

DPS Natural Play Space Planning at Paul William Alexander Park – Grant up to \$10,000

- A collaboration between The City of Toledo Parks Division, The Toledo Zoo, Bowling Green State University, and The Friendly Center to **plan** a nature play area for the Vistula Historic District of Toledo. The location chosen for the project is Paul William Alexander Park (formerly known as Superior Park) on Superior Street
- Recent studies have demonstrated the value of nature play spaces and activities in the social, cognitive and emotional development and well-being of children. It is believed that the identified neighborhood would benefit greatly from access to this type of space
- This grant was originally intended to bring neighborhood families together in the existing park and at the Toledo Zoo's Nature's Neighborhood to introduce the concept. COVID 19 forced us to be more creative with this engagement. In partnership with the three Toledo Public School elementary schools in the area, engagement revolved around bringing a natural play experience to the schoolyards, and coupling it with an art contest that encouraged children to dream about what their new "natural park" might look like
- The City of Toledo serves as a fiscal agent for the dollars granted. All of these dollars will be paid out to cover expenses incurred by The Friendly Center and The Toledo Zoo
- Completion of this planning grant will put us in a position to secure implementation grant dollars through Toledo LISC. This funding is being co-sponsored by ESPN