

# PROSPECT PARK: VOYAGER

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## THEME



(Parco giochi MANSION-BOAT, n.d.)

## GOALS

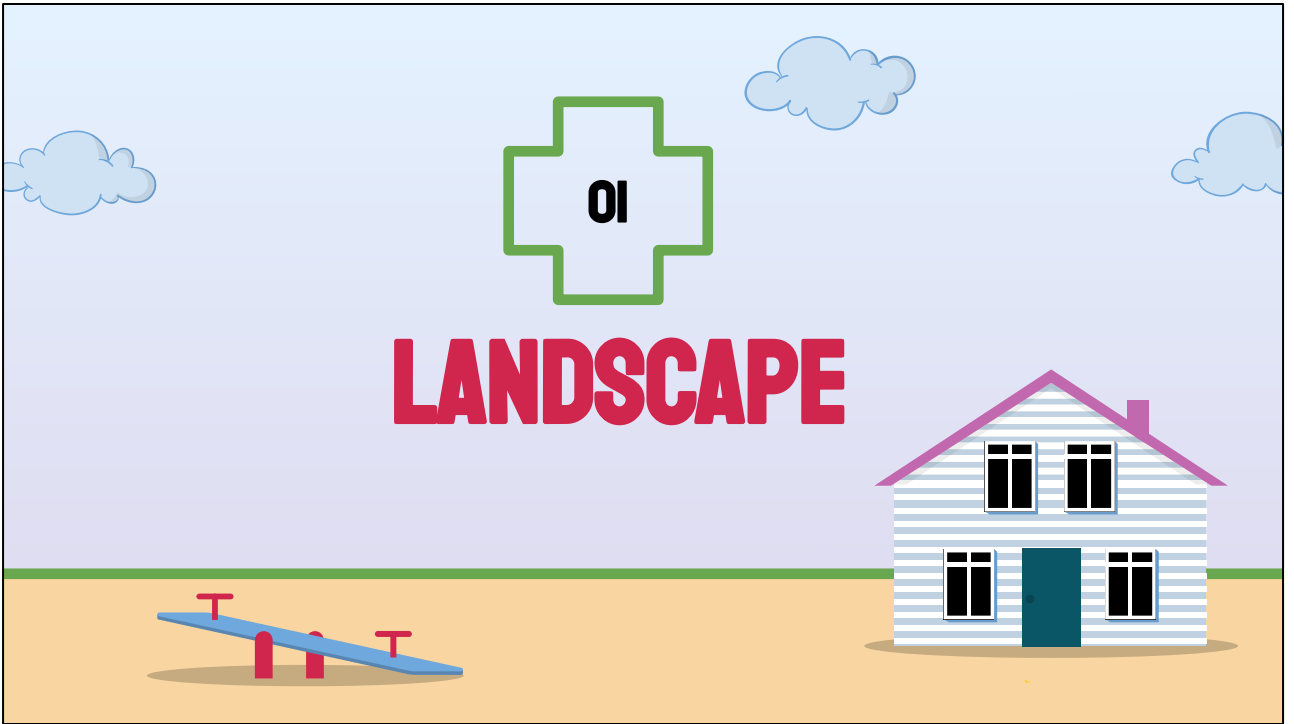
- ❑ SAFETY AND INCLUSIVITY
- ❑ INTERACTIVE PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE
- ❑ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The theme for the park is Prospect Voyager. Historically, voyagers have been explorers and that's the essence we wanted to embed in the park to facilitate a journey of exploration and learning.

The main goals for the park include safety and inclusivity, interactive playground structures and community engagement. During the developing stage, children need resources like interactive playground structures that can challenge them to engage in more meaningful learning. Additionally, community engagement helps in enhancing children's sense of shared identity and fosters learning from a larger pool of shared knowledge.

Image reference:

Parco giochi MANSION-BOAT. [www.mybricoshop.com](http://www.mybricoshop.com). (n.d.). Retrieved December 6, 2022, from <https://www.mybricoshop.com/parco-giochi-mansion-boat-detail>



First, we will discuss the landscape of our park, starting with a map of the voyager park, and highlight how we incorporated the pond while redesigning the park's structure.

- Spring Riders
- Bike Stands
- Free Little Library
- Chalkboard
- Chalk wall



# POND



(Deyangeorgiev, n.d.)



(USFWS, n.d.)

Child: "Look I see a bird!"  
Parent: "Remember the bird we saw at the zoo?"

The pond will be surrounded with green shrubs and flowers, which will act as a natural safety net to prevent children from entering the pond. Another feature in the voyager park is a bridge over the pond. Over a section of the pond, there will be a bridge that children and parents can cross to enjoy the view of the playground. There will be two sets of binoculars that two children, or a parent and their child can use together. Building a bridge on the pond gives children the freedom to explore and be creative with what is around them. For example, children can use the binoculars to play "I spy with my little eyes" or explore the pond while standing on the bridge. Both of these activities allow children to engage in conversations with other children around them or with their parents. Also, the binoculars on the bridge will be facing the ship on the playground. This gives children more opportunities to play with other children all over the park.

Image references:

Deyangeorgiev. (n.d.). *Green tourist telescope. Sea view and sky.* 123RF.

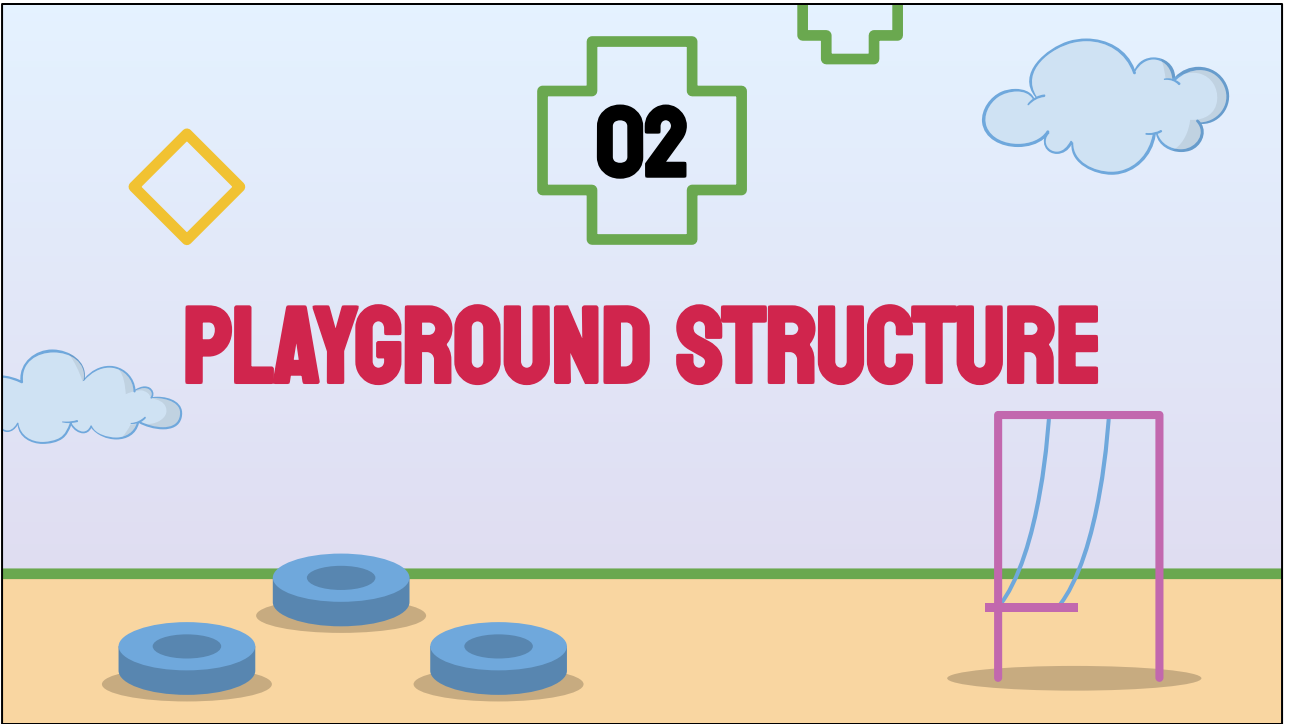
[https://www.123rf.com/photo\\_15280727\\_green-tourist-telescope-sea-view-and-sky.html](https://www.123rf.com/photo_15280727_green-tourist-telescope-sea-view-and-sky.html)

USFWS. (n.d.) *boy, watching, binoculars.* Pixnio.

<https://pixnio.com/people/children-kids/boy-watching-with-binoculars>

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# PLAYGROUND STRUCTURE

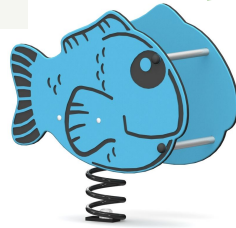


Next, we will be discussing the playground activities we propose for our voyager park. Our main attractions for the park include many forms of spring riders and a jungle gym incorporating a ship.

# SPRING RIDERS



"I am swimming like a duck, quack quack".



("Fish Spring," n.d.)



("Motion Play," n.d.)



("Nectar the," n.d.)



("Spring Rider," n.d.)

The spring riders are devices for children to bounce and rock back and forth while sitting. There will be multiple spring riders scattered around the pond. All the spring riders will be in forms of animals that children would typically see in a pond environment. Seeing pond animals can teach children about the different types of animals that live near ponds. Some examples of the spring riders could be ducks, bees, frogs and fish. There will be one seater spring riders and two-seater spring riders. All the spring riders will have an audio component which will play the sound of the animal. So, when a child is playing on the duck spring rider, they can imagine themselves swimming in the pond, flying away or follow along with the quacking sound. Additionally, some spring riders will have double seats so two children can engage in back-and-forth conversations.

Image references:

*Fish Spring Rider.* (n.d.). Jambette.

[https://www.jambette.com/products/en/products/Fish-spring-rider-la-16009?taxon\\_id=36](https://www.jambette.com/products/en/products/Fish-spring-rider-la-16009?taxon_id=36)

*Motion Play Spring Mates Duck.* (n.d.). Playworld.

<https://playworld.com/products/spring-mates-duck#gref>

*Nectar the Bee Spring Rider.* (n.d.). Lea Park & Play.

<https://www.leaparkandplay.com/product/nectar-the-bee-spring-rider/>

*Spring Rider "Žaba".* (n.d.). Stribor Operma.

<http://stribor-oprema.hr/en/proizvodi/spring-rider-zaba/>



# SHIP - SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY

"Do you want to play explorers on the ship together?"

"First one on the ship is the captain!"



(Agee-Carroll, 2022)



(Carolina Parks and Play, 2022)

The ship will serve as a tool for learning and having fun for both the children and parents. The ship will be wooden with rubber flooring painted brown to represent the land/sand and areas of blue to represent the sea. This will encourage the children to use their imaginations and engage in pretend play. For example, children can pretend to be explorers, pirates, or sea divers. The ship accompanied by the pond will stimulate curiosity, and foster a sense of excitement to learn about the land or the sea by playing with different activities on and off the ship. The wooden ship will have a ramp that provides some realistic and authentic features of a ship while being inclusive and safe for children who use wheelchairs. The ship provides children with opportunities to make friends, and engage in play together. They can explore different parts of the ship and play different games.

Image references:

Agee-Carroll, P. by: M. (2022, July 25). *Physical activity and the school-age child*. Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Retrieved December 10, 2022, from <https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/health/physical-activity-and-the-school-age-child/>

*Lowcountry Celebration Park*. Carolina Parks and Play. (2022, November 22). Retrieved December 10, 2022, from <https://carolinaparksandplay.com/project/lowcountrycelebrationpark/>



# ACTIVITIES ON SHIP



On the ship, there will be a steering wheel, the globe of the world, and a telescope that can be used to view their surroundings. The different activities on the ship serve as opportunities for children to use their imaginations and play together. For example, a child can pretend to be the captain of the ship and the other children are crew members exploring the land together. By collaborating and creating a fun experience for themselves the children are also strengthening their storytelling skills. The children can share and work together to use the color-coded globe to point to different continents they can explore. On the globe, each continent can be color-coded and children can work together to learn about each continent. For example, a child can ask "Let's explore red" which would represent Africa. This allows the children to work together and learn about Africa while engaging in conversations. They can also use the telescope to pretend to find the different continents and explore the lands.

Image references:

Colourfuelstudio. (2019, July 23). *Premium Vector: Group of Cartoon pirates on a ship at the sea*. Freepik. Retrieved December 10, 2022, from [https://www.freepik.com/premium-vector/group-cartoon-pirates-ship-sea\\_5088473.htm](https://www.freepik.com/premium-vector/group-cartoon-pirates-ship-sea_5088473.htm)

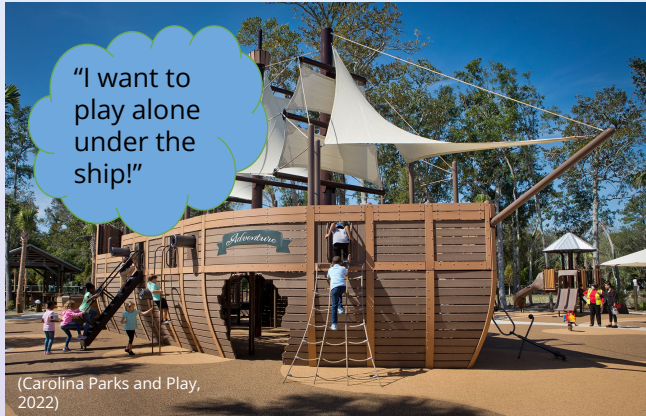
Team, I. R. P. (2021, June 17). 10 outdoor toys to keep kids entertained this summer. Insider. Retrieved November 14, 2022, from <https://www.insider.com/guides/parenting/best-outdoor-toys-amazon>

Toddlers playing together pictures, images and stock photos. iStock. (n.d.). Retrieved

November 14, 2022, from <https://www.istockphoto.com/photos/toddlers-playing-together>

Miles Parenting Editor Latifah is the former parenting editor at BestProducts.com, L. (2022, August 25). Give your child a head start on diversity with these multicultural toys. Best Products. Retrieved December 10, 2022, from <https://www.bestproducts.com/parenting/g32781476/diverse-multicultural-toys-for-kids/>

# PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES & SAFETY



The ship will have swings, slides since they popular attractions among children and parents and are a staple for any park. There will also be a space connected to the ship that is wheelchair accessible and can be used as a resting spot for the children.

Image references:

*Lowcountry Celebration Park*. Carolina Parks and Play. (2022, November 22). Retrieved December 10, 2022, from <https://carolinaparksandplay.com/project/lowcountrycelebrationpark/>

*Rock'N ship glider*. LTC. (2021, October 20). Retrieved December 10, 2022, from <https://littletikescommercial.com/product/rockn-ship-glider/?lang=can>



Lastly, we will discuss facilities that can generate community engagement through effectively planned community seating, a little free library and chalk adventures.

# COMMUNITY SEATING



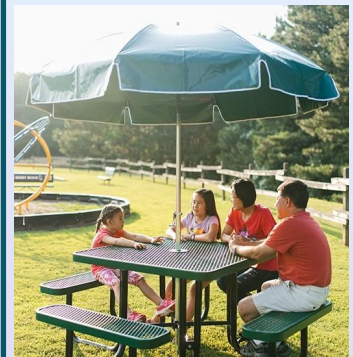
(Pentagon Play, n.d.)

**GAZEBOS**



(Andrews, 2022)

**BENCHES**



(Pro Playgrounds, 2022)

**PICNIC TABLES**

Parks and other public spaces all play an important role in bringing the community together. These places allow people to meet with friends, stop for lunch, enjoy time with their family or relax on their own. One way to foster community engagement is to incorporate social seatings at the park. For example, gazebos and picnic tables are a great way to foster social interaction to create and maintain relationships in parks.

Campaigns like “Elder Wisdom” encourages children and young adults to sit down with a senior and share a conversation, reminding us of the wealth of wisdom older adults offer to the community. Cross-generational mixing can bring improvements in language development, greater self-esteem, confidence and the development of empathy among children. Effectively planned community seating areas in parks can create a similar opportunity for young children to build closer ties with older people locally. This is why it is important that public spaces are welcoming and offer a place to rest for all ages so that people can stay for longer and come back often.

Image references:

*Outdoor Classrooms and gazebos for Schools.* Pentagon Play. (n.d.). Retrieved December 6, 2022, from <https://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/products/outdoor-classrooms/gazebos>

Andrews, K. (2022, July 8). *#elderwisdom green benches are back in the community this June.*

#Elderwisdom. Retrieved November 16, 2022, from <http://elderwisdom.ca/june-2022/>

*Picnic table umbrella patio style - commercial playground equipment.* (2022, March 1). Pro Playgrounds - The Play & Recreation Experts. Retrieved December 6, 2022, from <https://proplaygrounds.com/product/picnic-table-umbrella-patio-style/>



# LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

## Reading Bingo Fun!

(Aldrich, 2022)

Read a book about your favorite TV character.	Read on a Saturday.	Read before breakfast.	Read a book you checked out of the library.	Read to a stuffed animal.
Read to someone on the phone.	Read with a cup of hot cocoa.	Read while snuggling.	Swap a book with a friend.	Read twice in one day.
Read a book in bed.	Read for longer than usual.	<b>FREE!</b>	Read to a pet.	Read to a sibling or friend.
Read without being asked.	Read outside.	Read to a family member.	Draw a picture of what you read.	Read in a funny voice.
Read your favorite book again.	Read a book someone else picks.	Read a book inspired by a movie or TV show.	Read in the car.	Read a book and then act out a scene from it.

(Magee, 2020)

Another activity at the park that will encourage community engagement is a little free library. Looking at the demography of the community, there are a lot of older children, who might have story books that they no longer need. Little free libraries are a great way to give these books a second home, build community and find reading buddies.

A reading bingo can be a great addition on the side panel of the little library. It is a fun and interactive way to engage children of all ages. A reading bingo can allow them to choose what activities or bingo spots they want to focus on, which supports their curiosity and self-directed play. For example, one of the bingo spots reads “swap books with a friend”. This would allow children to share books and make new friends in the park.

Image reference:

Aldrich, M. (2022, August 16). *Little Free Library celebrates milestone 75,000th library*.

Little Free Library. Retrieved December 6, 2022, from

<https://littlefreelibrary.org/2018/08/little-free-library-celebrates-milestone-75000th-library/>

Magee, J. (2020, November 11). *Reading Bingo For Kids*. Studio Fun International. Retrieved December 6, 2022, from

<https://www.studiofun.com/blog/2018/12/reading-bingo-for-kids/>





Adding a small seating area next to the little library can further facilitate shared reading among parents and children as well as encourage children to buddy read in the playground. Shaping the bench as a ship is an extension of the voyager theme, where children can incorporate play into reading.

We came across “book boats”, a fun class activity facilitated by elementary school teachers to introduce self-regulation to younger children. The students are provided with reading boats, often a storage bin or a laundry basket, for their reading time. This safe space allows children to self soothe, calm down, focus, or take a break, in an effort to regulate their emotions. Therefore, it also provides a meaningful and interactive opportunity for knowledge-building.

Image references:

Hanson, M. (2022, August 16). *39 wildly Creative Little Free Library designs*. Little Free Library. Retrieved December 6, 2022, from <https://littlefreelibrary.org/39-wildly-creative-little-free-library-designs/>

*Wooden Pirate Ship Sandpit and Canopy*. Studio. (n.d.). Retrieved December 7, 2022, from <https://www.studio.co.uk/shop/toys-games>

Acton, J. H. (2018, April 2). Favorite time of the day! Silent reading in our book boats!  
Facebook. Retrieved December 9, 2022, from  
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10211644460613946&set=pb.1439483268.-2207520000>.

# CHALK ADVENTURES

## CHALK BOARDS

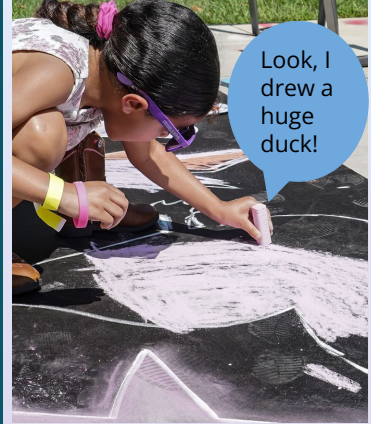


Can I have a turn with the blue chalk?

## CHALK WALL



## CHALK SIDEWALKS



Look, I drew a huge duck!

(Pentagon Play, n.d.)

(CSLA, 2016)

(Adams, 2022)

A chalkboard is a versatile tool, which can be incorporated into the playground as a board, wall or a small section of the sidewalk. Chalk and dusters can be contained in a closed plastic box to ensure their upkeep. In case, the materials run out, the community can start bringing chalk from the homes and community members can also volunteer to donate a few chalk boxes if resources are scarce. Several chalkboard materials like cement (HardiBacker board) or plastic are resilient to weather changes and rains will provide a clean slate to welcome new artists and learning to take place.

Image references:

*Giant outdoor chalkboards for Schools.* Pentagon Play. (n.d.). Retrieved December 9, 2022, from

<https://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/products/imaginative-and-creative/activity-play-panels/giant-chalkboard>

*Lansdowne Park.* CSLA. (2016). Retrieved December 9, 2022, from

<https://www.csla-aapc.ca/csla-aapc>

Adams, D. (2022, September 1). *For these children, a colorful piece of chalk is a powerful tool for self-expression.* NPR. Retrieved December 9, 2022, from

<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/01/1120291804/chalk-walk-back-to-school>

## 'The Chalkboard Project'



('The chalkboard project' 2020)



(Adams, 2022)

There is a lack of safe spaces for children to express their thoughts freely in our communities. This encouraged Positive Chalk, an American organization, to provide children with the tools and language to advocate for themselves through a chalk pavement initiative. Children transformed the chalk pavement into a landscape filled with positive affirmations and messages to the community, which fosters self-expression, a feeling of belonging and shared learning (NPR, 2022).

Furthermore, chalkboards can also facilitate social learning through gestures, sharing chalk and dusters, talking about what they have drawn and integrating the pictures with the stories other children have left on the board. As the spirit of creating is multigenerational, chalk adventures can help facilitate conversations and freedom of expression through interactions between children, adults, and seniors.

Image references:

*'The chalkboard project' launched.* The White River Valley Herald. (2020, October 15). Retrieved December 9, 2022, from <https://www.ourherald.com/articles/the-chalkboard-project-launched/>

Adams, D. (2022, September 1). *For these children, a colorful piece of chalk is a powerful tool for self-expression.* NPR. Retrieved December 9, 2022, from <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/01/1120291804/chalk-walk-back-to-school>



**THANK YOU!**

In conclusion, the inclusive and safe facilities at voyager park, including the pond, playground structures and community engagement activities, hope to encourage children to explore and learn through adventures.