

Fact Sheet

Jells Park Nature-based Playscape Design Principles

This playscape has been designed so that all children, of all abilities, will be able to explore and enjoy this special place.

Benefits of nature-based play

There are many benefits to outdoor play such as enhancing physical skills by offering a diversity of challenges that grow motor sensory development and enhance their spatial awareness.

Nature play also boosts social skills, with children often making their own adventures with friends old and new.

Children also learn to find what works best for them, drawing on their creativity and problem-solving skills to become more resilient and self-assured.

Equipment & material selection

All the play equipment and materials have been selected to ensure that the playscape offers something for everyone, regardless of age or abilities.

The design allows access to each of the play and quiet areas where all children with additional needs have opportunities to participate and be included in play with other children.

Playscape features

The playscape has a variety of spaces and elements which will appeal to a broad range of ages, interests and abilities.

Paths

Throughout the playscape, all areas are connected by paths that are suitable for all abilities, with flat, well-formed tracks and arterial tracks at 3m wide. This means that all children can play and interact with each other and experience the playscape.

Quiet spaces

Within the playground, there are two quiet spaces – one located at the lookout near entrance by the café, and the other space is near the spider web. Other seating and shelters outside the playscape area are nearby.

Tactile and contrasting surfaces

There are several aspects that will support vision impaired users to discover and play within the space.

There are contrasting surfaces, such as different coloured and textured paths that contrast to garden bed and mulch areas. Also etched rocks and parts of the playground will have a tactile quality to them for users to interact with. The sculptural bird echo chambers are designed for enhancing sound so that visitors can replicate bird calls.

The smells of the garden areas with plants selected that will change seasonally.

Playscape features continued...

All abilities and interaction

An all abilities carousel which is designed to accommodate a wheelchair invites interactive play with all children.

Two banks of swings will be installed, both inclusive of basket swings and swing chairs with high backs to cater for a range of needs.

Changing Places toilet

A Changing Places toilet with a full-size hoist and change table will be installed to support use of the playscape and the park by people with higher support needs. This will be located near the café and visitor centre, near the playscape and associated disabled parking spaces.

Universal Design Principles

Universal Design Principles has been used to create an inclusive space that is built for everyone, eliminating segmentation and maximising participation by users of all abilities.

The seven principles of universal design have been pivotal to the development of the playscape.

1. **Equitable Use**

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

2. **Flexibility in Use**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

3. **Simple and Intuitive Use**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

4. **Preceptible Information**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

5. **Tolerances for Error**

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

6. **Low Physical Effort**

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

7. **Size and Space for Approach to Use**

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.