

Client: Everett House
Dorchester, MA

Designer: Rosalie Johnson
Carlisle, MA

Completion: November, 2000

Everett House is a residential treatment facility for children with severe emotional problems. In October they moved from a small building with a tiny yard to a large friendly house on an acre of land in Dorchester. It is a wonderful welcoming home for kids with classrooms on the third floor that seem like tree houses with views over the housetops of Dorchester.



The acre of land has many mature trees and lots of room to run. The staff would like this space to be as welcoming and kid friendly as the inside. The design provides for an "Adventure Path" made of different kinds of paving, logs to walk on, stumps to jump along, rocks for stepping stones; not only will the path be a great way to travel through the yard, it will provide developmentally delayed children with challenges to improve coordination. There will be places to stop along the path: a sand pile, a fitness center, swings, boulders for climbing. The path will wind around half the yard, leaving the a large open space at the other end for team sports. There will be a small vegetable garden safely away from the running spaces.



In June 2000, a team of volunteers descended on Everett House for the first step in transforming the yard into a play space. They spent the day cutting and chipping brush, staining decks, weeding, digging out overgrown shrubs. When the yard is finished, it will be a place for children to invent, imagine and dream.

