

Sunscape

Playscape Design

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Discover FAA High School Talent Competition

2024

Brief & Brainstorming

Design your own playscape with a green space and water feature, and encourages play for a variety of age groups

I decided to design my playscape for Busse Woods forest preserve in Rolling Meadows, Illinois. There are a lot of open fields within the preserve that I think could serve the purpose as a playscape for children. The main attractor for the preserve is an enclosed Elk Pasture, unfortunately it's by two busy roads, so I decided to separate my playscape from the idea of Elk due to the likelihood of the separation of physical location. I decided to build my playscape around the idea of seasons, due to the effect that they have on the Busse Woods Forest. I wanted it to be simple and not to jarring to the natural environment. I sought inspiration from several different forest preserves and parks that I often used to visit as a kid.



INSPIRATION

Brookfield Zoo
Crabtree Nature Center
Springfield Valley Farm

FINAL DESIGN

- A. For my Greenscape I decided to include a community garden area. I thought this would well represent the spring season as well as help educate the community on growing their own food, as well as possibly native flora and Fauna of the area (this part of the playscape is meant for all ages)
- B. To represent winter I decided to include representations of Coyote dens, where coyotes often will raise their pups in the colder months. To encourage imaginative play, children can climb inside of the structures and pretend to be a coyote themselves. There's also a sandbox intended for children to try to replicate animal prints, although it can also be used as a normal sandbox. (This part of the playscape is intended for children aged 5-7)
- C. For fall, I wanted to take into account the changing, and eventual fall-off of tree's leaves. This part of the playscape is intended to be used to build forts, with tree-shaped pieces of wood bolted to the ground. Children can then gather fallen sticks to create their forts, by placing them in the slots in the pieces of wood. There is also a tire swing. (this part of the playscape is intended for children aged 7-10)
- D. For my seasonal water feature, I decided to represent summer. I decided to create a splash pad themed after green sunfish, which can be found in busse woods. (This part of the playscape is intended for children aged 4-7)
- E. I decided to create a seating arrangement inspired by the sun. (This part of the playscape is designed for older children and adolescents)

