods  
Could be Grassy  
**Gorgeous**  
I can Listen to nature  
I like nature  
I Like trees  
It grows  
It's where you belong  
Leaves moving in wind (2)  
Like being in nature  
Lots of/more clean O2 (3)  
More natural (3)  
More nature/trees  
Natural and more realistic  
Natural environment  
Open space  
People like nature (2)  
Shade/echoes  
Shady and pretty  
Smell more

### It's Peaceful

Feels like you're away from it all  
Great place to talk  
Hear the leaves crackling  
It is relaxing.  
It's calming  
More calm and quiet  
More privacy (2)  
More privacy/by myself  
More quiet, less crowded  
Not crowded  
Peace and quiet  
Peaceful (6)  
Peaceful/by yourself  
Place to sit down-quiet  
Quiet More private  
Quiet/more time to think  
Quieter (5)  
Quieter place  
Relaxing (5)  
Time by yourself

### I Can Play in Nature

Climbing trees (3)  
Get dirty  
Good place to raft  
Hide behind trees  
Jump in the water  
Jumping  
Leaves on the ground-jump in  
Nice to hide under a tree  
Places to play hide and seek (2)  
Play in water

### It's More Shady

Because it is damp and gives a  
lot of shade.  
Cool  
Cool/shade  
Cooler  
Cooler in the woods  
Cooler/shade  
More restful  
More shade (5)  
Not so hot/comfortable  
Shadier (3)  
There is a chance for a breeze (2)

### There's More of a chance to see wildlife

Animals  
Birds chirping/hear and see  
wildlife (2)  
Catch wildlife/frogs  
Find more caterpillars/discover  
Find wildlife  
Hear birds (2)  
Hear birds chirping  
I Like animals  
Listening to birds (2)  
More bugs  
More wildlife  
Salamanders/water life  
See frogs/wildlife/bugs  
See wildlife  
Watch birds  
Watch wildlife  
You can look for wildlife

### There Are More Things to do

Build things  
Climb more  
Climb on things  
Climb up the trees  
Combination of activities  
Could be water  
Dig out rocks  
Enough room to explore  
Explore/discover  
Find a hole ñ discover things  
Find more cool stuff  
Follow the leader  
Lot of different activities  
More choices (2)  
more choices in woods (2)  
More climbing opportunities  
More places to walk  
More trees to climb  
Pretend Campfires  
See nice things  
Skipping rocks in water (2)  
You can make forts  
You can see a bunch of stuff

### There are Different Opportunities

Different from classroom  
Different from what we're used to  
It's new and different  
Things keep changing  
Something different all the time (2)  
You can use your imagination  
You can discover things  
More adventurous  
More freedom  
More loose parts  
More opportunities  
More options for new things  
Not same playground every day  
Opportunity for new things/creative  
Berry picking  
Build things  
Can Study nature  
Climb trees/different things

Could have a river  
Different opportunities for climbing  
Different smells  
Do different things (2)  
Find caterpillars  
Grow food  
I like climbing trees  
Jumping  
Possibility of water  
You can see a bunch of stuff

### **It's More Fun**

Can make a pile of leaves and jump  
in them (2)  
Fun to play in woods  
More funner  
Run in circles  
You can jump  
You could play hide and go seek/hide  
behind trees

### **It's More Exciting**

Not boring  
Adventurous  
More adventure (2)  
Can Run around more  
Discovery  
Explore  
Exploring  
Exploring in the woods  
Find cool stuff  
More things to do/you never  
know what is coming next/sur-  
prises  
New things  
Play adventure games and explore/  
discover  
Seasonal changes  
Seems like more room  
**More Exciting (cont.)**  
Endless  
Free (2)  
More room (5)  
More room to run  
More space (3)  
More space to do things (2)  
Outside feels bigger  
Running space  
We like big

### **Compared to Playgrounds?**

Playgrounds are boring (4)  
Playgrounds are noisy. Woods are  
quieter.  
Nothing is hand made; it's not calm-  
ing  
Not high tech/more fun  
Not man made  
Creative; not man made  
Uses nature not man-made stuff  
Everything put together in play-  
ground  
Not the same all the time  
Feels bigger  
The playground stuff is babyish  
I don't like climbing on plastic  
Equipment needs maintenance  
Plastic gets too hot (2)  
Plastic on most playgrounds can burn  
your hands  
Playground has hard benches.  
Slides heat up from the sun.  
The woods don't break

**\* 570 of the 600 surveyed students  
(95%) gave the above responses. Only  
30 of the 600 students (5%) said they  
preferred slides and swings.**

**For more information on  
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or call toll free 888-290-5104**