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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS WIN
DESIGN COMPETITION FOR 2ND ANNUAL NATURE PLAY SPACE
AT THE 136TH unFAIRgettable MY MARYLAND STATE FAIR**

TIMONIUM, MD - *Nature Play Space*, returning for its second year to the 136th unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair will be built by Urban Gardens, Inc. utilizing the winning design of University of Maryland Landscape Architecture students Kevin Baker and Andrew Knaak under the direction of Dr. Byoung-Suk Kweon. Located next to the MY Maryland Horseland Tent, *Nature Play Space* will provide the opportunity, during the Fair, for children to freely and safely play and explore sand, maze, nature art, gardening, balancing, building, listening, observing and other stations. The 136th MY Maryland State Fair runs from Thursday, August 24th – Monday, September 4, 2017. *Nature Play Space* is open Friday, August 25th -Monday, Sept. 4.

“I feel it is important to get kids back outside in natural settings, like we used to do as kids,” said Maryland State Fair Board Member Donald Litz. “*Nature Play Spaces* provide an early physical, intellectual and creative play connection for children with nature and fosters a sense of wonder and awe, as well as future environmental stewardship.”

Facilitators and volunteers from the University of Maryland Landscape Architecture program, as well childcare professionals, will be on hand at various times to explain the benefits of each station to parents as their children play.

“more”

The 136th unFAIRgettable MY Maryland State Fair presented by Toyota is a fun and educational destination complete with daily exhibits, presentations and entertainment that are sure to captivate visitors of all ages. No other event provides so much food, fun, family entertainment and education for so little. The Maryland State Fair, located in Timonium in Baltimore County, opens **Thursday, August 24 with a Ridemania Preview night and runs through Monday, September 4, 2017. General Fair hours are Noon to 10 PM, Monday through Friday and 12 Noon to 10 PM on Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday. See below for detailed Fair Hours.**

Hear **Live National and Local Entertainment** featuring **Halestorm** with opening act **Fatally Yours**; and, **Sabrina Carpenter** with opening artist **Alex Aiono**. Enjoy **thrills & chills on the Midway or Kiddie Land tame rides**. Taste a **feast of Fair and farm foods**. Experience **Live Thoroughbred Horse Racing**; Explore the **4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden, Exhibition Hall and the Mosner/Miller Museum/DNR Buildings** for thousands of the best-of-the-best of Maryland creations and exhibits. See all kinds of **livestock and horses in the Cow Palace, Barns, Show Rings and Birthing Center**. Participate in **U-Learn Farm agriculture education activities, Nature Play Space** and more.

The 4-H/Home Arts, Farm & Garden and Exhibition Hall hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 10 PM, Saturdays – Sundays, 10 AM – 10 PM, and Labor Day Monday 10 AM – 8 PM. Mosner-Miller Museum/DNR Building hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – 8 PM and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10 AM – 8 PM. Main Midway and Kiddie Land rides, games and food stands area hours: Monday – Friday, 12 Noon – Close and Saturdays, Sundays and Labor Day Monday, 10AM – Close. Early risers are welcome to arrive early to attend livestock and horse shows in the various livestock barns, buildings and show rings. Go to www.marylandstatefair.com for schedule.

Admission to the Fair is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (62 and older) and \$3 for children (6-11). Children five-years-old and younger are admitted free. Rides are individually priced. Limited parking on the Fairgrounds is available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$5. Taking the Light Rail is recommended. Visit www.marylandstatefair.com.

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