

ASLA **DISCOVER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**

Activity Book for Kids



American Society of
Landscape Architects

ASLA Discover Landscape Architecture
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Introduction

The ASLA Discover Landscape Architecture Activity Book for Kids is for anyone ages 9–12 who is interested in landscape architecture, architecture, planning, and engineering, and for those who like to draw, doodle, and be inspired. The book's primary focus is landscape architecture, giving readers the opportunity to see and sketch the many drawings, places, and landscapes created by landscape architects.

About ASLA

Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing more than 15,000 members.

Vision: Leading the design and stewardship of land and communities.

Mission: Landscape architects lead the stewardship, planning, and design of our built and natural environments. The Society's mission is to advance landscape architecture through advocacy, communication, education, and fellowship.

Cover: James Richards, FASLA
Kiley and Friends: Suehyun Choi, Student ASLA



ASLA Discover Landscape Architecture Activity Book for Kids

Hello! My name is Kiley, and I am so excited you have joined me on a journey through my favorite place on earth. What is this place, you ask? It's my hometown, better known as Oakville. I am thrilled to teach you about the great places designed by my friends who are landscape architects.

In this activity book, you will learn about landscape architecture, see sketches from real landscape architecture professionals, and have the opportunity to sketch and color drawings. Before starting our journey, flip to the next page to learn why landscape architecture is important and make sure to gather the materials you will need to get started.

What is landscape architecture, and why is it important?

Landscape architecture combines art, science, and technology. It is a diverse profession that designs, plans, and manages the places we live and enjoy. Landscape architects design projects that contribute to the design of healthy environments and communities. Below are some goals that landscape architects achieve in design projects.

Make Places for People

Parks, gardens, playgrounds, town squares, and wilderness are among the places landscape architects design.

Health and Safety

Landscape architects design places to be safe and accessible to all people by providing areas to walk, to sit, to play, to exercise, and to explore.

Better Neighborhoods

Landscape architects can help make sure that parks, playgrounds, schools, and stores are a pleasant walk from home.

Cleaner Water

Landscape architects work on ways to prevent pollution from entering our streams and rivers by providing rain gardens where water can soak back into the ground and filter out pollution by using soil and plants.

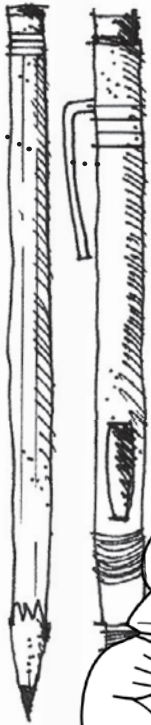
Better Streets

Landscape architects design streets to accommodate all kinds of people—those on foot, on bikes, in wheelchairs, waiting for the bus, and even in cars.

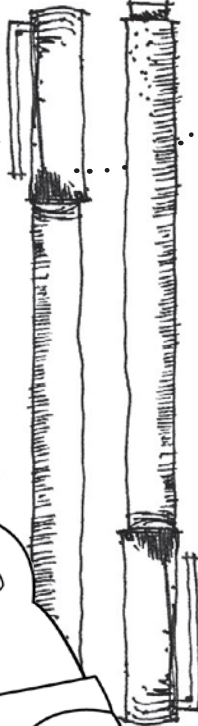
What materials will you need?

Now that you have learned about landscape architecture, check out some of the materials that you will need as you work through the book. Once you've had a chance to collect your materials, it's time to join me and my friends on a journey through Oakville.

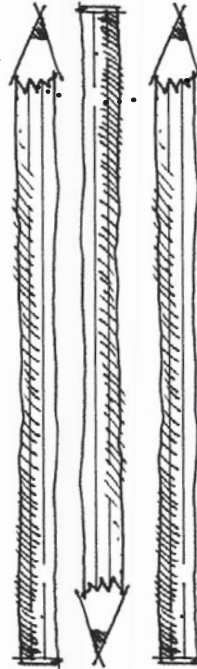
Pencils



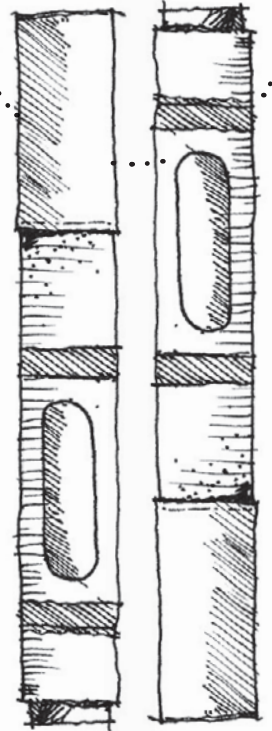
Pens



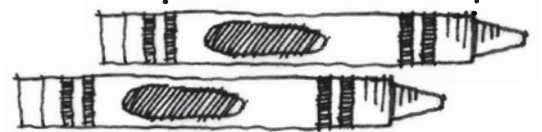
Colored Pencils



Markers



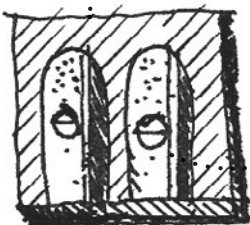
Crayons



Ruler



Pencil Sharpener



Eraser



Welcome to Oakville!

Welcome to my home! This is the best place ever because it has amazing outdoor spaces for me to jump around and hang out with friends. I give all of the credit to the landscape architects and other professionals who helped design and build these spaces.

Can you think of a place in your hometown that may have been designed by a landscape architect? If you need a little help, check out some of the fun places in Oakville that were designed and built for our community.



gardens



ponds

Who drew that?

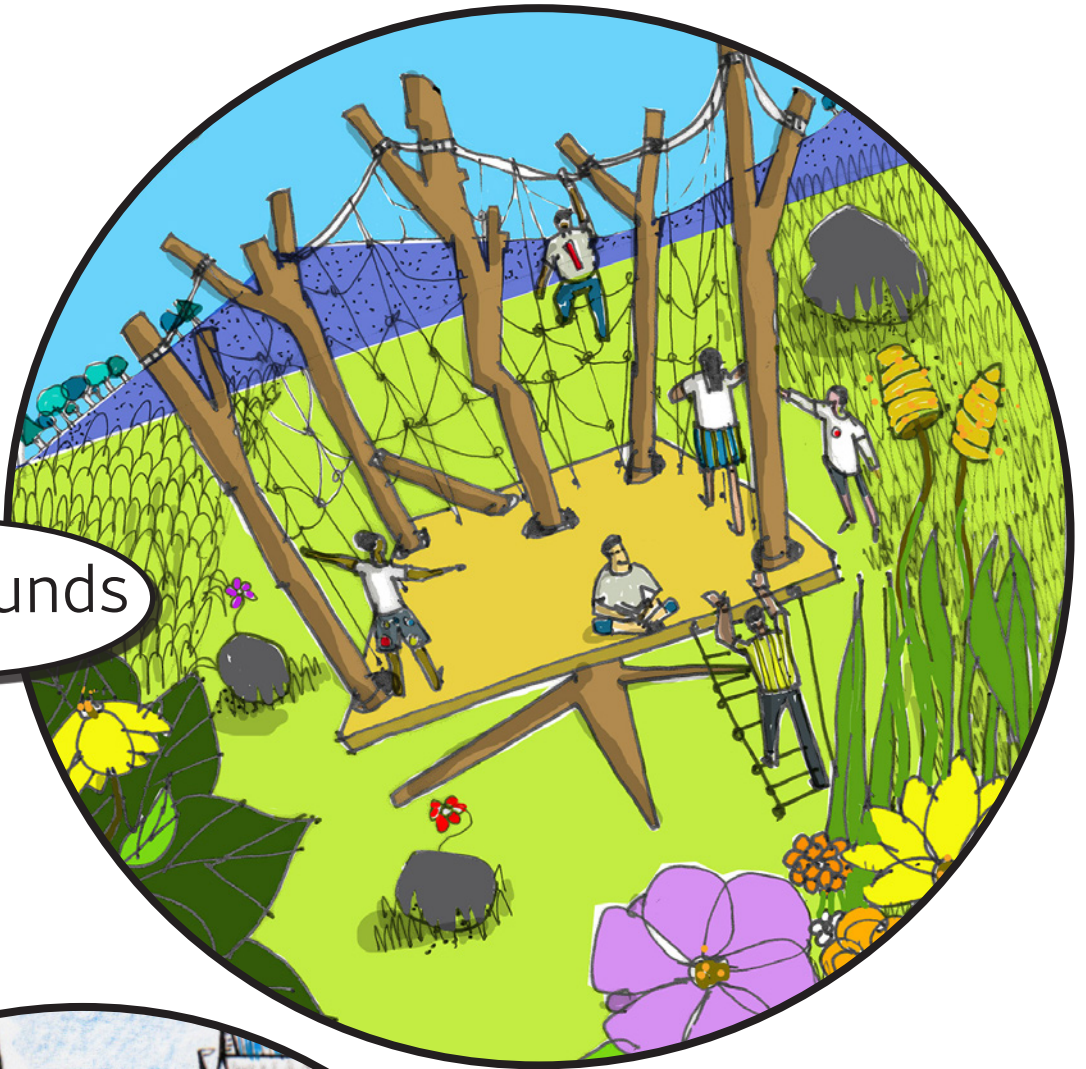
Gardens: Jessica Nielsen, Student ASLA

Ponds: Chip Sullivan, ASLA

Playgrounds: Richard Alomar, ASLA

Town Squares: David Sprunt, ASLA

playgrounds



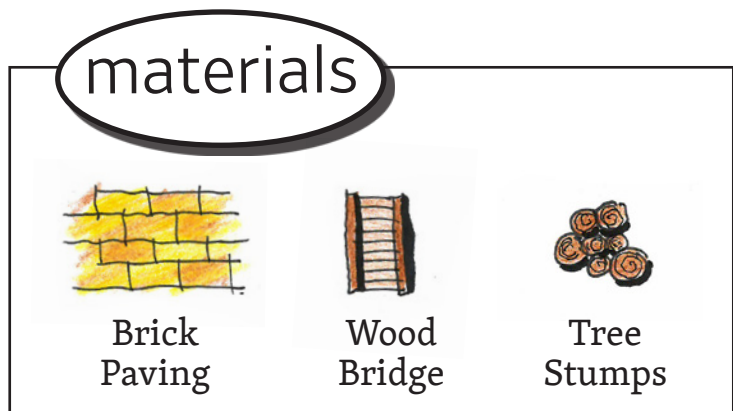
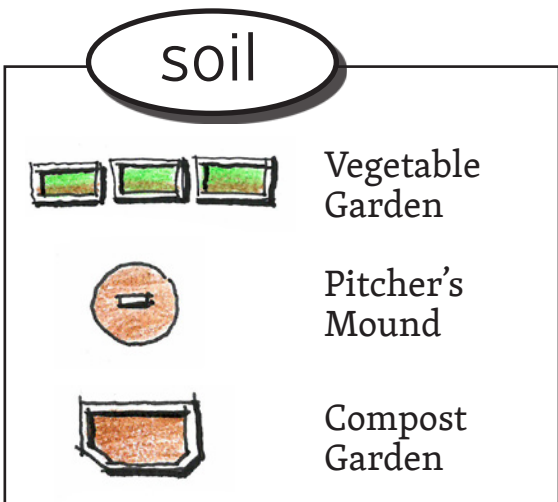
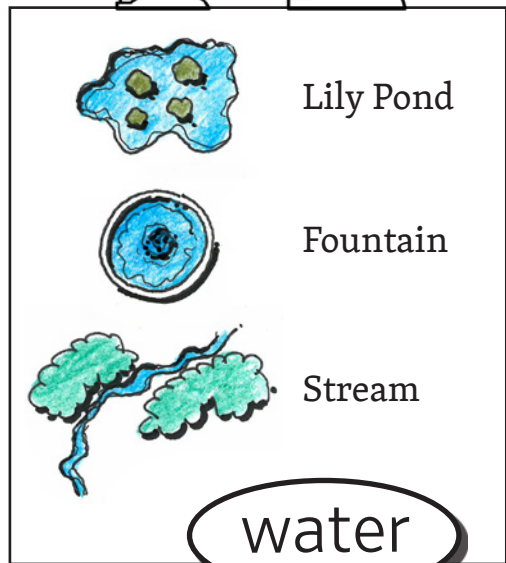
town squares



Discover how Oakville was designed and built!

Oakville was not always like it is today. It took a lot of time and hard work by landscape architects to design the outdoor spaces, and for the builders to follow the drawings to build the projects so they're good for you as a person, but also for me as a frog.

To the right is a plan drawing of Oakville. A plan drawing is used to show the design of a place as if you were viewing it from an airplane looking down. So, by looking at the plan, act as if you are flying over the town and looking down. Can you find the following building blocks in the plan drawing?





Now let's learn more about the building blocks that landscape architects use!

Plants

Plants keep us alive as food and fuel. They turn sunlight and carbon dioxide in the air into energy, and pump oxygen into the atmosphere for us to breathe. Plants provide shade, shelter, and food for animals. They can help clean and soak up water and also look and feel great.

All kinds of plants, from mosses and grasses to shrubs and trees, are important for landscape architects. In the sketch below, a tropical garden was designed for someone's house.



Who drew that?

Natalia Almonacid, Student ASLA
Auburn, Alabama



Add color to bring the
drawing to life!



Who drew that?

Katarina Katsma, ASLA
Chicago, Illinois

Katarina's three favorite things about her job are working with people to come up with a design, problem-solving a tricky landscape, and positively affecting the lives of communities.

Can you tell the difference between these plants? Where are the trees, shrubs, and vines?



Water

Water covers 70 percent of the earth's surface, so it is an important part of most landscapes, whether in the form of oceans, lakes, rivers, or streams. There is also a lot of water, known as groundwater, stored deep in the earth where we can't see it. Water helps nourish the land and is required for nearly all forms of life.

Landscape architects use water for a variety of projects. They design human-made water elements such as fountains and also help restore natural waterways such as streams and rivers. In the sketch below, water was used to design a fountain in the town square.



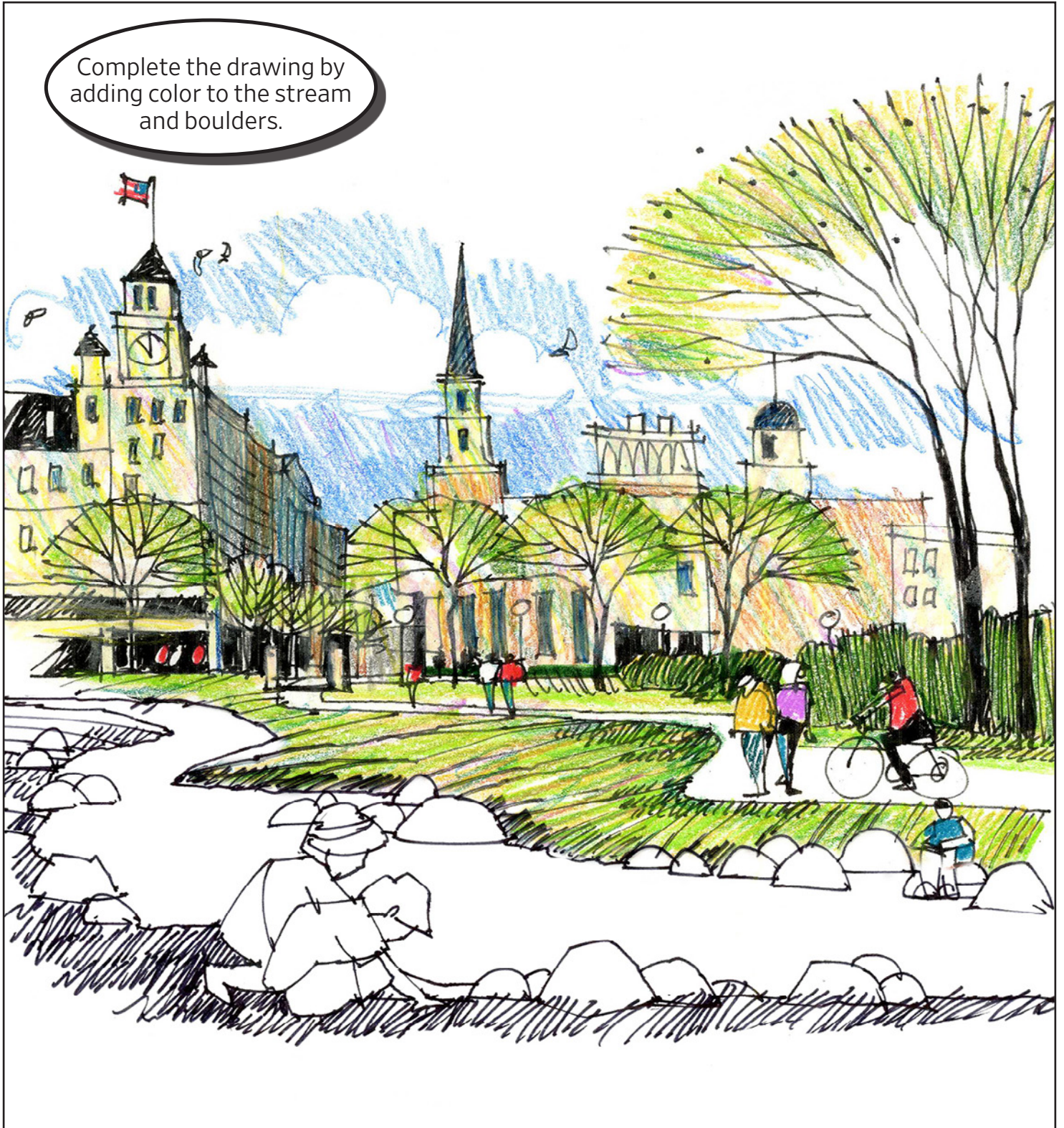
Who drew that?
David Sprunt, ASLA
Littleton, Colorado

Who drew that?

James Richards, FASLA
Sarasota, Florida

James is a landscape architect because the profession brings together the interests and skills he loves most. These include problem-solving, art, physical sciences, psychology, writing, and so many other subjects that can make a tremendous difference in the world.

Complete the drawing by adding color to the stream and boulders.



Soil

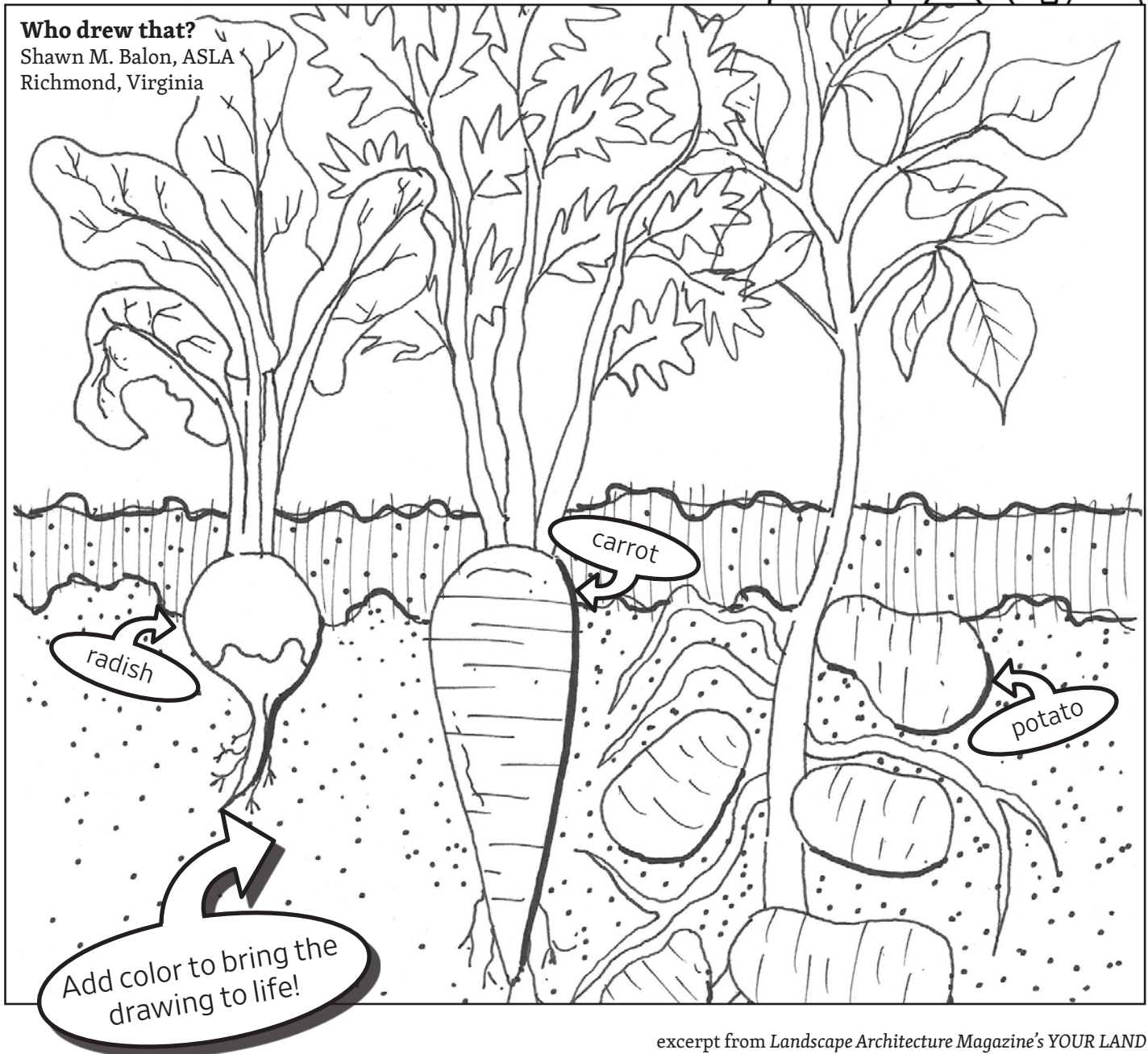
Soil sustains life on land. It may be sandy like a beach or hard like clay. It contains minerals, water, gases, and organic matter that feeds plants through their roots. Soil also holds billions of tiny organisms, such as bacteria and fungi, that build a complex web of life under the surface. Worms and bugs crawl around in the soil, eating and moving nutrients around.

It's important for landscape architects to understand soils to ensure healthy plants. In the sketch below, healthy soils were used to help grow vegetables.



Who drew that?

Shawn M. Balon, ASLA
Richmond, Virginia

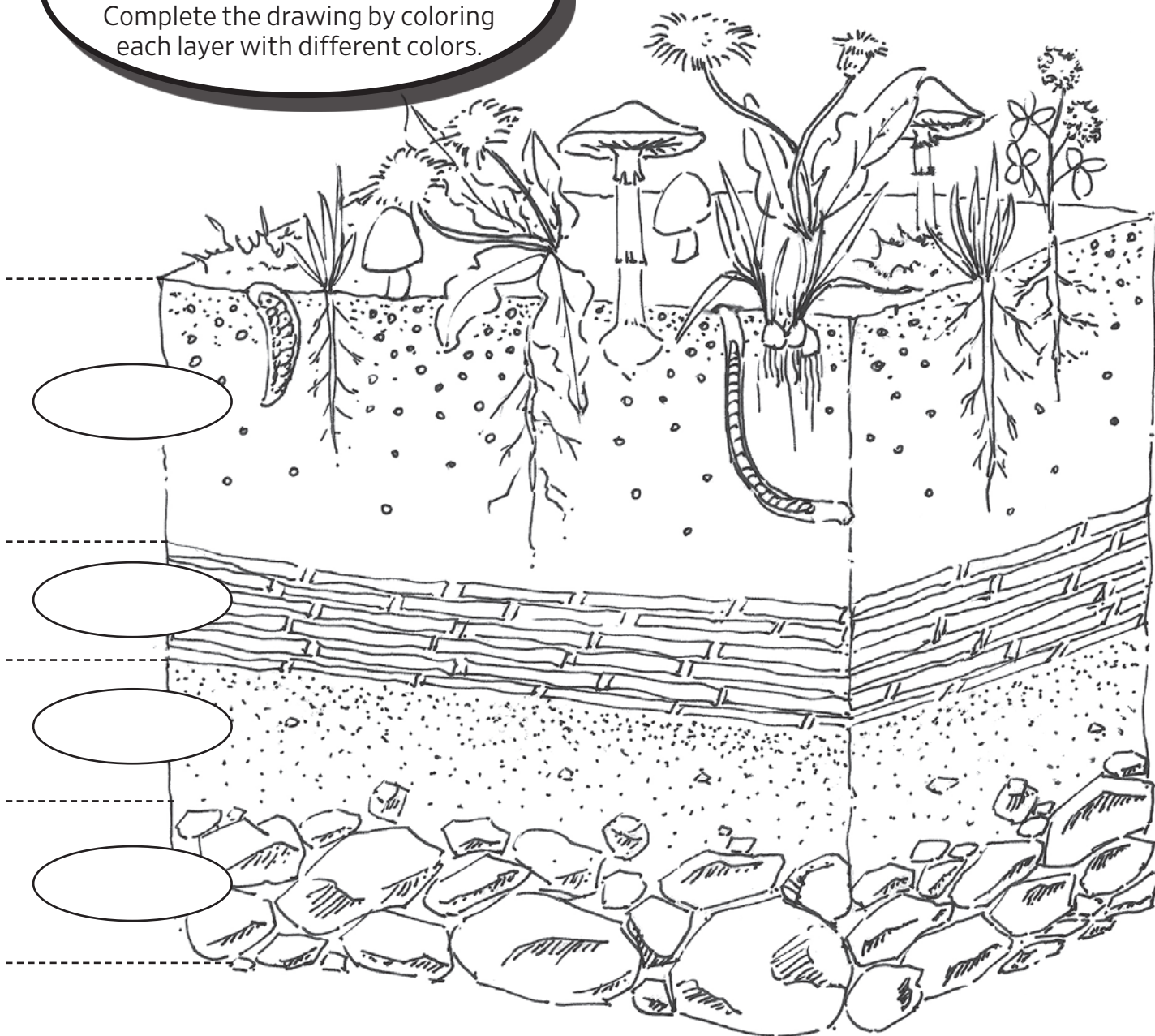


Who drew that?

Dan Li, Student ASLA
Blacksburg, Virginia

Dan's three favorite things about her job are that it keeps an exciting balance between art and science, puts her creativity and imagination to work, and solves real-world problems.

This drawing shows four layers belowground. Can you match each name with the correct layer? Complete the drawing by coloring each layer with different colors.



Layer Names

rocks

topsoil

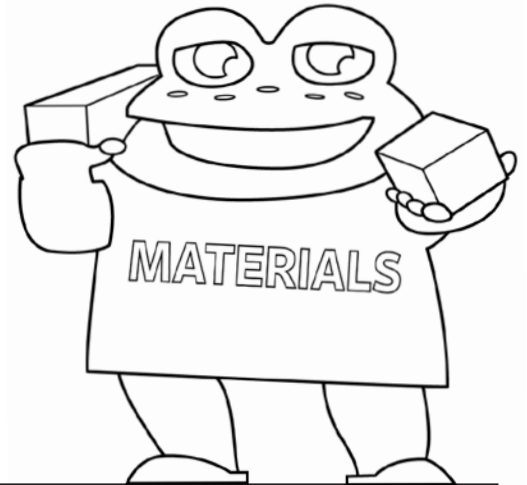
clay

sand

Materials

Landscapes are made of many different materials. They include natural materials such as soil, plants, and water, as well as stone, wood, and mulch. They may also include human-made materials like concrete, brick, steel, glass, and even fabrics.

Landscape architects use a variety of materials to build places and landscapes. For example, concrete can be used to build sidewalks, and wood can be used to build a bench. In the sketch below, tree stumps were used to create places to sit and climb.



Who drew that?

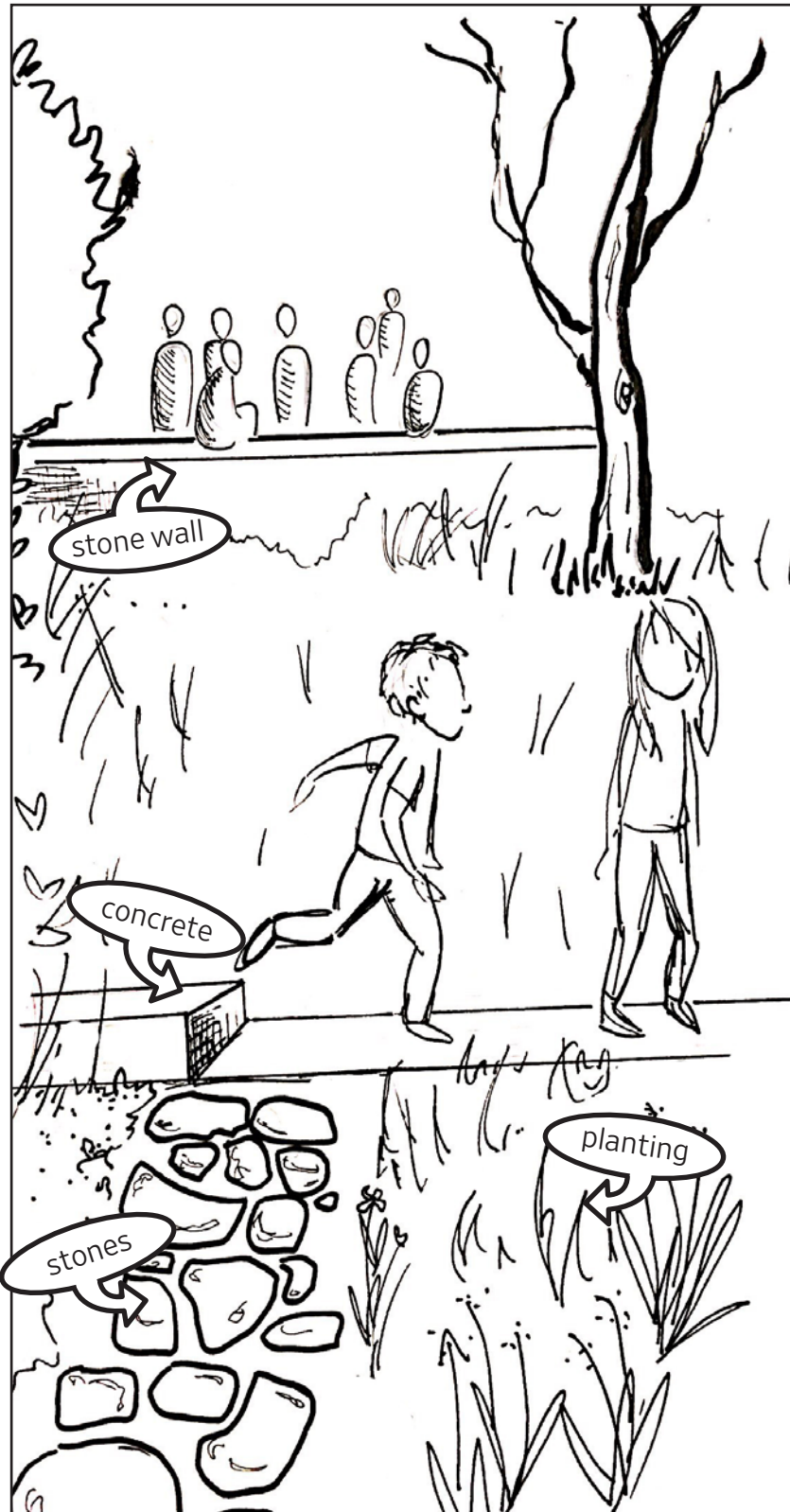
Gregory Miller, FASLA,
2017–2018 ASLA President
Albuquerque, New Mexico



Who drew that?

Yuki Igarashi, Student ASLA
Davis, California

Yuki discovered landscape architecture when she met the landscape architect who designed her high school's quad. She never put much thought into designing open spaces, and that experience changed the way she started to understand space.



Complete the drawing by adding materials for kids to use for walking and playing!

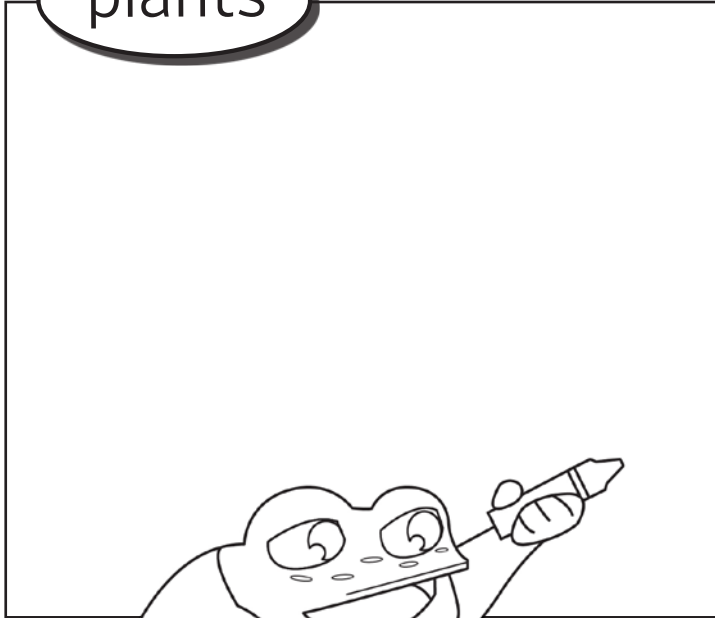
Discover the building blocks

Congratulations! You have now learned four of the building blocks that landscape architects used to design my favorite places in Oakville. Now, let's see how they were used in the park. Can you find the four building blocks (plants, water, soil, and materials) in the sketch below?

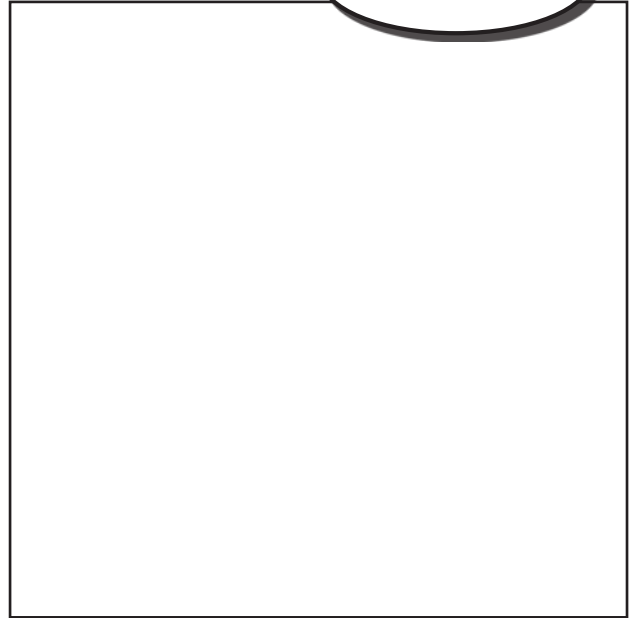


Once you have discovered all of the building blocks in the sketch to the left, use your creative skills to redraw them below.

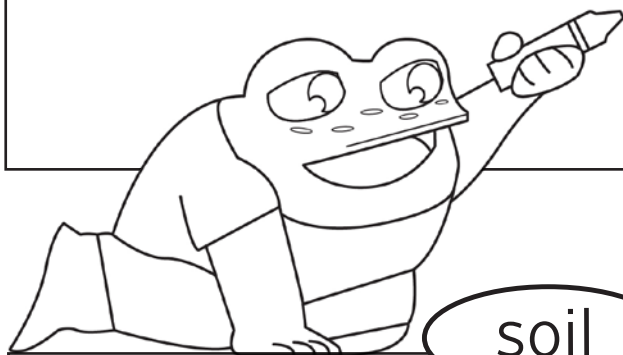
plants



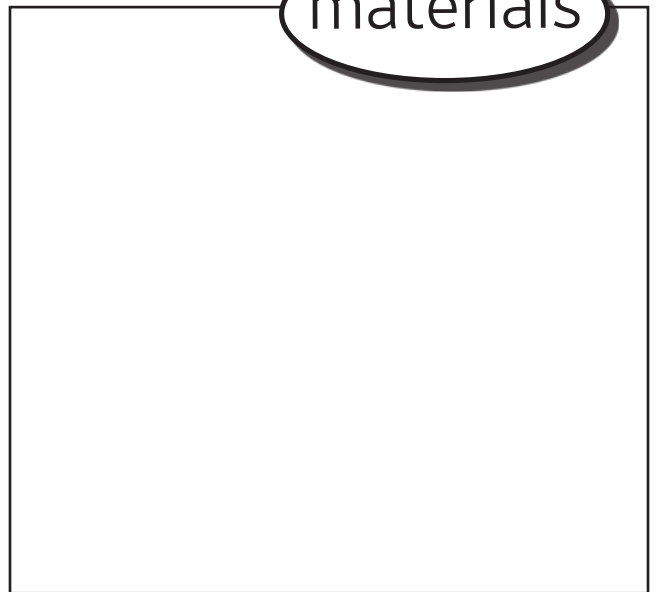
water



soil



materials

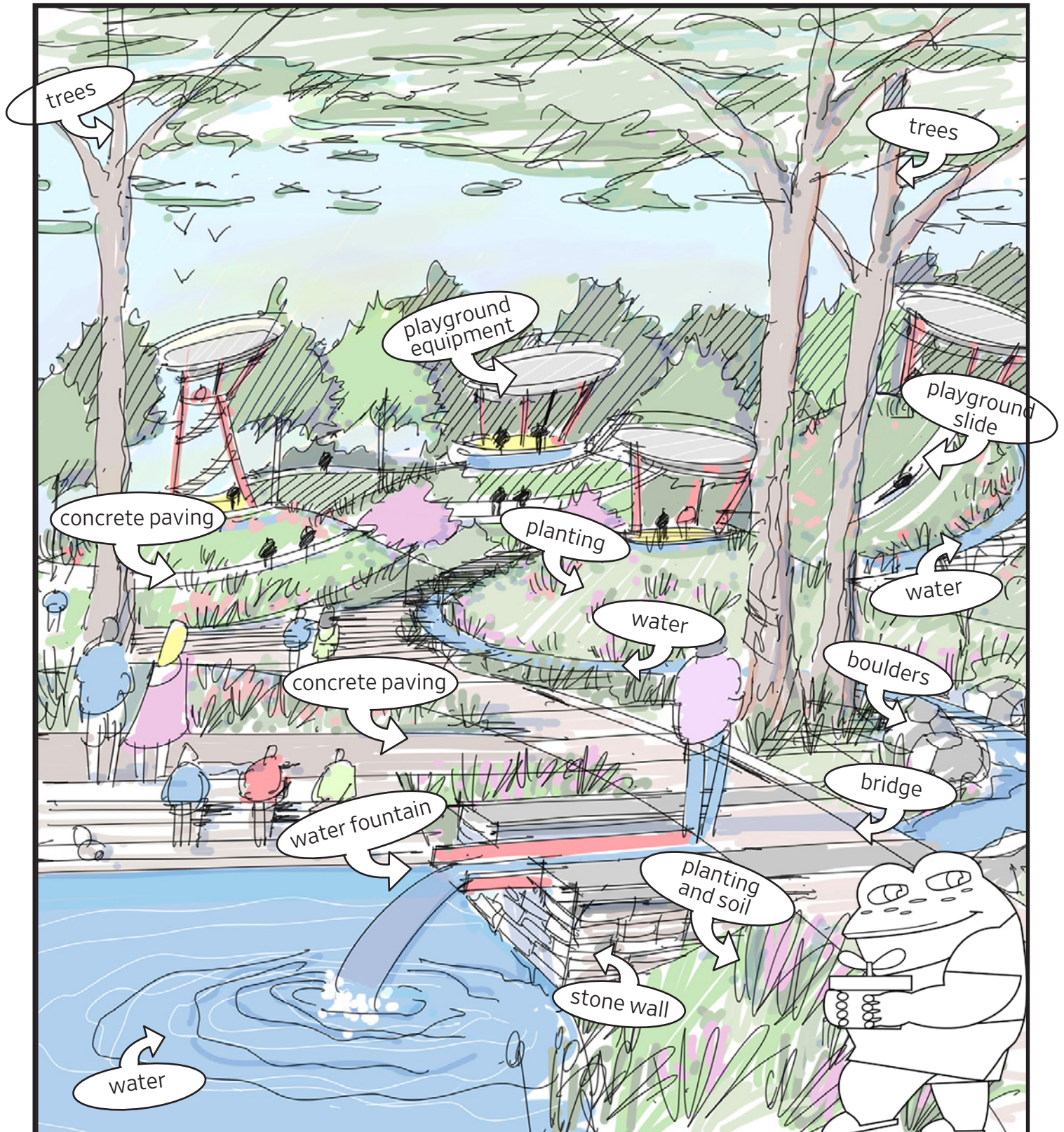


Who drew that?

Michael Batts, ASLA
Raleigh, North Carolina

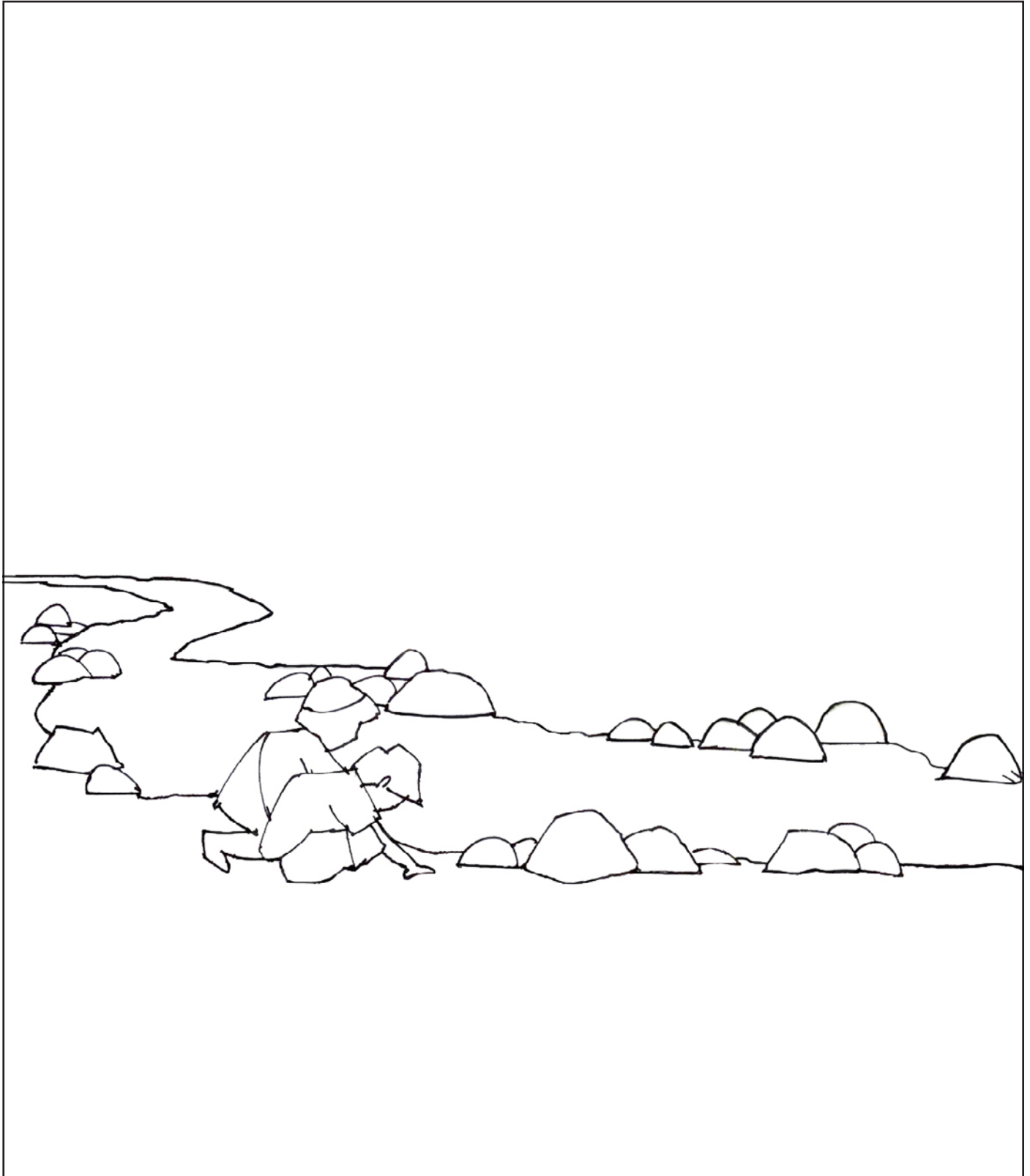
Michael's three favorite things about his job are drawing, creating new places that no one has ever seen before, and collaborating with different people to develop fun ideas.

Check your answers!



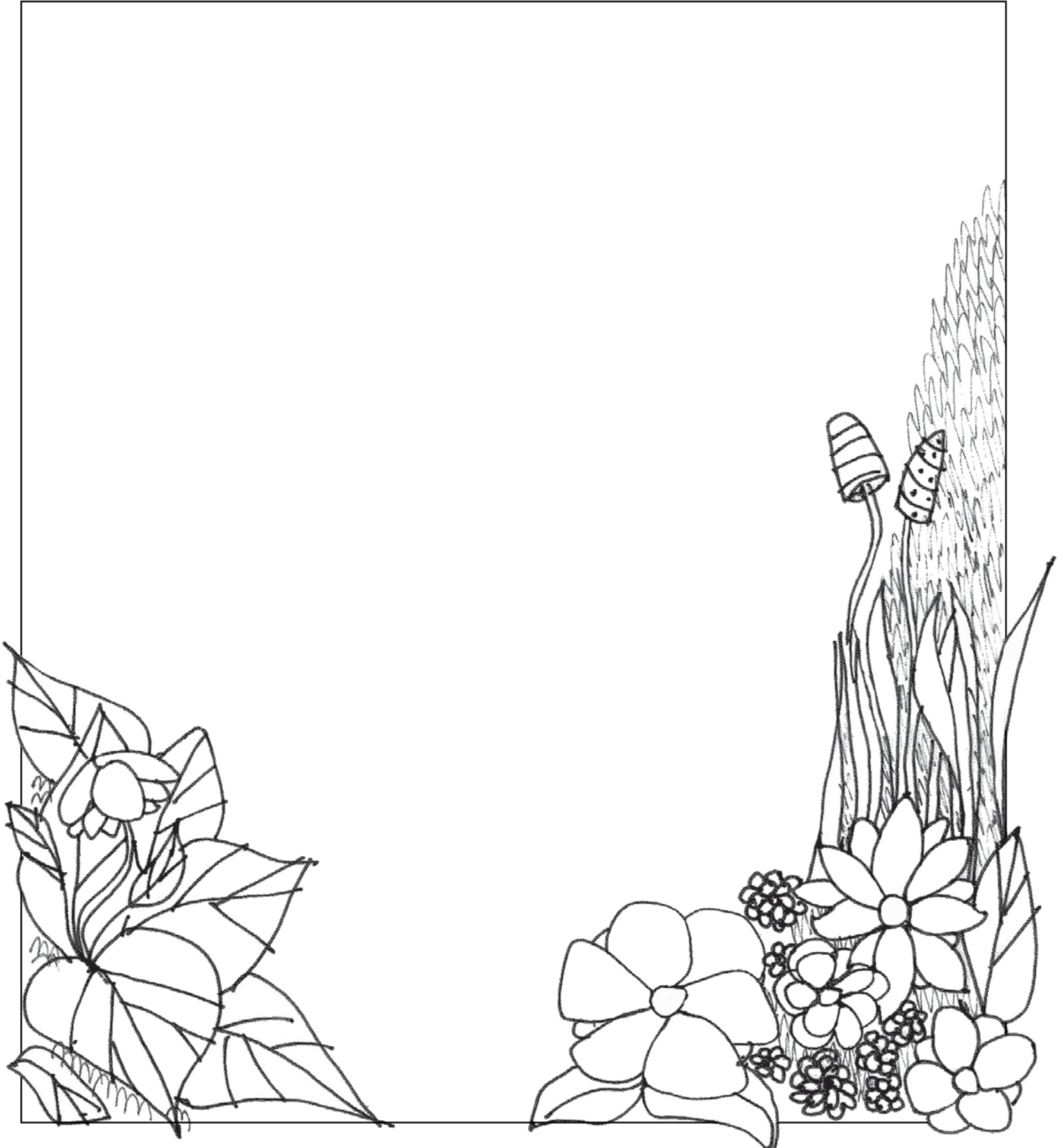
Design your own park!

Now that you have learned about the different places in Oakville, it's your turn to design a park for the community to enjoy. Design the park around the stream below, and don't forget to include the four building blocks.



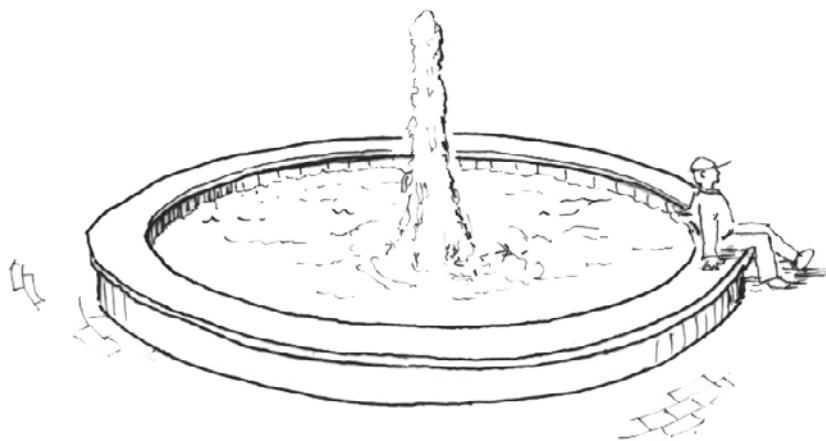
Design your own playground!

Draw a playground where kids can run, climb, and play. Design the playground around the beautiful planting below, and don't forget to include the four building blocks.



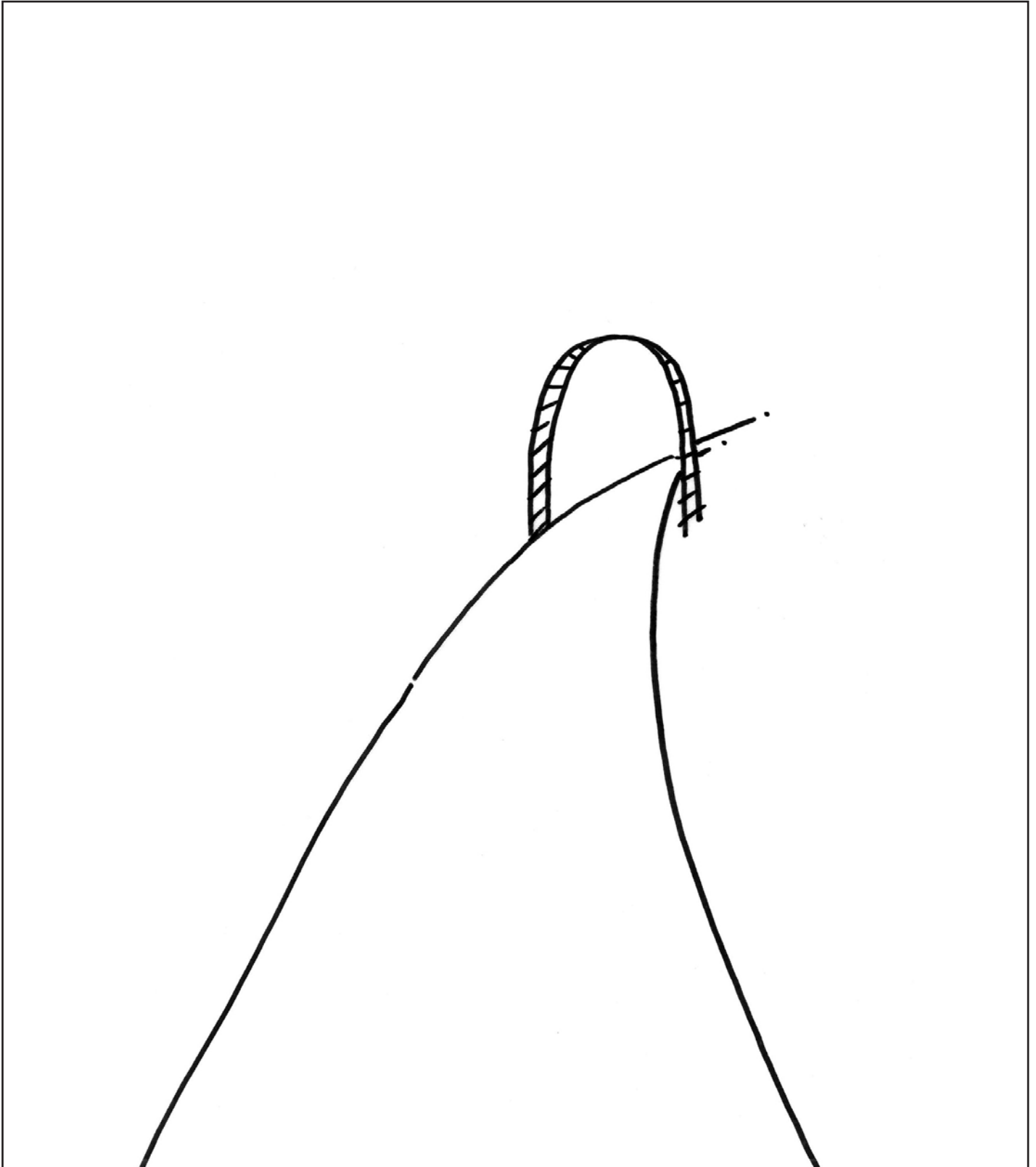
Design your own town square!

Draw a fun town square where kids and families can visit. Design the town square around the water fountain below, and don't forget to include the four building blocks.



Design your own garden!

Draw a garden with plants and artistic sculptures where communities can visit and relax. Design the garden around the arch and sidewalk, and don't forget to include the four building blocks.



Design your own pond!

Draw a fun pond with lily pads and other plants where frogs and birds can call home. Design the pond around the plants and water, and don't forget to include the four building blocks.



Your turn!

Become a Landscape Architect

If you love the outdoors, care about the environment, love working with people, enjoy problem-solving, and are creative, you can become a landscape architect!



Study Hard

Prepare by studying science, technology, art, math, history, and business. Landscape architecture relies on a lot of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) skills you may already be learning.



Visit a Landscape Architect

Almost every community has landscape architects working in it to improve the quality of life. Try to get to know one and pay her or him a visit. You can also contact your nearest local chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects to ask for more information about projects in your community.



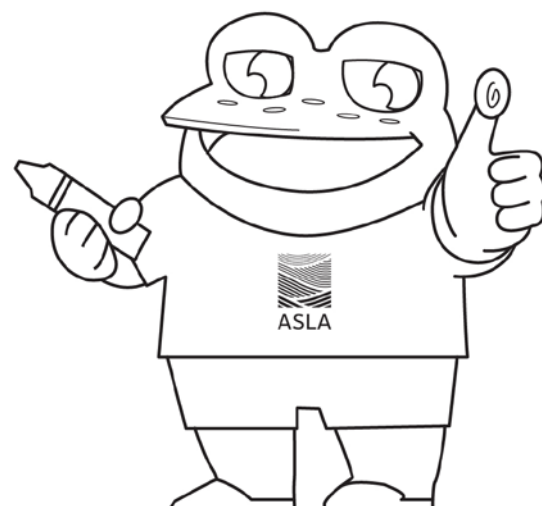
Volunteer

Get to know your surroundings by taking part in community events. Join a cleanup day at your local park or help clean trash from a stream. Visit nature centers and join in on nature walks through your community—there is a lot to discover!



Prepare for College

To become a landscape architect, you will first enroll in a landscape architecture program at a college or university. There are many landscape architecture programs in the United States.



**Thank you to the following ASLA members who shared their talents
to help develop the Activity Book for Kids:**

Natalia Almonacid, Student ASLA
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Jessica Nielsen, Student ASLA
James Richards, FASLA
David Sprunt, ASLA
Chip Sullivan, ASLA

For more information visit:
asla.org/yourpath

