Playscape

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Concept

I aim to create a diverse, cohesive and human-centered playscape for individuals in my community to utilise, that encourages interactions and play of all ages in my community.

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Project requirements:

- 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.

Chosen Location:
Cornwall Park, Epsom, New Zealand.

Reasons for chosen location

People/community

Cornwall Park offers an abundance of activities and is visited by many people, especially from my community, for many reasons. There is a range of people who come in groups (families, friends), or by themselves. It is a place that resonates with a broad variety of people, from infants to elders. Some tourists also enjoy visiting the park. Some activities include: viewing cherry blossoms, eating at the cafes, walking/running/biking for exercise/leisure, viewing the monument, picnic on the fields, and playing sports and games.

Location/environment

Cornwall Park is located in a main area of Epsom, and it is a popular spot in the community as the park is big, maintained well, and full of nature.

The specific location of the playscape I chose is on the main field. This is because it is easy to access as there is parking all around the field, in the car park and along the roadsides. I chose an area of the field with flat ground and lots of empty space for the playscape to be built on.

Current use

Currently, the field location I chose does not serve a specific purpose for people or animals. It is a piece of empty main field that is unused, as people avoid settling there since it is unsheltered, and it is fenced off from the cattle and sheep paddocks. In Cornwall Park, there are no playgrounds around, even though many children like to play there. This is why I think building a playscape there as it would be the perfect use of the empty field and is beneficial for the children's social development and physical skills.

Chosen location photographs

Rear shot

Front shot

Playscape location
Cafe
Picnic area
Carpark
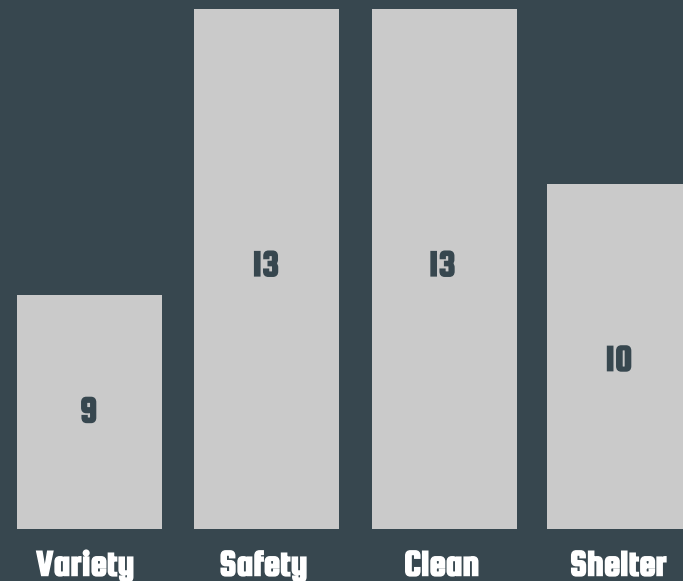Parking
Birdseye shot

Side shot

Survey

Findings

I conducted a survey asking 14 adults at a randomly selected playground what qualities they consider are essential in a playground.

Between variety of equipment, safety, seating areas, shelter/shade, convenience of location, cleanliness and environmentally friendly, the most selected few were:

Variety of equipment, safety, cleanliness and shelter.

I strongly combined these attributes into my design.
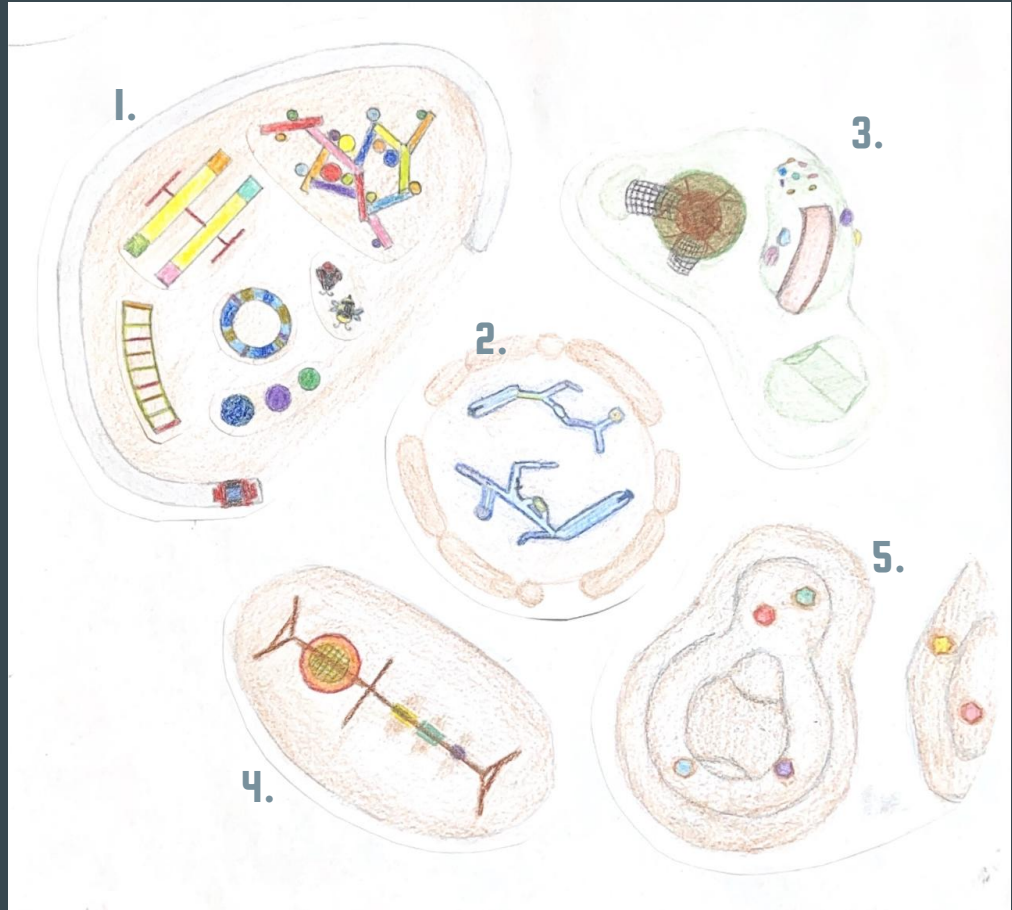
Original design

Area sections:

1. Playground set (6–12 yrs)

2. Waterplay course (4–8 yrs)

3. Green space (6–14yrs)

4. Swing set (8–16yrs)

5. Seating area (all ages)

1.
Playground set equipment:

Variety of equipment for different mobility skills.

Monkey bars

Spring riders

Trampolines

Pushing train

Balancing beams

Tilted spinner

2.
Water feature inspiration: Waterplay courses

A seasonal feature for summer, waterplay courses allow full interaction with water.

3.
Green space inspiration:
Westfield (Newmarket, Auckland, NZ)

I was inspired by the organic shapes and structures of the green mounds, tunnels and slide.
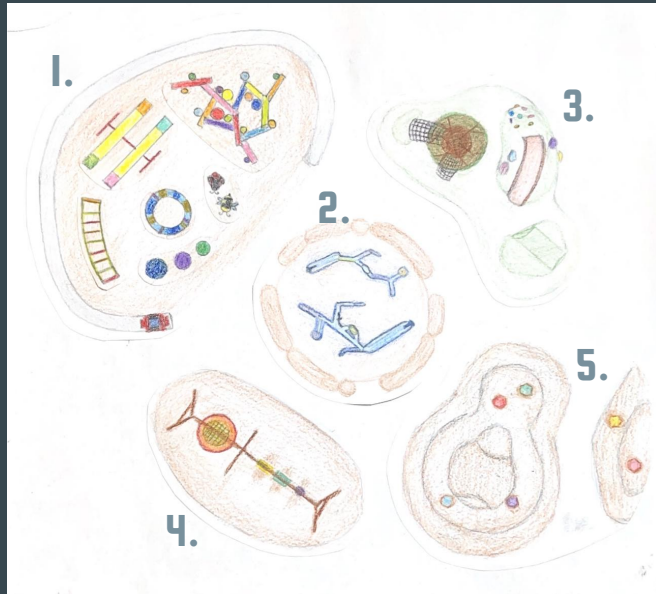
4. Swing set inspiration

Double swings

Nest swing

Baby swing

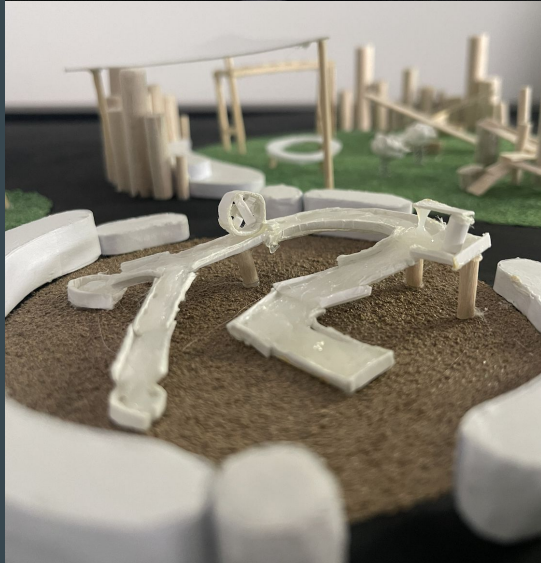# Proposed model photographs

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Alterations from original design

General
- Added sun shades
- Added fencing
- Added seating around other sections
- Grounding material: artificial grass instead of bark

Section 1
- Removed pushing train
- Removed in-ground trampolines

Section 2
- Waterplay course: singular course instead of double
- Grounding material: concrete instead of sand

Section 3
- Treehouse: simple shelter on pole, not utilising real tree
- Tunnel: placed along mound instead of across

Section 5
- Removed cushion blocks
- Removed smaller seating layered block