



## Reviving Recess: Bright Futures Chutes and Ladders Community Design Collaborative PlaySpace Design Competition

### WINNER! 2016 PlaySpace Design Competition

Viridian led a multi-disciplinary team of educators, architects and engineers to cinch the Top Award for the Philadelphia Community Design Collaborative's International PlaySpace Design Competition, triumphing over entries from five countries and eleven US states.

Our scheme is inspired by the classic children's board game: Chutes & Ladders. The board game is brought to life in three dimensions with the construction of two large scale "ladders" that act as shading devices, and with a lushly planted "chute" the represents the long buried Mill Creek. It connects the front and rear of the site while dividing the play space into public and private zones. A trike track parallels the chute and includes a closed circuit for younger children. The board game is realized

on a smaller scale with landing spaces represented by eight outdoor playrooms - each with a different ground surface and unique play theme. Smaller chutes and ladders throughout the site reinforce the theme. Rain water is managed in multiple ways and is incorporated into active play in The Laboratory and The Studio. Shade trees define outdoor classrooms and rich plantings support rain gardens.

**Location:** Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
**Client:** Community Design Collaborative  
**Size:** 1.6 acres  
**Cost:** \$1.5 million (estimated)  
**Status:** Completed 2016