

Research & Strategic Intelligence

What does this evidence tell us?

PlayForward - Las Tumbas, Costa Rica
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DESIGN UPDATE

Photographs are track-specific and sized to occupy the page intentionally. Repeated community-image strips have been removed from the interior reports.

01 | Executive Finding

The through-line is capacity.

The track converts field observation into a Community Systems Evidence Register, records stakeholder insight, phases development over a 0-10 year roadmap and assesses readiness across six dimensions.

What must PlayForward become capable of sustaining as participation, expectations and opportunity grow?

The RSI assessment converts field observation and stakeholder evidence into a longer-horizon development strategy for PlayForward. Rather than evaluating individual assets in isolation, the track examines how community systems, user experience, infrastructure, partnerships and local leadership interact to shape the site's future capacity.

Five Community Systems Evidence Register (CSER) systems form the evidence base. Stakeholder observations are synthesized into five strategic insights and tested across six readiness dimensions. Together, these findings support a phased 0–10 year roadmap that distinguishes immediate operating requirements from medium-term improvements and longer-term expansion opportunities.

5 CSER systems	5 Strategic Insights	3 Developmental Phases	0-10 yrs Planning Horizon	6 Readiness dimensions
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STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT HORIZON

0–2 YEARS | STABILIZE

Strengthen infrastructure and core operations, with emphasis on Storage and El Salon.

2–5 YEARS | ENABLE

Improve amenities, bathrooms, recreation and feedback systems that support participation and quality of use.

5–10 YEARS | SCALE

Develop partnerships and local leadership capacity while assessing opportunities for expansion or responsible replication.

STABILIZE → ENABLE → SCALE

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

RSI treats growth as a capacity decision, not simply an expansion decision. Future development should advance only when infrastructure, community use, operating capability, leadership and partnerships are sufficiently prepared to support the next stage.

02 | Community Systems Evidence Register

The evidence register identifies where current community systems may constrain future participation, service quality or growth.

The CSER translates field observations into strategic signals. Rather than treating individual conditions as isolated facility issues, RSI considers what each observation may indicate about future capacity, user experience and development requirements.

System	Area	Observation	Emerging Pattern	Priority
CS-01	El Salon	Very densely occupied during events	Gathering capacity is approaching a functional constraint during periods of high use.	High
CS-02	La Cocina	Large but under-equipped; chimney-fire cooking	Existing space provides potential for greater food-service variety and production capacity.	Medium
CS-03	Play Area	Structures limited by foundation	Large-scale or deeply anchored recreation infrastructure may be constrained by site conditions.	Low
CS-04	Bathrooms	Only three toilets available	Sanitation capacity may become increasingly constrained as participation grows.	Medium
CS-05	La Bodega	Currently used as storage	Existing storage capacity limits flexibility and may require alternative space as other functions expand.	High

CAPACITY SIGNAL

The register suggests that PlayForward's principal strategic constraint is not the absence of community assets, but the capacity of existing systems to absorb greater use. El Salon and storage emerge as the clearest near-term constraints, while sanitation and food-service capacity become increasingly relevant as participation grows.



03 | Community Insight Register

Stakeholder observations reveal where current conditions are beginning to shape future development requirements.

The Community Insight Register translates observations from community members, staff and users into strategic implications for PlayForward. The purpose is not to treat each suggestion as a predetermined capital project, but to identify recurring signals that can inform future design, capacity planning and investment decisions.

ID	SYSTEM	STAKEHOLDER	OBSERVATION	STRATEGIC IMPLICATION
RSI-001	CS-01	Community Members	Larger community areas required	Current gathering capacity may require a more flexible or modular approach to future expansion.
RSI-002	CS-02	Staff / Cooks	Rudimentary equipment	Greater food-service capability would require coordinated improvements to equipment, drainage, surfaces and operating infrastructure.
RSI-003	CS-03	Children	Soft soil terrain	Site conditions favor adaptable or portable recreation solutions over heavily anchored construction.
RSI-004	CS-04	Community Members	Maximum occupancy of 3	Sanitation capacity should be evaluated against anticipated participation rather than current use alone.
RSI-005	CS-05	Community Members	Expansion / storage needed	Storage expansion could improve both operational organization and the flexibility of other community spaces.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS

The five observations point toward a common strategic issue: **future growth will place pressure on supporting systems before it necessarily requires wholesale site expansion.**

CAPACITY Gathering, sanitation and storage systems may become constraints as participation increases.	ADAPTABILITY Future improvements should preserve flexibility where site conditions or patterns of use remain uncertain.	ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE Kitchen, storage and sanitation improvements can increase the usefulness of existing community assets without requiring immediate large-scale expansion.
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STRATEGIC READING

Stakeholder requests should be treated as evidence of emerging demand—not automatically as approved projects. RSI uses those signals to determine what capabilities may be required, when they may be needed and whether the organization is ready to support them.

Community participation provides the operating context through which stakeholder observations are interpreted as future capacity signals.

04 | Roadmap & Readiness

Growth should be phased against organizational readiness—not time alone.

The RSI roadmap organizes development across three horizons. Each phase represents a different level of organizational commitment: first strengthening core capacity, then improving the quality and range of community use, and finally considering expansion or replication. Movement between phases should therefore depend on demonstrated readiness rather than the passage of time alone.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ROADMAP

PHASE I | 0–2 YEARS — STABILIZE

Strengthen core infrastructure and operating capacity, with particular attention to storage and El Salon. Resolve constraints that affect the reliability and usefulness of existing community systems.

PHASE II | 2–5 YEARS — ENABLE

Improve supporting amenities and user experience through kitchen, sanitation, recreation and structured community-feedback improvements. Build the systems required to support greater participation.

PHASE III | 5–10 YEARS — SCALE

Strengthen partnerships, leadership and logistics before considering significant expansion or potential replication in additional locations.

STABILIZE → ENABLE → SCALE

READINESS DIMENSION	STRATEGIC QUESTION	EVIDENCE REQUIRED TO ADVANCE
Community Engagement	Is continued development aligned with demonstrated community use and priorities?	Participation patterns, stakeholder feedback and evidence of sustained demand
Leadership Capacity	Is sufficient local leadership available to coordinate the next stage?	Defined ownership, decision responsibility and operating accountability
Partnership Potential	Are appropriate partners available where additional capability is required?	Active or prospective relationships with clearly defined strategic value

READINESS DIMENSION	STRATEGIC QUESTION	EVIDENCE REQUIRED TO ADVANCE
Infrastructure Support	Can existing physical systems support the proposed next stage?	Capacity, condition and functionality sufficient for anticipated use
Resource Availability	Can financial, material and human resources support implementation and ongoing operation?	Funding pathway, procurement feasibility and operating capacity
Long-Term Sustainability	Can the development be maintained after implementation?	Maintenance responsibility, recurring-resource requirements and lifecycle plan

PHASE-GATE PRINCIPLE

Advancement to the next development phase should occur only when the capabilities required to sustain it are sufficiently established. The roadmap establishes direction; readiness determines timing.

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05 | People, Use & Capacity

Capacity becomes visible through use.

The evidence register indicates that PlayForward's future requirements are shaped not only by the physical condition of its assets, but by how people gather, work, prepare food, maintain the site and move through shared spaces. Field activity therefore provides an important strategic signal: existing systems must be evaluated against the level and type of use they are expected to support over time.

Current evidence points to capacity pressure across several interconnected functions. Gathering space and storage present the clearest near-term constraints, while sanitation and kitchen capability become increasingly important as participation expands. Recreation presents a different challenge: future development must respond to both community demand and the physical limitations of the site.

USE

Observe how people actually interact with spaces, services and infrastructure.

CAPACITY

Identify where increasing participation begins to place pressure on existing systems.

RESPONSE

Determine whether the appropriate intervention is operational improvement, adaptation, expansion or future investment.

USE → CAPACITY SIGNAL → STRATEGIC RESPONSE

Original field documentation of community activity and onsite work.

The evidence register is useful because it converts what is seen in the field into an emerging pattern and a priority. Capacity pressure appears in gathering space, storage, kitchen production and sanitation, while foundation conditions constrain some play-area expansion.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

Capacity planning should begin before a system reaches failure or persistent overcrowding. Evidence of increasing use provides an opportunity to anticipate constraints and sequence improvements before they limit community participation or service quality.

06 | Cross-Track Interpretation & Actions

RSI converts the other tracks' evidence into a development sequence.

Financial constraints shape what can be funded. Operational risk identifies what can interrupt success. Technical analysis identifies what can last and be maintained. RSI asks what those findings mean for capacity, phasing, partnerships and possible replication.



Aerial context supports the long-range spatial and capacity view.

DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE

IMMEDIATE — VALIDATE

Test modular layouts against documented soft-soil and foundation constraints. Confirm that proposed capacity improvements respond to actual patterns of community use before committing capital.

NEAR-TERM — STRENGTHEN

Use completion of Phase I infrastructure and operational priorities as the readiness threshold for Phase II investment. Address gathering-space, storage, sanitation and kitchen capacity as participation develops.

MID-TERM — EXPAND

Advance amenities, flexible-use spaces and additional capacity where evidence demonstrates sustained demand. Reassess the Community Systems Evidence Register as conditions and participation change.

LONGER-TERM — REPLICATE

Build the partnerships, leadership, resource base and logistics capacity required to support expansion or replication. New locations should follow demonstrated organizational and community readiness rather than growth alone.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATION

RSI should not treat expansion as the objective. The objective is to determine when evidence demonstrates that PlayForward has sufficient community demand, operating capacity, leadership and supporting systems to responsibly enter its next phase.

07 | Conclusion & Method Note

The Community Systems Evidence Register (CSER), Community Insight Register (CIR) and development roadmap are reconstructed as publication-native elements from the source material. Where the source identifies readiness dimensions without corresponding numeric scores, this report preserves the qualitative assessment and does not infer unsupported ratings.

Development should follow demonstrated readiness, not anticipated growth.

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE STRENGTHEN → VALIDATE → EXPAND → BUILD CAPACITY → REPLICATE

Conclusion

The RSI assessment establishes a strategic development position for PlayForward: existing community systems are already experiencing different forms of capacity pressure, but those pressures do not justify uniform or immediate expansion. The evidence instead supports phased development tied to actual use, community priorities, infrastructure readiness and organizational capacity.

Near-term attention should remain on strengthening existing systems and completing foundational improvements. Subsequent phases can expand amenities and capacity as evidence demonstrates sustained need. Longer-term expansion or replication should occur only when leadership, partnerships, resources and logistics are sufficiently developed to support another stage of growth.



Community activity documentation closes the strategy report with the human-use context behind the findings.

FINAL PRINCIPLE

Scale should follow evidence of readiness. Growth becomes strategically viable when community need, physical capacity, leadership, partnerships and resources can support the next phase together.