

We all have a role to play — what's yours?

Depending on where you sit in the life cycle of play space or skatepark development, there are a range of lessons learned from this study that can inform your approach.



Let's ...

Build the Space

Whether you are working with contractors or organizing volunteers, the time for breaking ground has finally come. What is the best way to manage the construction process?



← You might relate to someone like **Kenyetta Campbell**, Executive Director of the Cody Rouge Action Alliance, who worked closely across stakeholders and community partners to prepare for and navigate the challenges of Stein Park's Build Day, including an unexpected storm!

You might be...



Build the Space

Tips for preparing for construction and breaking ground

Build Day at Stein Park Playground was an opportunity for local Cody Rouge youth to get hands-on experience improving their neighborhood, along with volunteers from the CRCAA, KABOOM!, and the City of Detroit. Reflecting back on lessons learned from this day, project lead Kenyetta Campbell shared there was tension built in the pressure to build the playground in a single day with unskilled volunteers and challenging weather. →



Building and engaging together builds relationships that last beyond project completion.

Working toward a common goal strengthens community stakeholder relationships.

★ In Salamanca, NY, the process of building Highland Ave. Park Playground brought together members of Seneca Nation and other residents. Previously, interactions were occasional (e.g., festivals, games). Today, the playground is a space for regular interaction between the two groups.

Do not underestimate the construction of play spaces or rely solely on volunteer labor.

Play spaces and skateparks involve significant construction processes and infrastructure requirements.

★ 4 of the 9 Built to Play projects that visited reported challenges related to designers, contractors and/or construction. For example, the conservancy that lead and manages MLK Jr Park Playground shared that they struggled with staffing capacity and equipment required for grading and preparing the site for installation. Coordination issues with the contractors also resulted in the installation of the wrong rubber surface thickness, creating ongoing maintenance issues.