

UIUC DISCOVER FAA HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION 22-23

Landscape Architecture: *Jasmine P.*

“Four Corners Playscape”

CONTEST BRIEF + DESIGN PROCESS

If you could design your own play space, what would it look like? A hand drawing, computer-generated artwork, or a collage of inspirational imagery will all be accepted.

Items to consider in your design:

- *Must have green space appropriate for its location.*
- *Must have a water feature (can be seasonal).*
- *Should encourage play by a variety of age groups.*

I decided to design a playscape for the Rollins Savanna Forest Preserve located in Grayslake, IL, because unlike many of the neighboring parks and trails part of the Lake County Forest Preserves system, Rollins Savanna lacks play areas. Rollins Savanna, which is bordered by Third Lake, bisects Mill Creek, and encloses Central Marsh, is located in a suburban location. Although I wanted to tie in a traditional “residential-feel” into the playscape, I also sought to embrace local ecology and respect that the site is a forest preserve, first and foremost.

Taking inspiration from nearby playscapes, as well those I frequented as a child, I designed this playscape with all-age functionality in mind. Feedback from neighbors and peers also provided further insight into ideal playscape features.

INSPIRATION COLLAGE

- Independence Grove Forest Preserve (Libertyville, IL)
- Hastings Lake Forest Preserve (Lake Villa, IL)
- Warren Township Park (Gurnee, IL)
- Gallery Park (Glenview, IL)
- Shelby Farms Park (Memphis, TN)
- Garfield Park Conservatory (Chicago, IL)
- Lincoln Park (Chicago, IL)



PLAYSCAPE AMENITIES

Green Space: Playscape features significant green space to support Grayslake ecology while facilitating play by visitors. Southeastern section contains open plain with soccer nets, with picnic tables located above. Forest beside playground has informational plates to educate visitors about local flora and fauna and their habitats.

Playground: Traditional playground intended for use by those ages 2-12. Features slide, swingset, and other jungle gym equipment composed of recycled materials. Mulch made of organic materials such as wood chips and grass clippings collected from community.

Hiking/Biking Path: Path bisects playscape, providing easy access to passerby. Supports many types of physical activities such as walking and biking. Leads towards preserve entrance or continues the rest of the path.

Water Feature: Bridge allows passage over Mill Creek: a small, natural stream which feeds into the greater Third Lake. Attracts beautiful scenery to the playscape.

Sand Pit: A small sandpit lay near the playground, and is a kid-favorite. Contains toys donated by community members and some water-spouting structures.

Amphitheater: Recently-constructed mini amphitheater is frequently used by students at the College of Lake County and youth theater groups.

