



# Kitchener Parks Presentation

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Hello and welcome to our presentation for our ideas to redevelop Oaten, Kinzie, and Idlewood park in Kitchener, Ontario.

## Goals for our Redesigns

1. Design a spaces that is inclusive and accessible for all ages.
2. Create a fun learning environment that facilitates pretend and narrative play.
3. Provide children with ample opportunities for conversation and language development.
4. Create a visually engaging and enticing space.



When coming up with these suggestions, we had a few goals in mind that we wanted to achieve for Oaten, Kinzie, and Idlewood park. Designing a space that is inclusive and accessible was a top priority. Kitchener has a very diverse population with people who come from many different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. We want to ensure that everyone who comes to these parks are able to have fun. We also wanted to make sure that children have an opportunity to learn and develop decontextualized language when visiting this park. Decontextualized language is described as language that is removed from the here and now (Nelson, 2010). And the best way for children to learn about it is to engage in pretend and narrative play. Our third goal is to provide children with ample opportunities for conversation and language development. Finally, we wanted to create three visually engaging and enticing spaces that the community as a whole can enjoy together.

# Oaten Park

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Now let's get more specific into our ideas for each park, starting with our Jungle themed Oaten Park playground.



# Jungle Theme



Hi! I'm Tony the Turtle. I can help you ride across the river!



We saw a picture of a child's jungle themed playground in South Korea and it inspired us to apply this theme to Oaten park. We also thought that including animal sculptures to the play area would be fun for both children and their caregivers. This main structure provides endless opportunities for children to explore different narratives and engage in pretend play. They can act like jungle explorers, or people who are stuck in the jungle and need to survive, or even pretend to be animals themselves. The animal sculptures can be climbed on top of and children can pretend that they are riding a hippo, turtle or giraffe. They can also include a sculpture as a character in their pretend play and even name or personify the animal figures. For example, a child can pretend to be a safari explorer who meets a turtle. "Hi Tony the Turtle!" the child might say. "Could you help me out and give me a ride across the river without getting attacked by Harry the Hippo?"

## Photo Credits:

Jungle In The City And A Space Themed Playground. (2017). Lappset. [Image] Retrieved January 31, 2022. <https://www.lappset.com/Products/References/Themed-playgrounds-inspire-children-in-South-Korea>

Thinking About Adding a Soft Playground at your Zoo? 5 Reasons Why It's Worth It. (May 31, 2015). *Center Stage Productions*. [Image]. Retrieved January 31, 2022. <https://cspdisplay.com/thinking-about-adding-a-soft-playground-at-your-zoo-5-reasons-why-its-worth-it/>

## Seating and Trees



Next, we would like to include more seating around the park to facilitate community gathering, socialization, and accessibility. We designed these round tables with a palm tree umbrella to be visually appealing, fit our theme, provide shade, and a place for families to sit. We propose that these be positioned closer to the park so caregivers can have a break and can sit comfortably while still watching their children. On the other side of the path, we would like to put round picnic tables to provide a place for families, friends, and neighbours to gather. This would be a good use of this open space without interfering with the soccer field or playground. We prefer round tables because they facilitate conversation and interaction due to body positioning, especially when in larger groups so that everyone is able to see each other.

Additionally, we would like to propose the idea to plant more trees around the open spaces for additional shade. They are also a natural and unstructured way to promote active play for children. Climbing trees creates an element of risk, which can benefit children's development and resiliency (Gull et al., 2017). In this way, they can learn to problem solve, explore new things, think critically, and overcome obstacles which are valuable skills they can carry into life (Gull et al., 2017).

**Photo Credits:**

Google Earth:

Map showing location of Oaten Park. *Google Earth*. Retrieved January 27, 2022, from [earth.google.com/web/](http://earth.google.com/web/)

Climbing Tree:

Unsplash. (2022). Kids Climbing Very High Tree in Springtime [Image]. Retrieved January 30, 2022, from

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Funsplash.com%2Fs%2Fphotos%2Fclimbing-tree&psig=AOvVaw1ktvg8t7PplieDAsQJBF9L&ust=1643665483388000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCMj9quK52vUCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>

Round Picnic Table:

Dan's Outdoor Furniture Mfg. Co. LLC. (2022). 45" Round Picnic Table with Easy Seating. Retrieved February 2, 2022, from

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.dansoutdoorfurniture.com%2F45-inch-round-top-picnic-table-p%2Fm45rt.htm&psig=AOvVaw02VReacrXaxlUTIMW9JGaO&ust=1643905573061000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCPic0M-34fUCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAG>

Table and Chairs:

Created by Deanna Lammers (2022)



# Path Extension

- Connection to the playground from both sides of the path
- Pathway around the playground
  - Promotes intergenerational connections



We thought it would be a good idea to create a path extension for this park, so people entering from both sides can have an easier time accessing the playground without having to walk across grass. We also wanted to add a pathway all around the playground to make it more accessible as well. Things like wheelchairs and walkers have an easier time on pavement, so this idea promotes intergenerational community connections. Both younger and older generations can have easier access to the playground.

## Photo Credits

Google Earth:

Map showing location of Oaten Park. *Google Earth*. Retrieved January 27, 2022, from [earth.google.com/web/](http://earth.google.com/web/)

# Path Illustrations

- Draws children to the park
- Encourages narration, pretend play

"What are the fishies doing?"

They're swimming!



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On the path surrounding the park, we propose having a series of games and activities painted. One reason for this addition is its potential ability to encourage more traffic to the playground. As we previously mentioned, children are positively drawn to colour, while the activities themselves promote engagement, leading families off the main path, onto the path toward the park.

Our element of the path encourages children to create stories among themselves and with their parents to increase vocabulary and connections. For example, a conversation between parent and child might sound like, "What are the fishies doing? Swimming. Where are they swimming to? Feet jumps. Yeah! What colour are the feet jumps? Red!" etc. Even though the child's contributions are brief and, in younger children possibly incomprehensible, the participation in the conversation indicates engagement and the use of conversational turns (Nelson, 2020).

## Photo Credits:

First 4 Playgrounds (2017). Shark Trail [Image]. Retrieved January 31, 2022.  
<https://www.first4playgrounds.co.uk/playground-markings-norfolk/>

## Safari Jeep & Climbing Wall



- Promotes pretend play and imitation
  - Other children or caregivers can participate in this narrative
- Promotes turn taking, collaboration, and coordination with others



We thought that it would be good to include more interactive play equipment that fits in with our jungle theme for the park. We came up with the idea of a spring rider like the one pictured here, that would be designed to look like a safari jeep and would have attached binoculars.

We also decided to add a small climbing wall like the one pictured on the right. It is both fun for children to engage in physical activity, and also can be used as a tool in their pretend play. For example, children can pretend they are climbing away from a tiger who is trying to eat them, or can pretend to be a monkey who is exploring the jungle.

### Photo Credits

*Children on Spring Rider.* (n.d.). Retrieved from [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playgroundequipmentusa.com%2Fspring-vehicles%2F&psig=AOvVaw3dkdFa\\_A36teGg1M7WrJsY&ust=1643076135098000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCIC34pamyfUCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAn](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playgroundequipmentusa.com%2Fspring-vehicles%2F&psig=AOvVaw3dkdFa_A36teGg1M7WrJsY&ust=1643076135098000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCIC34pamyfUCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAn).

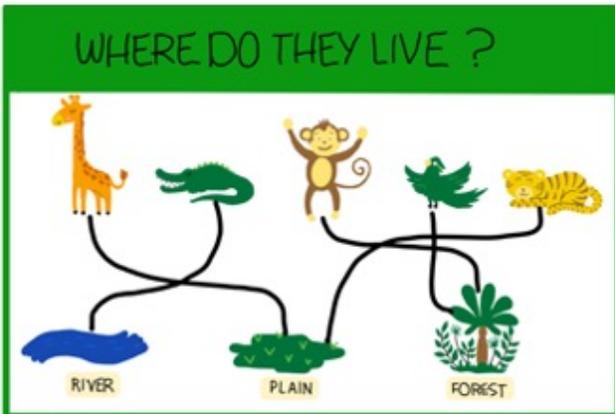
*Girl Looking Through Binoculars.* (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://playgroundking.com/binoculars.html>.

Climbing wall:

Shutterstock (2022). Children's Rock Climbing Wall [Image].

<https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/playground-rock-climbing-wall-children-fake-716291332>

# Matching Game



- Promotes joint attention and use of gestures
  - Highlights meaning of different words
- Parent(s) are there to help and teach
- Sets a goal
- Allows for a narrative to be created



Lastly, we also choose to include another interactive element to the playground that would also further incorporate our jungle theme. We came up with the idea to create a sort of matching game where children would slide the animals to their home. This allows for the creation of a narrative as both child and parents can make up stories as to why a certain animal might be in another home than the one that is correct. This also promotes joint attention between parent and child and incorporates the use of gestures to highlight the different meanings of different words such as where the animal lives or what the animals name is, or even what the question and goal of the matching game is. This joint attention is thought to play a critical role in early word learning (Akhtar & Gernsbacher, 2007).

## Photo Credits

*Child Playing With Play Set.* (n.d.). Retrieved February 1, 2022, from [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplayground-filters%2FTypes-Playground-Components%2Fplayground-panels%2F&psig=AOvVaw1hPblmBCnVks7FbseEg6Qz&ust=1643077802552000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCPif1\\_iryfUCFQAAAAAdAAAAABBk](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplayground-filters%2FTypes-Playground-Components%2Fplayground-panels%2F&psig=AOvVaw1hPblmBCnVks7FbseEg6Qz&ust=1643077802552000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCPif1_iryfUCFQAAAAAdAAAAABBk) .

*Matching Game:*

Created by Deanna Lammers (2022)



## Overarching Story

Parent: So what did you do at the park today?

Child: I walked in following where the animal path was and sat on a hippo!

Parent: You sat on a hippopotamus? Cool! What next?

Child: I climbed the lookout and saw through the binoculars.

Parent: Binoculars? Did you see anything cool?

Child: Hippo, Giraffe, and a alligator!

Parent: Wow that a lot of animals. How did you get down?

Child: Elephant trunk! I slid all the way down!

Parent: Wow that was high! Was it fun?

Child: Yeah! And then guess what? I helped animals get back to their homes.

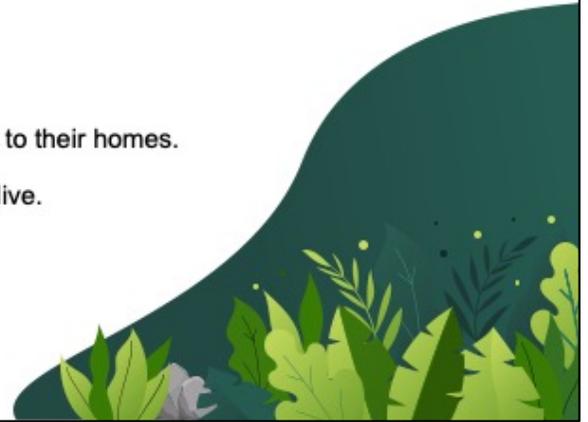
Parent: how'd you do that?

Child: I moved them from where they were lost to where they live.

Parent: That sounds like a great day!

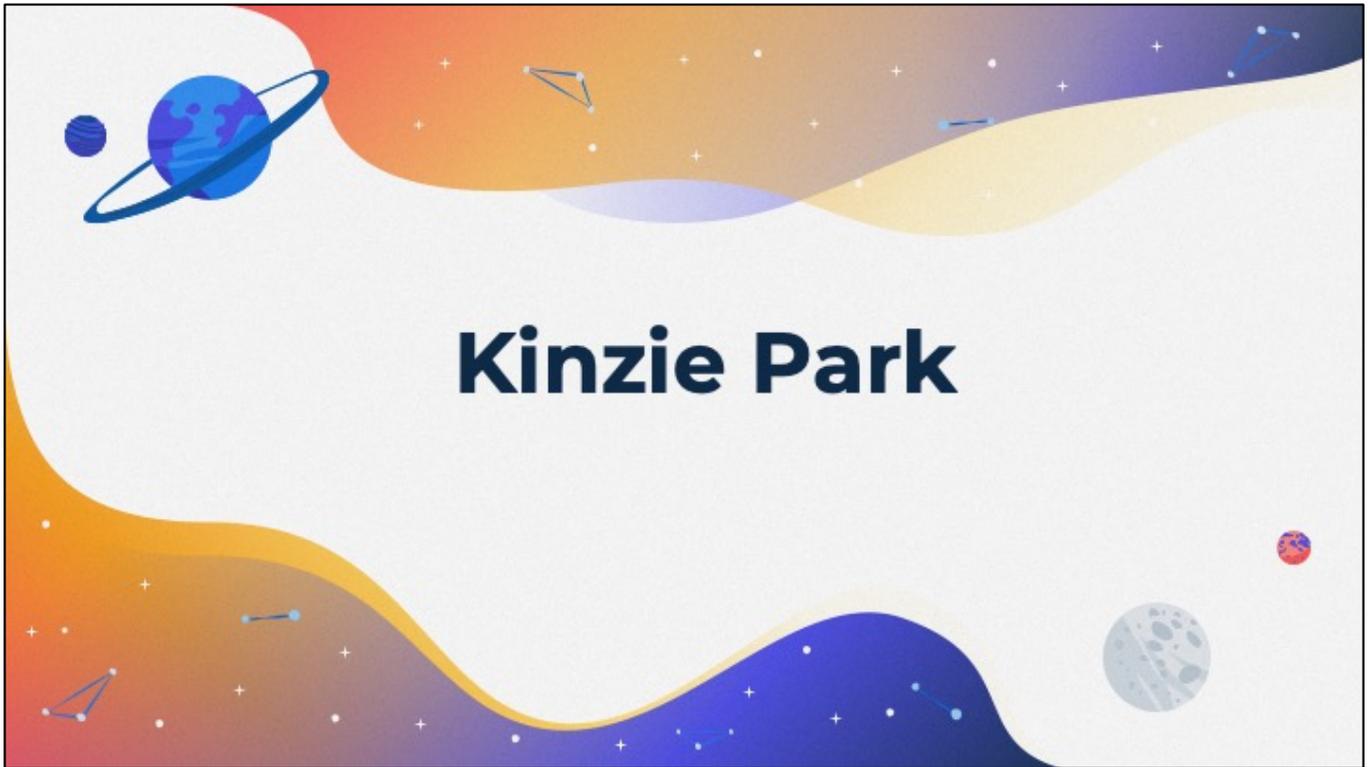
Child: So much fun! We can go next time too?

Parent: Of course!



The theme combines each element of the park to create an entire connected story for the child to be immersed in and communicate to others. An example of this autobiographical narrative could look like the following.

*Read*



Now, we will discuss details about our ideas for Kinzie Park, a space themed playground.

## Space Theme



- Targeted to older children
- STEM subject
- Promotes learning, exploration, problem-solving, and creativity in a natural environment

We chose the theme of outer space for our redesign of Kinzie park because kids are naturally interested in this subject. The target age group for this park is slightly older, so space is being introduced in school, and they are at an all time high for exploration and learning. Learning about a STEM subject in a playful environment such as this, can help children build a love for exploration, and science. The structures and activities we chose to include in this park provide a unique sensory experience with lots of opportunities for children to create narratives, pretend play, and use their imagination.

### Photo Credits

Space Park:

Landscape Structures (2016). Rockets Universe at Weddington Park - an inclusive space-themed park. Retrieved February 14, 2022, from

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplaygrounds%2Frockets-universe-at-weddington-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw28oqnoxxQVY6ufl3c6PNEk&ust=1646598300035000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCNjxxPTmr\\_YCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplaygrounds%2Frockets-universe-at-weddington-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw28oqnoxxQVY6ufl3c6PNEk&ust=1646598300035000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCNjxxPTmr_YCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP)

## Bus Stop



Promotes:

- Playful Learning
- Turn-taking
- Pretend Play
- Explanatory Talk

Inspired by the Urban Thinkscape project in Philadelphia, we decided to add a few structures by the bus stop that is beside Kinzie Park. As stated by the creators of the Urban Thinkscape project, having a puzzle to complete by the bus stop promotes children having a way to playfully learn while waiting for the bus. We suggest having some sort of space-themed puzzle to fit with the rest of the park. We also had an idea to create a photo-stand in resembling an astronaut that children can have fun with. This promotes turn taking, since only one child would be able to use it at a time, but the children waiting can play with the puzzle so no one feels left out or bored. The space-themed puzzle promotes children working together, or working with their parents, and teaches them about waiting their turn and collaboration. Also, the astronaut photo stand-in can influence children to ask about astronauts and even pretend-play as one. These bus stop elements encourage communication. In the span of time while waiting for the bus, there can be more attention given by parents and caregivers to engage in communication with children. It also provides an opportunity for a cute photoshoot for anyone waiting for the bus!

### Photo Credits

Image on left:

Urban Thinkscape Puzzle (2019). Retrieved February 21, 2022, from <https://playfullearninglandscapes.com/project/urban-thinkscape/>

Image on right:

Astronaut Photo Stand-In (2015). Outdoor Space Themed Playground. Retrieved February 21, 2022, from <https://www.outdoordesign.com.au/news-info/outer-space-themed-playground/3642.htm>

## Seating and Fence



We would like to include additional seating in different areas of the park to promote accessibility and provide spaces for families and caregivers to gather, share a meal, or relax. Specifically, we would first like to place picnic tables along the treeline to use the natural shade given. We would also like to put seating on the right side of the playground with shade structures as seen in the pictures on the left. These shade structures would have stars, a moon, and planets on them that project onto the ground to go with our space theme. Additionally, we feel as though by adding a fence like the one seen in the bottom right picture along Kinzie Avenue as a barrier to protect children from running onto the busy road would be beneficial for safety.

### Photo Credits

Map:  
Created by Deanna Lammers (2022).

### Top left:

Landscape Structures (2016). Rockets Universe at Weddington Park - an inclusive space-themed park. Retrieved March 5, 2022, from

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplaygrounds%2Frockets->

[universe-at-weddington-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw0kiAVPNVHmlyXmNs24scqA&ust=1646598714591000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCOijmrror\\_YCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAE](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplaygrounds%2Frockets-universe-at-weddington-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw0kiAVPNVHmlyXmNs24scqA&ust=1646598714591000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCOijmrror_YCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAE)

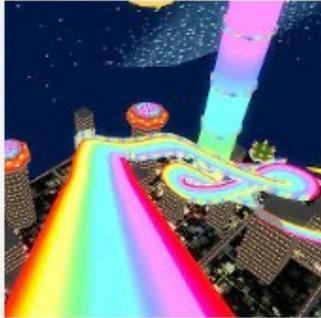
**Bottom left:**

Landscape Structures (2016). Rockets Universe at Weddington Park - an inclusive space-themed park. Retrieved February 16, 2022, from [https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplaygrounds%2Frockets-universe-at-weddington-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw28oqnoxxQVY6ufI3c6PNEk&ust=1646598300035000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCNjxxPTmr\\_YCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplaygrounds%2Frockets-universe-at-weddington-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw28oqnoxxQVY6ufI3c6PNEk&ust=1646598300035000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCNjxxPTmr_YCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAP)

**Fence:**

Landscape Structures (2016). Rockets Universe at Weddington Park - an inclusive space-themed park. Retrieved March 5, 2022, from <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.playlsi.com%2Fen%2Fcommercial-playground-equipment%2Fplaygrounds%2Frockets-universe-at-weddington-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw0AJmuPxEt8Zu2nnKm6vo1&ust=1646762264141000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCPiXg9LJtPYCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAJ>

## Figure 8 Pathway



We wanted a path for this park that was engaging and provided additional opportunities for play and creating narratives. The path idea was initially inspired by “Rainbow Road” from Mario Kart, which is pictured on the left. We wanted something brightly coloured to fit with our space theme. The rainbow path provides bright colours which are engaging and may draw children to it. Each colour also serves as a miniature track, where children can race and complete activities within their lane, either on foot or on bicycles. We wanted the path to encircle the park so it can be used creatively by the children as an element of their stories.

### Photo credits

Image in centre:

Deanna Lammers (2022)

Image on left:

Rainbow Road (Mario Kart Double Dash) (2022). Retrieved February 21, 2022, from <https://steamcommunity.com/sharedfiles/filedetails/?id=1890257502>

Image on right:

Playground Surfacing (2021). Retrieved February 21, 2022, from <http://kashplayground.org/blog/playground-surfacing/>

## 2 Main Structures



In coming up with the play structures for this park, we really wanted to focus on how storytelling and story building could be strengthened by the structures. We found this structure and thought, if it were split into two separate pieces, it could facilitate the building of more complex stories. One example could be:

“Oh the ships got separated, we have to get everyone back safe!” - which could involve running across the space in between without getting caught by the person who is IT.

By prompting the beginning of the story, it allows the children using the park to fill in the rest of the components of the story.

### Photo credits

Image on Left:  
Deanna Lammers (2022).

Image on Right:  
Cielo Grande Soccer Complex (2022) Landscape structures. Retrieved February 20, 2022, from <https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground->

[equipment/playgrounds/cielo-grande-soccer-complex/](#)

## Zipline



Let's race!

"My rocket ship  
is will beat your  
shooting star!"

For an additional interactive component to this playground, we decided to add in a zipline that would have different types of riders for children to ride on to be more accessible to a wider variety of children than a normal zipline would be. This zipline can easily be incorporated into any narrative that children can create, using space and the existing structures as a base to build on. An example of this incorporation could be that the children could pretend-play that they are riding on a rocket, or sitting on a meteor flying towards a planet, as illustrated in the slide.

### Photo credits:

ZipKrooz. (2022). Landscape Structures. Retrieved March 7, 2022, from <https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playground-components/zipkrooz/>.

## Additional Features

Black Holes



Moon Rock Climbing



As previously mentioned, we wanted to create an environment that would facilitate and encourage storytelling between children as well as among children and their caregivers. With this in mind, we want to add a moon rock climbing structure, and black holes in the ground. With the addition of these features, we believe that there will be increased opportunity for children and their caretakers to engage in storytelling and the creation of a narrative surrounding and incorporating the equipment in the park. Both the moon rock climbing structure and the black hole type in-ground trampoline create additional elements within which a caregiver may interact in the narrative that their child has created; an interaction that has the ability to foster richer and more complex conversations between caregiver and child, which ultimately benefits their development (Aram et al., 2013).

### Photo credits

#### Top Right:

*Moon Crater Climber*. (n.d.). UltraPlay. Retrieved March 7, 2022, from <https://www.ultraplay.com/products/freestanding/moon-crater-climber-1>

#### Map:

Created by Deanna Lammers (2022).

**Top Left:**

*In-Ground Trampoline.* (n.d.). ColorfulPlay. Retrieved March 7, 2022, from [https://www.colorfulplay.com/e\\_products/Trampoline-2.html](https://www.colorfulplay.com/e_products/Trampoline-2.html).



Finally, here are our suggestions for our Under the Sea themed, Idlewood Park.

## Under the Sea Theme



Our theme for this park is under the sea. We thought this theme fit well with this park as many families would spend their time here during summer months enjoying the pool. Specifically, we hope that this theme will encourage children and their caregivers to engage and create narratives about “under the sea,” especially while in the pool.

To increasing the overall feeling of safety and security for those visiting the park, we would like to incircle the park with lights to make it more visible at night. Our goals with this park is to create a safe playground with the help of additional lighting and to foster a sense of safety for those at the park at any time of day.

### Photo Credits

Map:  
Created by Deanna Lammers (2022).

## Mural



- Fits with aquatic theme
- Encourages use of park
- Local artists



We decided to add a mural to the park on the walls of the bathroom/change room structure. We feel that this supports the theme and the overall appearance of the park. By creating this mural, it ties the idea of the structures, pavement, and pool together to form a cohesive story fitting with the aquatic theme. It creates an engaging, attractive feature in that park that can help welcome people to use and value the park. One of our ideas for the mural was to hire one or more local youth artists to create the mural, which increases community involvement and places more community value on the park, potentially resulting in more upkeep and maintenance efforts.

### Photo Credits

Photo on Left:

Deej, P. Backyard Underwater Mural. Retrieved March 24, 2022, from <https://www.behance.net/gallery/69654115/Backyard-Underwater-Mural>

Photo on Right - Map:

Created by Deanna Lammers (2022).

## Main Structure



- Pirate ship promotes pretend play
- Spring Rider promotes collaboration and talk



We decided to have a shipwrecked pirate ship as our main structure made out of wood, which provides a natural element that is environmentally friendly and very durable. Since Idlewood park does not have much space, we decided on this smaller structure that still provides a perfect environment for pretend play. We also want to add a spring rider or two around the structure. This octopus spring rider we have pictured here has four seats and requires children to work together in order for it to function, which promotes collaboration and talk with their peers.

### Photo Credits

Picture on Left:

Charleson Park Playground (2022) Retrieved on March 31st, 2022 from <https://www.vancouverplaygrounds.com/vancouver-pirate-ship-parks/>

Picture on Right:

Octopus Motion Toy (2021) Retrieved on March 31st, 2022 from <https://www.hendersonplay.com/product/octopus-motion-toy/>

## Ground & Path



Lastly, to lead families toward the playground and make the space more safe and inviting, we decided to extend a pathway from the parking lot to the playground with this poured rubber ground. This material is a great way to add colourful playful features like fish, treasure maps, and pathways of water and land where children can create their own narrative games. This may sound something like, "we have to stay on land so we don't fall in the water" or "let's follow the map to find the treasure." This is a cost-effective way to create an extra element of play and sensory activities to the area, while still using all the space given in this small park.

### Photo Credits

Bottom Picture:

SpectraTurf (2021). *Santana Park | Spectra Turf*. Retrieved, March 31, 2022, from <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.spectraturf.com%2Fblog%2Fsantana-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw1G6HyNn826bAfRShqDHTfB&ust=1648822517005000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCKj0gtfE8PYCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAU>

Fish Picture:

Marathon Surfaces. (2022). *Poured-in-Place Rubber Surfacing - Marathon Surfaces*.

Retrieved March 21, 2022, from <https://marathonsurfaces.com/products/rubber-surfacing/#gallery-4>

Map:

Created by Deanna Lammers (2022).

“Hey! You be the lookout and tell me, the captain, when we will head to shore!”

“Uhh, captain! We are heading straight for a rock! We are about to crash!”

*[Both children will pretend like their ship just crashed]*

“Oh captain, what do we do now? We need to find that buried treasure!”

“Lets explore this island and try to find where X marks the spot! Oh look, here’s an octopus! Maybe he knows where the treasure is buried?”

“Let’s ask him!”

Here is an example of how children can interact and play on this playground. [Read}

## Poured Rubber Ground Surface



Oaten Park

Kinzie Park

Idlewood Park

Lastly, to tie everything together and make each space more inviting and safe, we suggest using a poured rubber surface for each playground area. This material is safe from unwanted hidden materials, and accessible for those with mobility issues or wheelchairs. It also acts as a canvas for colourful playful features like a green forest ground for our proposed Jungle theme of Oaten park, or the imageries of black holes and moon rocks for our space theme in Kinzie Park, and fish, treasure maps, and pathways of water for our “under the sea” inspired ideas for Idlewood park. Colour has an influence on our mood and behaviour. Specifically, by adding more bright colours like, yellow, blue, and green to the ground surface, this allows for positive influences on the mood of visitors of these playgrounds. (Valdez & Mehrabian, 1994). This colorful surface will also allow children to create their own narrative games for pretend play. This may sound something like, “don’t fall into the black hole!” or “we have to stay on land so we don’t fall in the water” and “let’s follow the map to find the treasure.” The opportunities for sensory activities on the ground are endless, which create cost-effective opportunities for play in these parks.

### Photo Credits

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Thinking About Adding a Soft Playground at your Zoo? 5 Reasons Why It's Worth It. (May 31, 2015). *Center Stage Productions*. [Image]. Retrieved January 31, 2022. <https://cspdisplay.com/thinking-about-adding-a-soft-playground-at-your-zoo-5-reasons-why-its-worth-it/>

**Top Middle:**

In-Ground Trampoline. (n.d.). *ColorfulPlay*. Retrieved March 7, 2022, from [https://www.colorfulplay.com/e\\_products/Trampoline-2.html](https://www.colorfulplay.com/e_products/Trampoline-2.html)

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**Bottom Right:**

SpectraTurf (2021). *Santana Park | Spectra Turf*. Retrieved, March 31, 2022, from <https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.spectraturf.com%2Fblog%2Fsantana-park%2F&psig=AOvVaw1G6HyNn826bAfRShqDHTfB&ust=1648822517005000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAsQjRxqFwoTCKj0gtfE8PYCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAU>



# Thank you for listening!

Thank you for listening to our redesign plans for Oaten, Kinzie, and Idlewood park. We hope you enjoyed all of our ideas!

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