

Play Area ReviewTM

Recent 21st Century Playgrounds & Site Products **Vol. 46**



See pages 2 & 3

MORE IDEAS FOR CREATING ENGAGING
PLAY ACTIVITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN

2 Play Area Review

New York, NY

The NYC Central Park Conservancy needed a new playground at East 100th Street as part of their “Plan for Play” to modernize recreation opportunities in the park. As this playground is adjacent to Mount Sinai Medical Center, the Conservancy desired that the new playground exceed Americans with Disabilities Act criteria and instead be universally accessible. Perhaps unique in the world, the new Robert Bendheim Playground features posts 5’ on center, allowing two wheelchair users to pass at any point on the play structure.



2-A



2-B

Central Park E100 Playground

Play Area Review 3

It is among the largest play structures in Central Park and demonstrates the Conservancy's commitment to serving players of all abilities.

2-A: Wide stainless steel chute with center rail.

2-B & 3-B: 5' wide accessible wheelchair ramps.

3-A: Grade Climber with Tunnel below.

3-C: Cargo Net.

3-D: Coil Climber (left) and Vertical Loop Climber.



4 Play Area Review

Madisonville, KY

Dr. Merle and Glema Mahr's gift to the public, the 265-acre Mahr Park Arboretum has become Madisonville's premier park since opening in 2016. In keeping with the park's guiding design principles, the decision was made that natural materials would be used throughout. The Net Climber and Embankment Slide Chute make use of the undulating landscape, while the Nest Swing™, Rope Swing, TimberCraft® Steppers™ and See-Saw provide additional opportunities for engaging play.



Mahr Park Nature Playground

Play Area Review 5

The area is rounded out by accompanying TimberCraft Half-Round Log Seats that match the aesthetic of the park and provide parents a comfortable viewing spot for supervising young players.

4-A: Mahr Park from above. **4-B:** TimberForm® Nest Swing™. **4-C:** Embankment Slide. **4-D:** Balance Log.

4-E & 4-F: Nest Swing & Rope Swing comb. **5-A:** TimberForm See-Saw. **5-B:** TimberForm Nest Swing.

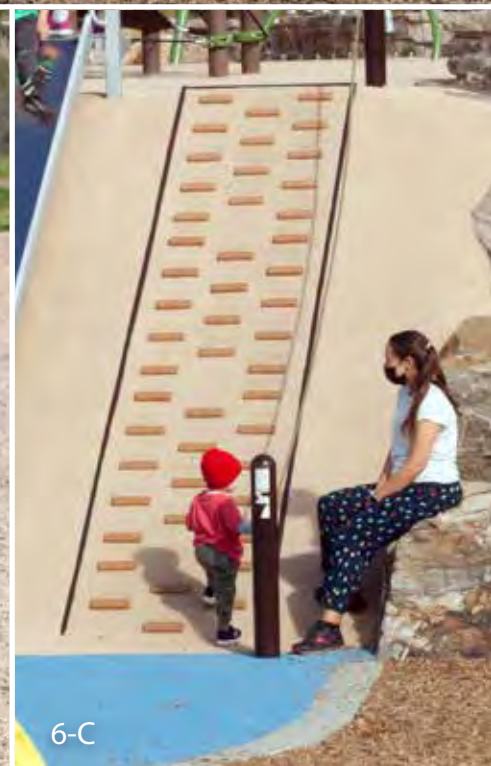
5-C: TimberForm Bird's Nest™. **5-D:** TimberForm Balance Log. **5-E:** TimberForm Net Climber. **5-F:** TimberCraft Steppers.



6 Play Area Review

Jean Sweeney Open Space

This park is located on the former Alameda Belt Line Railroad property that was secured by the City due to the advocacy efforts of local resident Jean Sweeney. In addition to the Stainless Steel Super-Wide Slide Chute (6-A) a Block Climber with Chain Rail (6-C) is located adjacent for player access. A 50' long ZipSwing™ (6-B) also graces the playground. To the delight of players and neighbors, Monarch Butterflies make the Garden Park their home too and winter here after migrating from inland California.



Twelve Mile Crossing

Play Area Review 7

12-miles East of downtown Portland the natural playground at the apartment community at Twelve Mile Crossing features TimberCraft® and TimberForm® play equipment and site furnishings.

7-A: TimberCraft PlayFrame™ with TimberForm Log Scramble™ approach.

7-B: TimberForm Arbor™ Picnic Table with Seats.

7-C: TimberForm Diller™ Bench (U.S. Patent D812,924).



7-A



7-B



7-C

8 Play Area Review

Tyrone Woods Park

Native Oregonian Tyrone S. Woods served as a U.S. Navy SEAL for 20 years before retiring. As a civilian he continued his public service as a protective officer in Benghazi, Libya where he perished while defending the lives of U.S. Consulate staff. The 9-acre Tyrone S. Woods Memorial Park located in Oregon City, OR honors his legacy and includes a visually dynamic TimberCraft® climber designed by Lango Hansen Landscape Architects, P.C.



8-A



8-B



8-C

Couch Park

Play Area Review 9

When it was time to replace a beloved timber play structure, the landscape architects at the City of Portland and Greenworks, P.C. sought to keep the same inviting TimberForm® warmth of the original playground. The general precepts of "nature play" were used to carefully integrate a new playground into the park topography and among large existing trees. Muted earth tones give selected elements a pop of color. This urban park does double-duty as the playground for the public Metropolitan Learning Center.



10 Play Area Review

Century Oaks Park

Century Oaks Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park connecting to both the neighborhood and an elementary school through paved paths. The park features a beautiful wooded landscape with blending TimberForm Douglas fir playground equipment. All standard products! **10-A:** Classic TimberForm Cantilever TyreSwing®.

10-B & 10-C: Classic TimberForm® Play Area. **10-D:** Classic TimberForm Play Stack™.

10-E: TimberForm Triple Arch Climber™.



Isabella Court Playground

Play Area Review 11

Using a combination of public, private, and philanthropic funding, nonprofit Reach Community Development designed and built Isabella Court Apartments. Because Reach is the owner/operator, they chose durable materials for a lower total life-cycle cost. Isabella Court is proof that “affordable housing” doesn’t have to mean short cuts, low quality construction, or second-rate amenities.



11-A



11-B



11-C



11-D

12 Play Area Review

Public School PS16X

Given the customary space, budget, and legal design constraints, the landscape architects at Grain Collective wanted to demonstrate what expert creative thinking can do. A terraced site called for embankment slide chutes while a log scramble and play stack promote active and passive play. The creative TimberForm® Arches™ climber, performance stage and Central Park Tree House beckon equally imaginative kids.



Bronx, NY

Play Area Review 13

12-A & 13-A: Classic TimberForm Arches.

13-B: Classic TimberForm Log Scramble™.

13-C: Classic TimberForm Tree House.

13-D: Overall view from Embankment Slide of PS-16X Play Area.



13-A



13-B



13-C



13-D

14 Play Area Review

Cross Park

Located on the site of the historic Mayflower Dairy Farm, Stan and Joan Cross Park commemorates the past while providing the growing town of Frederickson with a community space that will be enjoyed by generations to come. Phase one of the 64-acre park's construction included a wheelchair accessible play structure offering a wide range of play experiences. **14-A:** KidSpinner™, Stainless Steel Tube Chute and Climbing Tree™ complement this structure. **14-B:** Stainless Steel Wave Chute. **14-C:** Drum Tree™ and Chain Chime™ add sound to the play.



14-A



14-B



14-C

Frederickson, WA

Play Area Review 15

Designed by HBB Landscape Architecture, the playground's subdued color scheme and emphasis on nature play components like the Pole Climber, Bird's Nest™ and Stepping Column™ Cluster allows it to complement the surrounding Naches Trail Preserve.

15-A: Bird's Nest™ on Stepping Columns™. **15-B:** Stainless Steel Spiral Slide. **15-C:** Stepping Column Cluster.



15-A



15-B



15-C

16 Play Area Review

Margaret L. Kempner Playground

New York City's Margaret L. Kemper Playground is really three playgrounds in one. Located in Central Park at East 96th, there is a planar structure for younger children that is comprised of wheelchair accessible ramps and extensive stepping column clusters. A TyreSwing™ and to & fro swings (rare in space-conscious Manhattan) are grouped in a second area. A third structure with hand-fitted Log Scrambles™ and skewed climbers draws older players possessing the necessary motor skills.



16-A



16-B



16-C

16-A & 17-B: Log Scramble™ with Classic TimberForm® round post play structure.

16-B: 8 x 8 TimberForm Bollards.

16-C: Group of custom Colossus™ Timber Seats (two 8 x 12's).

17-A: 12 x 12 Stepping Columns™ with Classic TimberForm square post structure.



17-A



17-B

18 Play Area Review

Pueblo Riverwalk Playground

Located in the new Gateway Plaza linking the Riverwalk to the Pueblo Convention Center this accessible play area is inspired by pioneers crossing the Great Plains. The themed playground for preschoolers even includes a KidSpinner™ as a nod to the whirlwinds and dust devils travelers encountered along the way to Colorado. The playground was funded by the non-profit Pueblo Riverwalk and their local sponsors.

18-A: Accessible Conestoga Wagon with slide. **18-B:** TimberCraft® Full-Round Steppers™.



Axiom Church Playground

Play Area Review 19

As long as there has been thematic play there have been fortress playgrounds. Axiom Church employed architect Christoph Kaiser and his firm, Kaiserworks, to conceptualize a new multi-level "play fort" to evoke a cozy feeling of sanctuary. Children can play actively on the slide chutes and climbers or socialize within the enclosed cubby spaces provided on this well supervised shaded play area. **19-A:** Net Bridge connects two towers. **19-B:** Polyethylene Spiral Slide Chute. **19-C:** Polyethylene Curved Slide Chute.

19-B: Polyethylene Spiral Slide Chute. **19-C:** Polyethylene Curved Slide Chute.





TimberForm Colossus™ Seat with Armrests and skateboard deterrents



Embankment Curved Slide Chute



TimberCraft® Embankment Log Ladder™

Play Area Review™

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