

From: Tim Fries, Playground Design Team Lead
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2015 8:44 PM
To: Pat Slaven, City of Omaha Parks Department
Subject: Hanscom Park Playground

Pat-

[Attached is the raw data](#) from the workshop and below is a summary of what we got from the kids as well as input from the team members. It's a little loose but I think gives you some good precedents to work off of as well as some websites that have some good equipment. I think we all agree that we want something unique and a little different than just a set that you buy "off-the-shelf". I know we have to buy equipment that is manufactured and approved but maybe some elements from some different places put together in a thoughtful way would create a more unique look. We also would like some sort of interactive elements. Everyone really liked the Goric website, especially the slide you can build into the hillside and the sensory and sound and nature inspired sections. Some kind of element for free play (shops, houses, etc.) would also be cool as well as quiet areas for kids to play. I think some of the precedents do this while keeping with a theme but they are probably had a lot bigger budget than ours. I think we would opt for sand to save money on surfacing and put more into the equipment. Schoder/Vogel park is nice with a mix of the 2 surfaces. If I can help with design in any capacity, let me know.

[Google Doc - Q&A from Workshop](#)

General Description from Workshop about what kids want:

- The kids want a playspace that allows for them to be very social. They want to be able to swing on a big swing as a group or on a tire swing, where multiple kids can swing.
- They want a playground that is integrated into the park, like through a slide that sits "in" a hillside.
- They want a playground that connects lots of different features, so they can climb/swing/jump/zip to different platforms without having to touch down.
- They want places to imagine/pretend that aren't quite defined. So like a small room with a table.
- They want peaked turrets!
- They want sand

Some precedents of playgrounds that we liked.

They are all from one website but I think show how themed playgrounds can be done well. They are probably all out of our budget range but thought could serve as examples

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playgrounds/tom-sawyer-island/>

Like the emphasis on nature.

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playgrounds/turkey-thicket-recreation-center/>

Train is neat. Like the use of structures to make bridges.

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playgrounds/prince-georges-county-employees-childcare-center/>

Another naturey one.

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/playground-design-ideas/featured-playgrounds/wabun-picnic-area/>
I like this one...is inclusive for kids with disabilities. Has themed elements that reflect the area's history. Has a quiet play area which I think would be neat. They have incorporated a sensory garden which could be done down the line if the community wanted to. Love the old school camper. The roller thing looks kind of cool too. This is my choice for a recommendation.

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/playground-design-ideas/featured-playgrounds/glen-eira-detail-page/>
Neat use of playground equipment to make a themed playground that doesn't necessarily look like one.

From Teal regarding equipment and accessibility:

Pipal Park on West Center is one of the more interesting playspaces in Omaha, due, I think, to that it is designed to be accommodating for people with difficulty getting around on a normal playground. I also like the quiet play areas in the design that Tim recommends, and think that those kinds of spaces, provided with a table & chair feature, could satisfy the desire for a part of the playground that is more about imagination.

To respond to the desire to have a more open-ended play option, here's a great example of how loose parts (the blocks, sand, and water) can keep things very interesting in a play space: <http://goric.com/playground/alexander-kemp-playground-cambridge-common-ma/> That example also features a slide integrated into a hillside, in case anyone was wondering what that would look like. Goric seems like a cool company to keep in mind generally <http://goric.com/>

I was thinking that there is an interesting approach we could take regarding that- if public sculpture and playground were mixed, maybe there would be a larger pool of potential funding to pull from. Has anyone seen the Tim Otterness sculpture in NYC that is also a playground? <http://www.marlboroughgallery.com/news/tom-otterness-playground-at-silver-tower>. While the above example isn't at all accessibility concerned, it is an interesting example of using a cross-discipline approach to play space design.

Playground design team, feel free to chime in with anything I may have left out.

Thanks

Tim