

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to view our presentations today! We are very excited to share our ideas for the Kitchener parks, and we hope you consider our designs for these areas.



Overview

1) **Goals**

2) **Oaten Park**

3) **Kinzie Park**

4) **Idlewood Park**

For this presentation, we will begin with outlining some general goals we would like to accomplish in our re-designs. Next, we will go one-by-one through the three parks, starting with Oaten Park, followed by Kinzie Park, and ending off with Idlewood Park.



Overarching Goals for Park Redesigns

- Unique & fun play spaces
- Teaching opportunities
- Communication
- Accessibility
- Imagination

Our redesign proposals all aim to create **unique and fun spaces** for children where they can play either independently or collaboratively. In these parks, we hope that children will be able to **further develop their communication skills** in various ways, by promoting things such as **turn-taking**, asking more **open-ended questions**, **explaining concepts**, and **narrating stories**. These goals directly relate to fostering children's **imagination and pretend play** while at these parks. Lastly, we would like for these parks to provide parents or caregivers with many teaching opportunities, and to be highly accessible for all children in these neighborhoods.



To begin, welcome to the Oaten Park jungle! As you can see from this slide, we are proposing a fun, adventurous jungle theme for this playground.

Blueprint



This is our blueprint for Oaten Park. The main structure will include animal spring riders, binoculars, as well as a puzzle which would be a free standing structure. The entire space on the left side of the path is for the different animal fixtures with their paw prints, along with seating for parents. We are also hoping to have more trees planted in order to fit the theme and provide more shade for kids and caregivers.

Images:

Google maps image of Oaten Park:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Oaten+Park,+Kitchener,+ON+N2A+1P9/@43.4331762,->

[80.4330215,121m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x882b8b22002cd603:0xb7e8bbc81f3cb366!8m2!3d43.4332389!4d-80.432826](https://www.google.com/maps/place/Oaten+Park,+Kitchener,+ON+N2A+1P9/@43.4331762,-80.4330215,121m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x882b8b22002cd603:0xb7e8bbc81f3cb366!8m2!3d43.4332389!4d-80.432826)

Main Playground: <https://metrorecreation.com/five-great-themed-playground-ideas/>

Binoculars: <https://playgroundking.com/binoculars.html>

Tiger spring rider: https://www.fahr-industries.com/products/playground_springers/tim-tiger-spring-rocker/

Frog spring rider: https://www.jambette.com/products/en/products/frog-spring-rider-la-16000?taxon_id=36

Puzzle board: <https://wandeplay.en.made-in-china.com/product/OMIntcbdrYDj/China-Puzzle-Game-Kids-Memory-Board-Outdoor-Playground-Equipment-for-Educational-Play-Area.html>

Animal Spring Riders

- Side-by-side riders allow for interactions
- Fosters children's social relationships
- Encourages imagination and more abstract thinking

"I'll be the frog!
Can you ride the
turtle?"



As we recently mentioned, we propose adding spring riders in the form of animals that would match the jungle theme, such as frogs and turtles. Having children side-by-side during imaginative play on these spring riders would allow for back-and-forth interactions, teaching children how to build social relationships through direct experience. These spring riders also foster children's imagination, as they can imagine themselves as either being the animal or riding the animal through the jungle. This helps them develop figurative language (transitioning from concrete to more abstract ideas) while they assign roles to one another, or when describing what they're doing (e.g., "I'm as fast as a cheetah!", or, "I'll be the frog. Can you ride the turtle?")

Tiger spring rider image: https://www.fahr-industries.com/products/playground_springers/tim-tiger-spring-rocker/

Frog spring rider image: https://www.jambette.com/products/en/products/frog-spring-rider-la-16000?taxon_id=36



Binoculars

- 2 pairs of binoculars
- Attached to top of the play structure
- Facilitates pretend play



"I spy with my little eye...an animal that is orange!"

"Can I try the binoculars after you?"



The next feature we decided to include in Oaten Park is a pair binoculars located at the top of the play structure for children to look down at all the other features in the park. These binoculars would be a great opportunity for children to engage in pretend play. They can also work on their observational skills, likely in a sort of "iSpy game" style in which children could say "I spy with my little eye, an animal that is orange" and the other child could search for the feature that matches the description. Since there are only two binoculars, children would also be given the opportunity to practice turn-taking.

Binoculars: <https://playgroundking.com/binoculars.html>



We also propose a jungle-themed puzzle in the park. This feature will include three side-by-side puzzles, accommodating both single players and multiple players. Children can move the knobs around to match the patterns seen on top. The elements on this puzzle will be designed to match the jungle theme, and will resemble a maze so children can “guide the animals” to get them home.

Puzzle: <https://wandeplay.en.made-in-china.com/product/OMIntcldrYDj/China-Puzzle-Game-Kids-Memory-Board-Outdoor-Playground-Equipment-for-Educational-Play-Area.html>

Knob: <https://www.dreamstime.com/tropical-adventure-board-game-children-cute-animals-plants-birds-educational-exotic-boardgame-name-activity-summer-image179249160>

Table puzzle: <https://www.hape-toy.com/Hape-Jungle-Maze-Magnetic-Wooden-Jungle-Animal-Themed-Puzzle-Travel-Toy-For-Kids-pd43192835.html>

Girl: <https://images.app.goo.gl/SQnH8n9cY8QWQUWV6>

Children: <https://www.shutterstock.com/zh/image-illustration/illustration-3-kids-backs-facing-eps-102842942>

Animal Footprint Paths

- Paths leading to animal statues
- Adventure
- Make observations



"Look at that tall giraffe!"

"Shh, we have to be quiet around the tigers."



The final feature is animal footprint paths which will integrate many opportunities for children to explore and have their own independent adventure. The rubbery surface will pave the way for children to walk next to large jungle animal statues like elephants, hippos, tigers, and monkeys. These paths will provide an outlet for children to be leaders amongst their peers and practice communicating through an 'adventure' play scenario. Additionally, parents and children also have the chance to explore together and take turns asking questions or making observations.

This concludes our ideas for Oaten park! We will now move onto Kinzie Park.

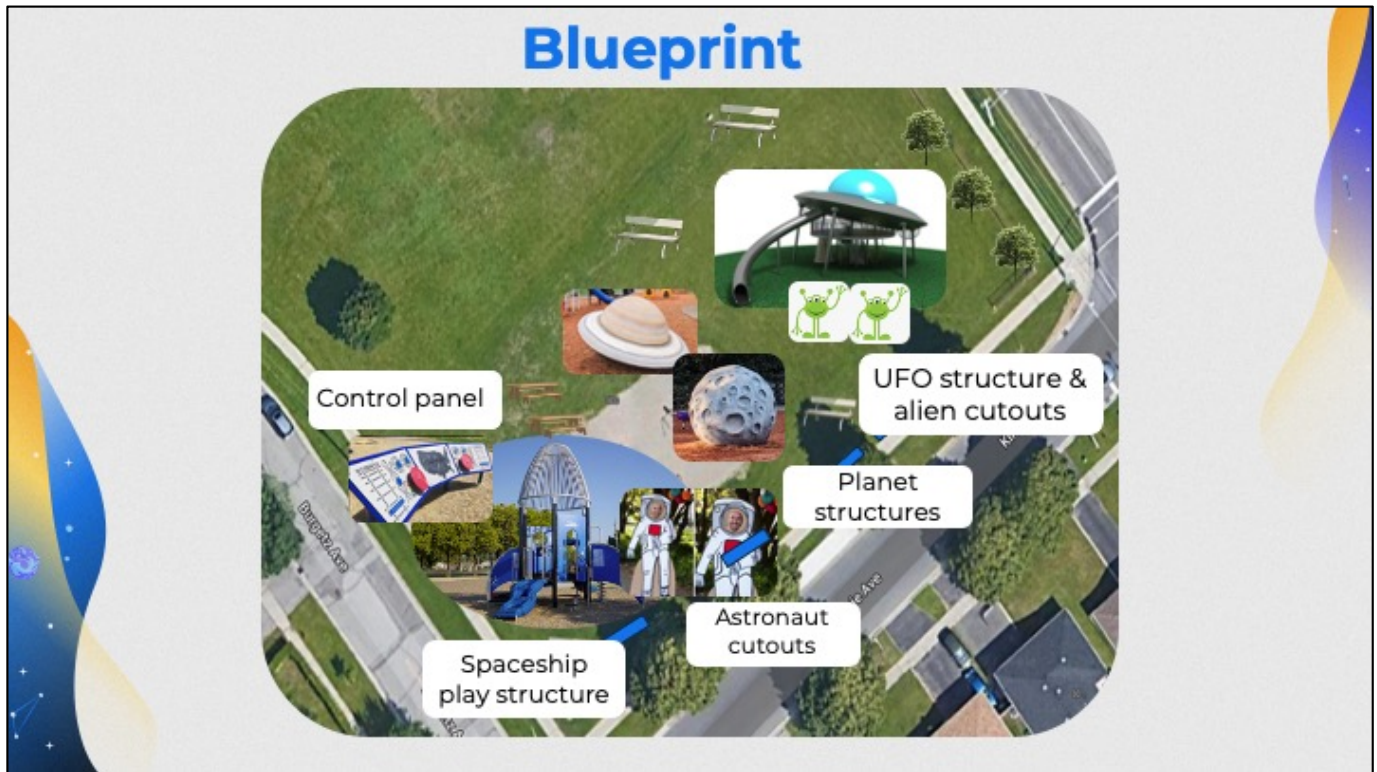
Hippo and giraffe image: <https://cspdisplay.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/soft-playground-animals-for-zoos.png>

Pathway image: https://marathonsurfaces.com/files/2019/02/IMG_1090-768x1024.jpg

Animal tracks image: <https://www.pngwing.com/en/free-png-dkuld/download>



Our proposed theme for Kinzie Park is outer space as this introduces children to STEM, providing them with many exciting, new learning opportunities.



This is the blueprint of all the key features in our Kinzie Park redesign plan. Starting from the left, we have a spaceship play structure with a control panel and astronaut cutouts. In the middle of the park, we would have planet structures for the children to interact with and climb on. Then, at the other end of the park we would have a U.F.O structure with aliens beside it. To act as a boundary, there would be trees along River Road as well as panels alongside Kinzie Avenue, displaying images of each of the planets and their names.

Image references:

Google Maps Image of Kinzie Park:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Kinzie+Park,+300+Kinzie+Ave,+Kitchener,+ON+N2A+2K5/@43.4368307,-80.4323454,341m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m5!3m4!1s0x882b8b1816afd947:0x53758ddc31af1d4a!8m2!3d43.4370023!4d-80.4314351>

Astronaut image:

<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/03/de/6c/03de6ccec4fdb0a523017cb90122f63c.png>

Spaceship park image:

<https://www.bciburke.com/Portals/0/Images/Products/Playground-Equipment/Themed-Playgrounds/NU-2439-2.jpg>

Control Panel Image: <https://slidesandsunshine.com/space-themed-parks-in-colorado/>

Bench Image: <https://www.pngall.com/bench-png/download/62640>

Saturn and moon: <https://www.parentmap.com/article/new-playground-north-kirkland-community-center>

Alien image: https://www.kindpng.com/imgv/ohbRxR_clip-art-alien-cartoon-alien-clipart-hd-png

UFO play structure image: <https://image.made-in-china.com/202f0j00HBCRGisrCqke/Alien-Spaceship-Shaped-Unique-Kids-Outdoor-Playground-Structure-with-Stainless-Steel-Slides.jp>

UFO control panel image: <https://www.artstation.com/artwork/6azKJV>

Picnic table Image: https://www.pikpng.com/downpngs/JhxbhT_picnic-table-clipart-picnic-table-cartoon-png-transparent/

Tree image: https://www.clipartmax.com/middle/m2i8A0m2i8b1G6m2_high-quality-png-transparent-background-transparent-background-tree-png/



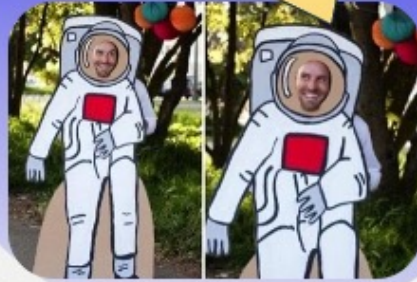
Spaceship & Astronaut Cut-Outs

- New conceptual terminology
- Hypotheticals and imagination



Let's pretend
we're flying in the
spaceship!

I want to become
an astronaut one
day!



Our first feature for Kinzie Park is the spaceship playground structure combined with astronaut cutouts. The spaceship is the main structure and we will have astronaut cutouts right next to it to mimic real life astronauts. They will elicit pretend play for children as they can use their imagination in pretending to be astronauts traveling to outer space. There is plenty of new conceptual content for children to learn about, ask questions about, and many opportunities to create hypotheticals about future events, for example “I want to become an astronaut one day!”

Control Panels

- Exposure to new concepts
- Pretend play

"I've seen a control panel before, at the park!"

"Let's weave through the asteroids!"

"Steer clear of the aliens!"



The next feature we decided to include is a control panel beside the spaceship play structure as well as one inside of the UFO structure. These panels would have many interactive features such as levers, buttons, wheels, and dials. The children may not know what a control panel is, but these features incorporated in the park increase their exposure to space-themed objects, which would likely make it easier to learn about in the future because connections can be made from past experiences. These features also provide many opportunities to engage in pretend play such as journeying through outerspace.

UFO & Aliens

- Introduces more abstract concepts
- Encourages open-ended questions



Different control panel inside UFO

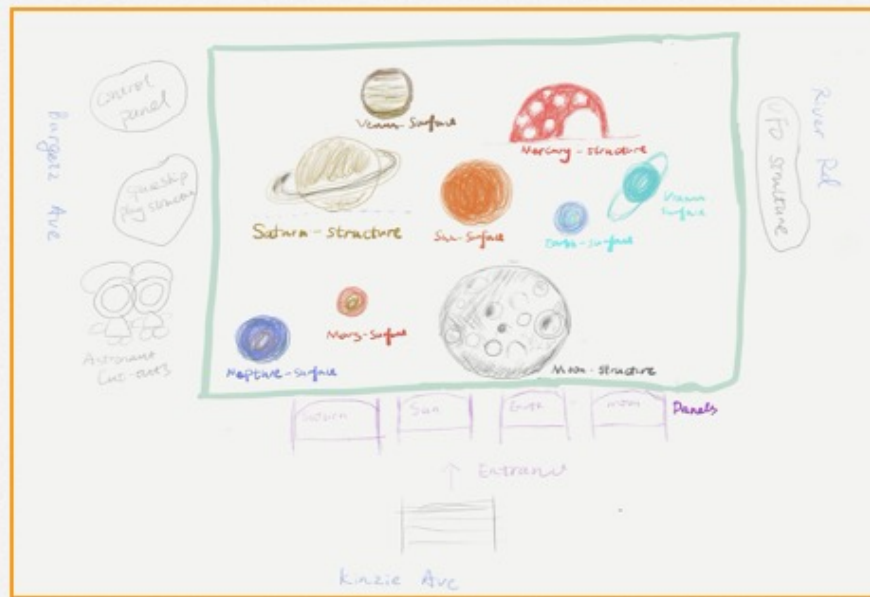


Child: "Are aliens real?"

Guardian: "I'm not sure, no one really knows!"

The next feature we are proposing in this park is a UFO with some aliens around it. Children will be able to climb into the UFO, and it includes its own control panel. Not only does this feature suit the outer space theme, it also introduces children to more abstract concepts which can get them accustomed to new ideas involving space. Theoretical ideas can be described and explained to the child by either a parental figure, or other children at the park.

Inter-planetary Fun Area



In the center of this park, we will have an inter-planetary fun area. Here is an overview of the concept in this area. At the entrance of this area, there will be panels to introduce the individual planets. The surface will be printed as the solar system with planets orbiting the sun. To avoid taking up too much space, some of the planets will be images in the ground (marked with “surface” on the image above) while others will be actual features children can play on (marked with “structure” on the image above).

Interplanetary Structures



Saturn - structure



There will be three climbing structures which will be built as realistic-looking moon-, Saturn-, and Mercury-shaped structures. These pieces are multi-purpose equipment for children to play peek-a-boo, crawl, or climb.

<https://www.parentmap.com/article/new-playground-north-kirkland-community-center>

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playgrounds/rockets-universe-at-weddington-park/>

<https://www.parentmap.com/article/new-playground-north-kirkland-community-center>

When children play on the moon,
they may have conversation like this:



"Where are we now?"

"On the Moon."

"Where do we live on the moon?"

"The surface of the moon is filled
with craters. We may have to live
inside one of these."

When children step on the Moon, we hope the novel experience may trigger their curiosity and then encourage more open-ended questions, such as 'where' or counterfactual questions (such as asking what if we were on the moon).

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/commercial-playground-equipment/playgrounds/rockets-universe-at-weddington-park/>



Last but not least, our proposed theme for Idlewood park is “by the seaside”, as we wanted to implement the pool located directly next to the playground.

Here, we are focusing more on park appearance and decoration rather than research and language development concepts.



This is the blueprint of all the features we propose to implement in the park. We will begin with a river path leading from the parking lot to the park and a “welcome” sign to make the space more inviting. Next, we will talk about the community centre and pool fence revamps, fun lighting features, and some fixtures in the playground itself. We also have a proposal for ample seating in this park which would benefit the playground and the sports field next to it.

River Pathway & Sign

- Poured rubber pathway to resemble a river
- Leads from community centre & parking lot into playground
- Inviting welcome sign at entrance

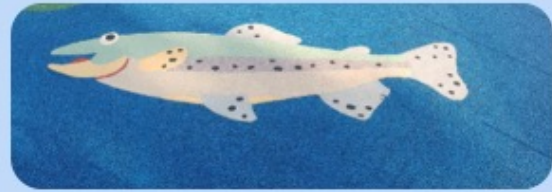


To revamp the entrance of Idlewood park, our group decided to implement a poured rubber pathway to replace the concrete path currently there. This poured rubber pathway will be the same colour as the rest of the park's poured rubber surface, and will resemble a river leading to the larger body of water that is the playground. We will also be including a welcome sign which would look like the one seen on this slide, as the playground is currently hidden behind the community centre. These entryway features will make the space more inviting and can immerse the children in the seaside theme before they even arrive at the play space!

Sign image: <https://www.pngkey.com/maxpic/u2q8a9e6o0w7e6e6/>

Poured Rubber Floor

- Comfortable and safe to play on
- Various sea creatures within the rubber floor
- Fun glow in the dark elements



"There's a big glowing fish in the water!"

"Watch out for the shark!"



As a safety measure, and to further encapsulate our seaside theme, the entire playground floor will consist of a poured rubber material to resemble the ocean. As such, the poured rubber will also include different types of fish. We would like for many of these fish to be glowing in the dark, as this would make the park very unique and fun, and could also help with visibility at night time.

Poured Rubber Fish Image: <https://marathonsurfaces.com/products/rubber-surfacing/rubber-playground-surfacing/>

Glowing Fish Image: <https://www.peakpx.com/en/search?q=rainbow+fish>

Community Centre

- Re-paint with bright colours
- Mural of seaside on one side
- Building will enhance park's theme

"Look at the sail boats!"

"It's like we're at the beach!"



Next, alongside the river path there would be the community centre with new paint, likely blue, and a seaside mural on one side. Our hope with the mural is to tie in our seaside theme and it is also something that children can interact with and ask questions about.

Seaside image: <https://bonanzamarketplace.com/products/5d-diamond-painting-seaside-sailboat-and-lighthouse-kit>

Pool Fence Revamp

- Decorations made from wooden planks
- Glow in the dark fish
- Further enhances theme near pool area

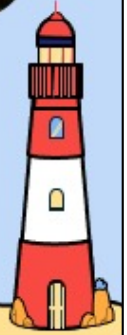
"I hope the seagulls don't steal my snacks."



There would be wooden planks along fence resembling ocean creatures and other seaside things. All fish glow-in-the-dark to add a unique look and further brighten the area. Makes the theme more immersive with ocean creatures in front of the pool.

Lighting

- Increase lighting around park
- Lamp posts with jellyfish tops
- Glow in the dark river path & fish throughout the park



We will have lamp posts around the park perimeter which would have jellyfish heads to remain consistent with our theme. As mentioned previously, the glow in the dark component in the path will be additional lighting to help kids stay in the perimeter of the park and close to parents during evening/night hours.

Mushroom light image: <https://www.messynessychic.com/2017/07/06/the-strangely-underrated-artistry-of-japanese-playgrounds/>

Glow in the dark path: <https://road.cc/content/news/96953-video-cambridge-gets-worlds-first-glow-dark-path-coming-soon-city-near-you>

Lighthouse Slide

- Stairs on one side, slide on the other
- Working light on top
- New ocean/sea terminology

Child:
"What's the
light doing
up there?"

Parent:
"It's a lighthouse,
it guides big boats
in the sea!"



Our main structure is a lighthouse with a connected slide. The goal of our lighthouse is to enhance children's vocabulary and introduce new words for young children. Specifically, parents will be able to explore new concepts with their children and explain unfamiliar things to them about the sea. This will not only allow for increased parent-child interactions and conversations, but children will benefit by gaining new knowledge and understanding terminology related to the ocean.

Lighthouse structure image: <https://norna-playgrounds.com/en/norna-core/lighthouse-le20475>

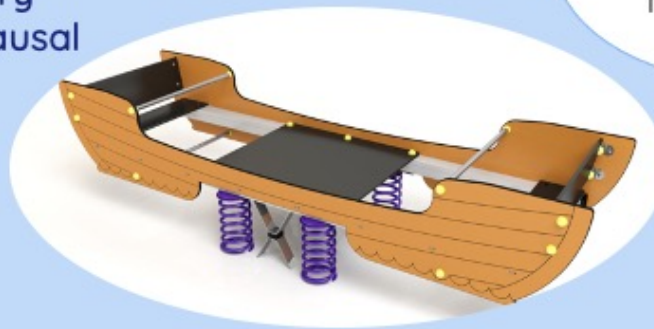
Slide image: <https://www.kompan.com/play/nature-play/robinia-play-sculptures/lighthouse-play-sculpture>

Rocking Boat

- Accommodates 2-4 children
- Foster explanatory responses and causal questions

"Mom, why I am sitting higher than him?"

"Because you are lighter than him. The heavier one stays down and the lighter one stays up."



Another feature we would like to include is a rocking boat. It can accommodate 2 to 4 children at the same time so as to encourage social play. When children play on the boat, they may ask why they are in the higher or lower position and then the caregivers can provide explanations. We hope this kind of game can foster the explanatory responses to causal questions between children and caregivers.

See-saw Image: <https://www.mobiliariosurbanos.com/en/childrens-playgrounds/inclusive-playground-equipment/seesaw-with-spring-boat>

Climbing Structure

- Free standing, starfish rock wall
- Background knowledge for the future

“What are these circles for?”

“Those are how starfish stick to things. Try climbing it!”

Suction cups
as holds



Next, there would be a small rock wall in the shape of a starfish. The holds would be the suction cups found on the underside of starfish. This feature could allow children to be exposed to a new sea creature and provide the opportunity to learn and ask questions about it to their caregiver.

Rock wall: https://www.123rf.com/stock-photo/climbing_wall.html?sti=mhacyzki9l0l88s9nnl



Massive Picnic Table



Multi-functional structure:

- Seating area for sporting events at the park
- Venue for family, friends, & community gatherings
- A “second backyard”



Finally, we propose a large picnic table accommodating a large number of people. It can also be multi-functional structure for different purposes. For example, it can be a seating area for people who are watching games played on the field next to the park, a great venue to facilitate community gatherings as well as family and friend gatherings such as birthday parties or graduation celebrations. It can be used as a second backyard for people who prefer a bigger space.

Picnic table: <https://www.wescover.com/p/tables-by-michael-beitz-at-buffalo--PSkikyP8LN>

Watching baseball: <http://www.markmerrill.com/how-to-coach-your-kids/>

Birthday party: <https://www.partybusatlanta.co/services/atlanta-kids-party/>



Thank You!

We hope you enjoyed our designs
for these Kitchener parks.

This concludes our presentation! Thank you for listening, and we hope you consider some of our designs for these parks. Do you have any questions or comments?