

Natural Learning Initiative

# NEWSLETTER

September - October 2025

NC STATE



Creating environments for healthy human development  
and a healthy biosphere for generations to come.

Check out the NLI Website!



## Rooting Childhood in Nature – Supporting Children's Health, Caring for Our Home in the Universe

On October 22, NLI hosted its **18th Design Institute**, a milestone event celebrating the global children and nature movement and **25 years of NLI's work** in advancing healthy childhoods through biophilic free play and learning, driven by design research, education, resource dissemination, and multimedia communication. The day brought together designers, educators, researchers, and advocates to reflect on progress, share insights, and look ahead to the next generation of child-friendly, nature-rich environments...[learn more](#)



## 25th Anniversary Retrospective Exhibition

NLI's 25th Anniversary Exhibition at NC State's College of Design celebrated 25 years of advancing children's health, learning, and joy through nature—showcasing stories, research, and design innovation shaping outdoor play and learning for a biophilic future...[read more](#)

## DCDEE Statewide Gathering at the NC Zoo

At the DCDEE Statewide Gathering at the NC Zoo, early childhood leaders united to advance outdoor play and learning. Hosted by NLI, the event highlighted statewide progress in design, research, policy, and training—reaffirming NC's commitment to connecting children with nature...[read more](#)



## Trolls Take Root at Dix Park

Five giant trolls have arrived at Dix Park in Raleigh, NC! Crafted from reclaimed wood by Danish artist Thomas Dambo, these whimsical sculptures invite visitors on a magical trek through the park—blending art, nature, and a message of environmental care...[read more](#)

**Celebrating 25 Years of Nature Play & Learning**



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NLI's Development Fund.



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