# Play Area Review Recent 21st Century Playground Designs To No. 144



## IDEAS FOR CREATING ENGAGING PLAY ACTIVITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN





#### Indian Ledge Playground

When a beloved TimberForm playground reached the end of its useful life after 25 years, the community pressed city leaders for a modern version meeting current safety and accessibility standards. The 104-acre wooded and heavily shaded park is the backdrop for a cheerful splash of color. The new play area includes a lookout tower, a play structure for pre-school age children, a large play structure to challenge older children, a free-form natural Douglas fir log scramble, plus weather durable musical instruments.







#### Trumbull, CT

#### Play Area Review 3

**3-A:** A Climbing Ramp with rope, an Accessible Transfer Station and a Coil Climber provide access to all users at this smaller structure created for children in the 2-5 age group. **3-B:** A lookout tower with Wood Walls is accessed via a Cargo Net Climber. Stepping Columns provide low level play opportunities. **3-C:** This is the side view of photo 2-A. Both a Classic TimberForm See-Saw and a plastic Spiral Slide Chute are revealed here.







#### Cannery Park

SWA Group wanted a playground aligned with the agrarian context of California's Central Valley but theming had to be subtle and natural. Elements not found on other playground such as timber truss standing seam roofs with clerestory are unique to The Cannery TimberForm and add to the regional feel of the design. To emulate utilitarian hot dip galvanizing, a metallic "Graphite" color powder coated finish was applied to metal components. The playground is an essential amenity to balance density with livability and attract residents to the surrounding new homes.









**Our Timbers** - To assure a long and useful life, all TimberForm timbers are free-of-heart-center (F.O.H.C.) Coastal Douglas fir. All timbers are fine-grained, with at least 80 percent possessing eight annular rings to the inch, the remainder have at least six rings to the inch. All fabrication is completed prior to preservative treatment with a non-toxic formulation designed for use on playground equipment.







#### Central Park, Stanton, CA

Train-themed playgrounds have been around for many years, but the best ones are distinguished by the thoughtful details that make a great thematic playground. David Volz Designs' goal was to incorporate history from the site into a larger-than-life locomotive and adjacent climbable water tower. This PipeLine locomotive includes a cow catcher, smokestack, linked drive wheels, and engineer's cab for the full effect. The durable materials mean this playground will be fun future generations.





#### Central Park, NYC

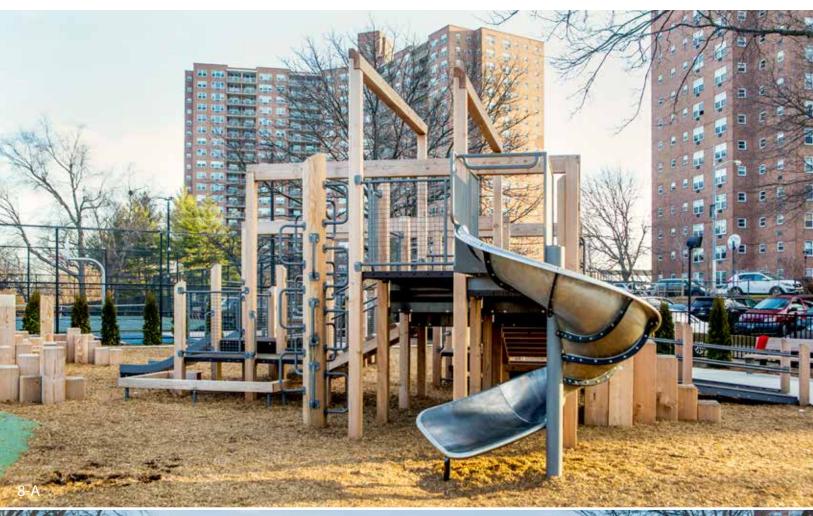
#### Play Area Review 7

Central Park Conservancy's goal was to reimagine architect Richard Dattner's iconic playground while improving access and preserving key design elements. One such element was the simple Pole Climber. Comprised of a geometric collection of lathe-turned Douglas fir posts with rungs made of brushed stainless steel, the Pole Climber encourages limitless free play expression in a durable form.



#### 8 Play Area Review Skyview-on-the-Hudson, Riverdale, NY

Skyview playground is installed among condominium towers above the Hudson River Valley. Condo owners desired a playground with an aesthetic suited to their scenic landscaped grounds and worthy of their views. Mark K. Morrison Associates and TimberForm designers delivered a contemporary playground unlike any other. With mid-century modern styling cues, this playground manages to quietly stand out.





#### Mariners' Playground, Central Park, NYC Play Area Review 9

The new play space at Mariner's Playground was intended to be evocative of the rather stark original 1935 concept which included open space and galvanized steel free-standing slide chutes. Central Park Conservancy chose a PipeLine play structure with stainless steel slide chutes and a simple color palette. The structure has a modest footprint so that surroundings feel spacious. Nearby swing and springing elements, also in gray, plus sand and water play elements in stainless steel, complement the structure.







#### Hellyer Park, San Jose, CA

Envisioned by landscape architecture firm BFS to bring nature to an underserved urban community in need of active recreation, the decision was made early on to use playground equipment made of massive timbers. The TimberForm structure challenges players with a variety of access modes to scale heights culminating in 30-foot high roof peaks. The new Hellyer County Park playground was honored by the California Parks & Recreation Society with the Award of Excellence in Park Planning and Design.







#### Pre-school Play, Cedar Hills, OR

#### Play Area Review 11

This Classic TimberForm Log Scramble located at a pre-school/kindergarden is particularly attractive and functional for the young aged user group. Made of lathe turned, free-of-heart-center, Douglas fir timbers, the Log Scramble provides low-level climbing opportunities for smaller players, while providing standing and crawling balance activities for all.



#### Columbia Tech Nature Play Area

A privately owned 92-acre mixed use development including hospitality and multi-family housing is the site of this nature themed playground. The project owner challenged GreenWorks PC to "think big" and aspire to build a destination playground. The result engages younger players with water play, balancing elements, and imaginative play while challenging older players with a variety of climbers and adventurous bridging elements. This TimberForm playground is treasured by the community.









#### Vancouver, WA

#### Play Area Review 13

12-A: Accessible stainless steel tube chute and embankment wide chute offer sliding opportunities for all children.

12-B: TimberForm Play Hammock

12-C & 13-B: Twisting Bridgeway 13-C: Water Tables

13-D & 13-E: Explorer Bridge











#### **Embankment Slide Chutes**

- 14-A: Embankment Curved Slide Chute.
- 14-B: Stainless Steel Embankment Super-Wide Chute with Asymmetric Rail.
- 14-C: Stainless Steel Embankment Curved Slide Chute, Model No. 1636-63-01-EMB.
- 14-D: Wide Embankment Chute with Center Rail, shown with 12 x 12 Stepping Column access.



#### Stainless Steel and Plastic

#### Play Area Review 15

15-A: Super-Wide Embankment Slide Chute, Model No. 1643-61-SW-EMB, with custom skirt.

15-B: 1650-41-EMB Polyethylene Embankment Slide.

15-C: Embankment Banister Slide, Model No. 1634-64-EMB.

15-D: Stainless Steel Embankment Wave Slide Chute. 15-E: Stainless Steel Super-Wide Embankment Chute.



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### Play Area Review

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700 N.E. Fourth Ave. Suite 201 Camas, WA 98607-0039 U.S.A.

Toll-free 800/547-1940 Local 503/223-1157

e-mail: HQ@timberform.com