



If you can imagine it, we can make it happen. Let's play

# HCP West Playground

City of Huntington Beach

since 1979  
**dave bang**  
associates inc.   
▶ park+playground outfitters



# Huntington Beach HCP West Playground

## Design Narrative, page 1 of 2

The play equipment design for the HCP West Playground is truly one of a kind. Featuring cable/rope based climbing activities designed to challenge and stimulate children physically, mentally, and emotionally, as well as providing social interaction and gathering spaces, there really is nothing like it. Following are several design features and notes that I would like to discuss and share.

Perceived risk-based play features heavily within this design. Creating perceived risk and decision making play experiences have long been a goal for playground designers, but many traditional play areas are limited in this regard. Studies have shown that the decline of risk-based play can stunt a child's development and hinder their ability to make important decisions later in life. It's very important to note that perceived-risk is inherent in all forms of play to varying degrees and even though we may call something risk-based, it does not mean that piece is not safe. In design, we delineate between risk and hazard: promoting risk and eliminating hazards. The Pentaboo and DNA Tower prominently feature height as a means to generate thoughtful decision making, develop proprioceptive stimulation, and assess risk. It's important to note that even though these pieces are tall, they are safe and meet all safety guidelines. Due to the layout of the net structures, it is not possible for a child to fall vertically if they lose their grip. They will instead fall onto other cables below. For pieces like the "net tunnel", the child is given the sensation of being suspended in the air while still being in a safe, enclosed environment. The remaining pieces offer a varying degree of challenge where children who may otherwise feel intimidated or not quite ready to climb on the higher components can have fun and develop a comfort level within the play space. There is no greater feeling for a child than that of finally conquering that climbing piece that they were once too scared or intimidated to climb.

While we may not explicitly call this design "Inclusive", inclusive play design plays a strong role in this design and all designs we do. All of the components within the space are considered "ground based" and many, if not most can be accessed, played on, and played around on the ground level. In addition, there are several areas within the play space where equipment is grouped with similar types of components but with varying degrees of challenge. This allows users of different abilities to play in the same area with others of diverse physical/cognitive backgrounds. Also, socialization and cooperative play is prominently featured, which is a crucial element of inclusive design.



# Huntington Beach HCP West Playground

## Design Narrative, page 2 of 2

Physical development is another major factor within the design. Climbing is obviously a large feature within the space, from the Pentaboo and DNA Tower offering large and complex climbing opportunities, to the “Terranos” climbers that offer a lower-to-the-ground climbing experience. In addition, balance and core strengthening is a huge part of the play area. By nature, rope based play offers a unique experience. Unlike steel bars which are stationary, ropes move with the touch of the user necessitating a more careful and thoughtful play experience. We also feature our “flubber” play pieces, which are made of conveyor belt-like rubber mats that move and flex to the user, creating a fun and challenging adventure, further developing balancing skills.

Because we expect this park to draw in a large and diverse number of children, I specifically designed a separate play area for younger children within the 2-5 year age group. This space includes a swing area, a large group see-saw, some concrete dinosaur bones in a sand area for kids to explore, as well as a large age appropriate unit with a wide variety of play experiences like climbing, sliding, swaying/rocking, and interactive panels that feature sensory, fine motor based, tactile, and interactive elements.

Some of the pieces not already discussed include the Terranos style play pieces that will be installed on a slope featuring impact absorbent artificial turf. By installing on a slope and using the landscape to help form the play experience, children are presented with new and unique challenges. I feel confident that one of the highlights and most used elements of the play space will be the double speedway zip lines. Featuring rope landings and access points as well as a zip line length that measures almost 70’, I believe this will be a piece that kids line up for!

In closing, I want to thank you for this opportunity. I understand how unique and special this space and project is. I truly believe in the transformative influence that play has on our communities and I know this space will have an impact that will last generations.

Respectfully Submitted,


Alex Beron







COLOR PALETTE:



MANUFACTURERS:



PROJECT:

CENTRAL PARK  
HUNTINGRON BEACH, CA

DESIGNED BY:  
ALEX BERON  
APRIL 4, 2020  
DRAWING #  
C20055SP

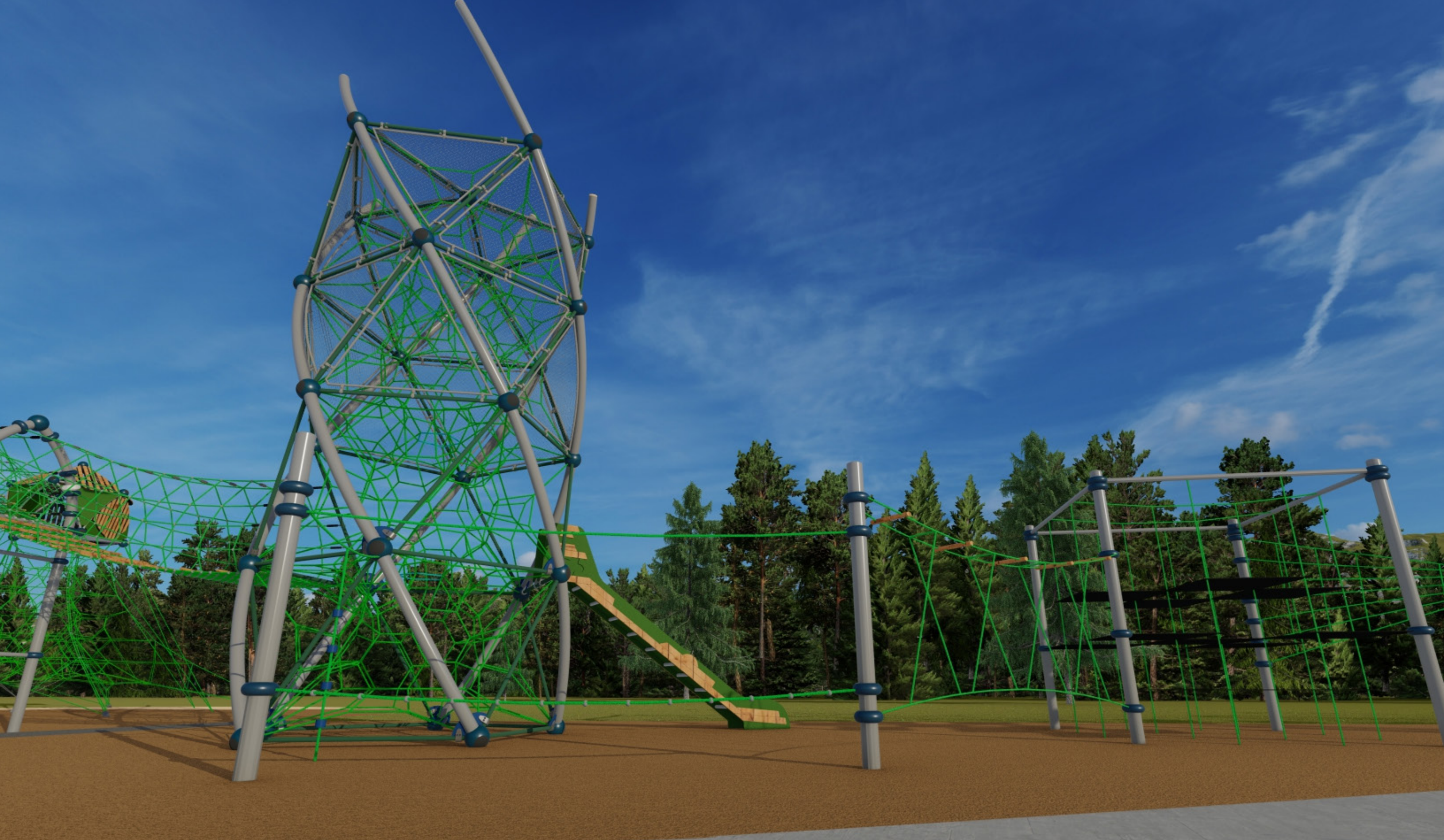
DESIGNED FOR:

AGES  
**5-12**


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COLOR PALETTE:



MANUFACTURERS:



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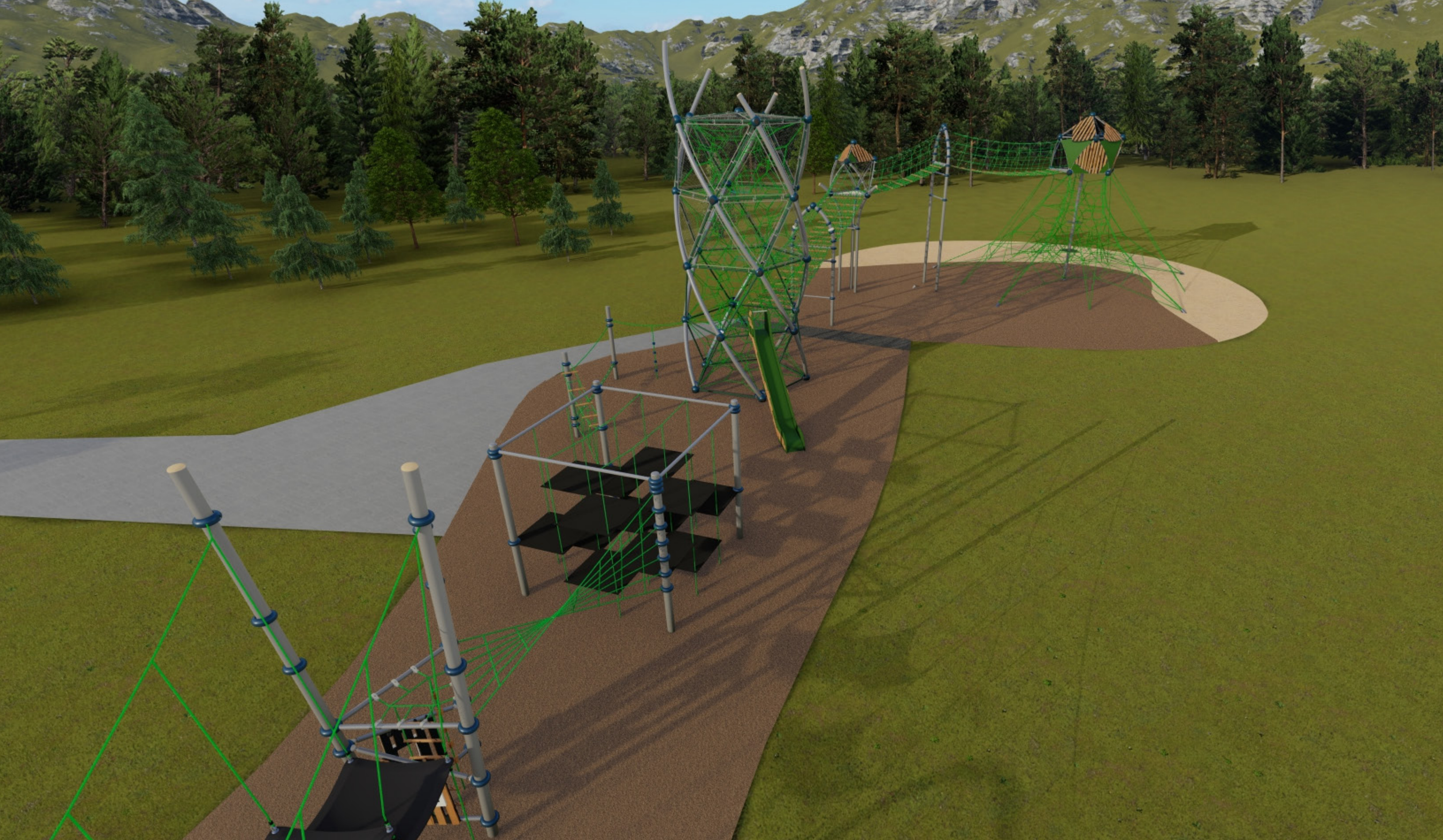
DESIGNED FOR:

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COLOR PALETTE:



MANUFACTURERS:



PROJECT:

# CENTRAL PARK

HUNTINGRON BEACH, CA

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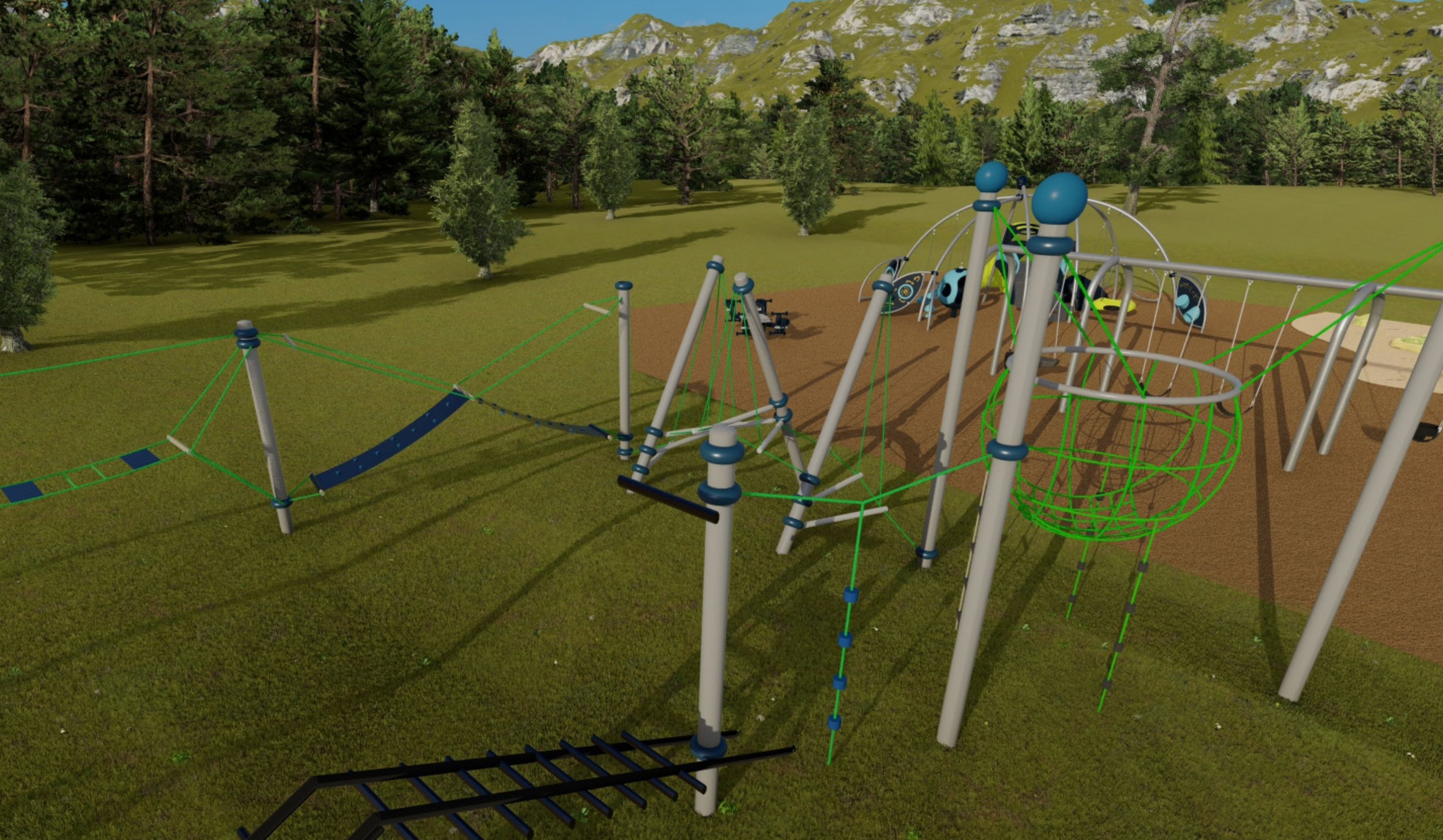
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APRIL 4, 2020  
DRAWING #  
C20055SP

DESIGNED FOR:

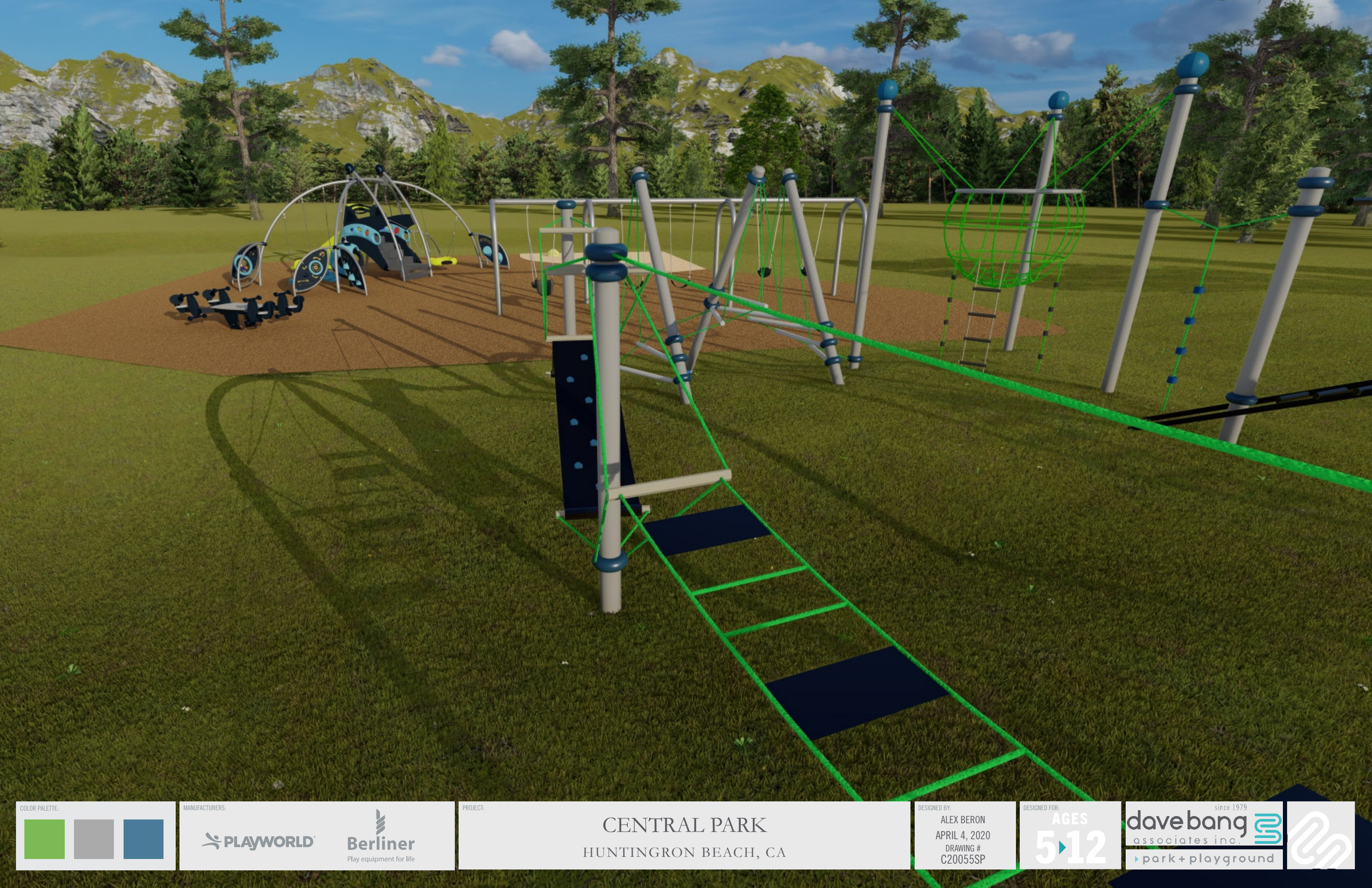
AGES  
5-12











COLOR PALETTE:



MANUFACTURERS:

 **PLAYWORLD**

  
**Berliner**  
Play equipment for life

PROJECT:

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MANUFACTURERS:



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- 1 PENTABOO L
- 2 MESH NET TUNNEL
- 3 TOWER9
- 4 DNA TOWER L.04
- 5 FAST LANE SLIDE
- 6 SLACK LINE
- 7 LAYAWAY WALK
- 8 FLUBBER CUBE
- 9 CHESSBOARD BRIDGE
- 10 SPEEDWAY.13
- 11 AIRWALK
- 12 CROSSED FLUBBER
- 13 SCULPTURA.02
- 14 WESPENNEST.120
- 15 CROSSED STAIRWAY
- 16 SWINGS
- 17 QUATTRO SEESAW
- 18 ACTIVO BAMBINO
- 19 DIGGABLES

COLOR PALETTE:

MANUFACTURERS:

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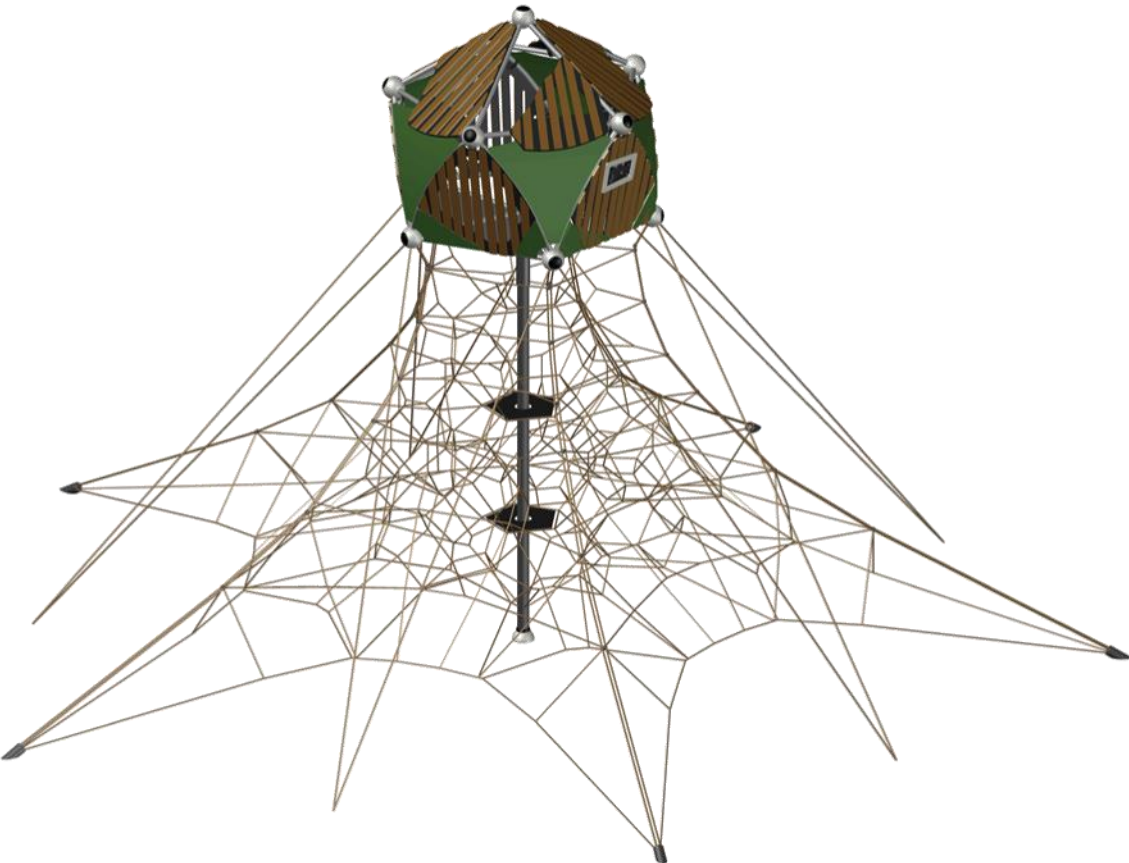
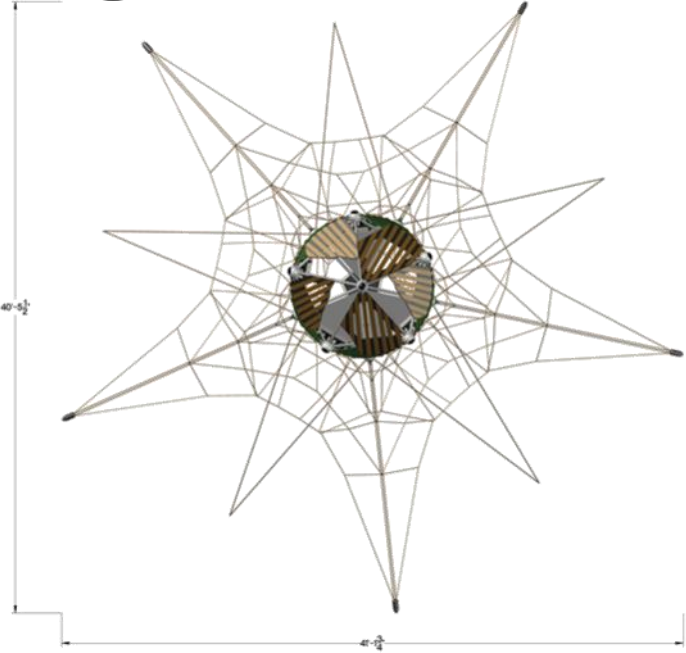
DESIGNED FOR:  
AGES  
5-12

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1

Pentaboo L



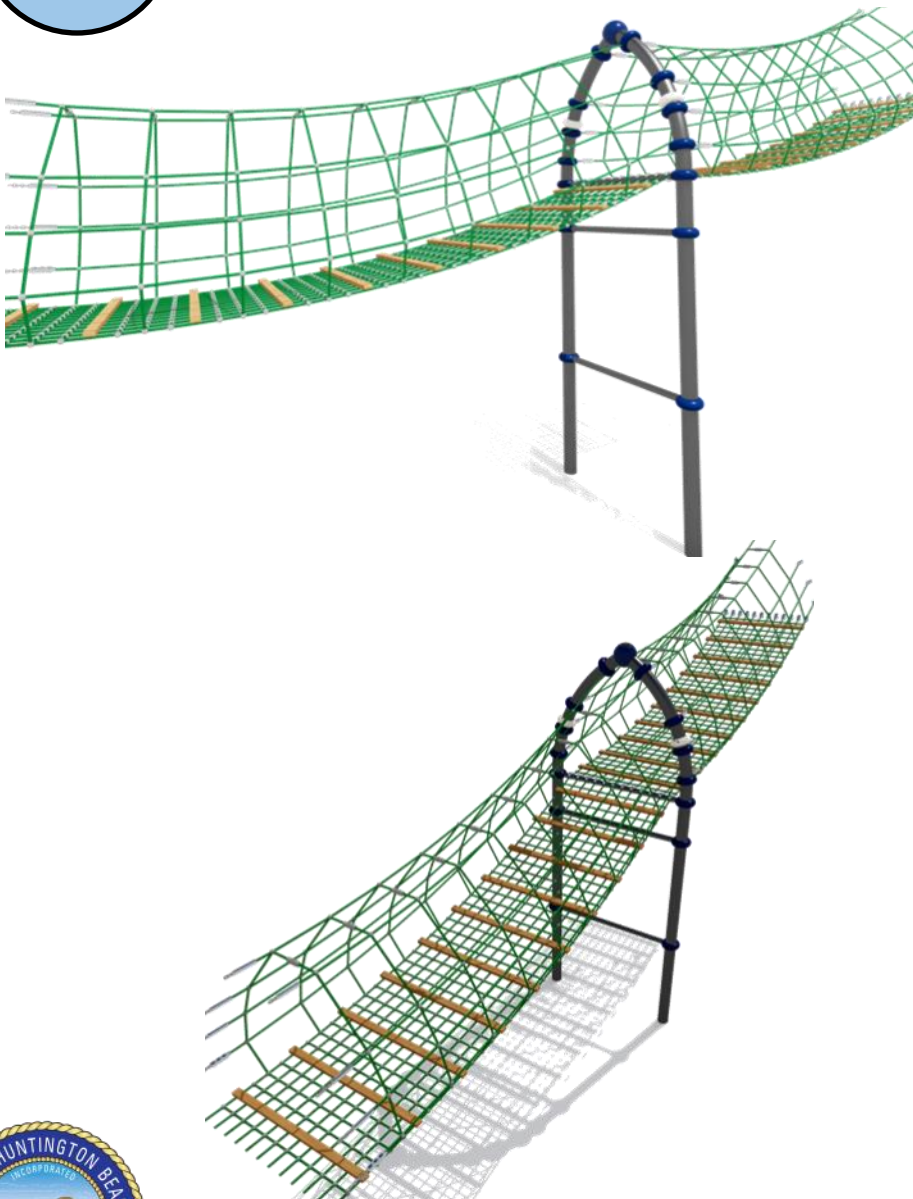
Central Park West Playground



# Net Tower/Tunnel Components

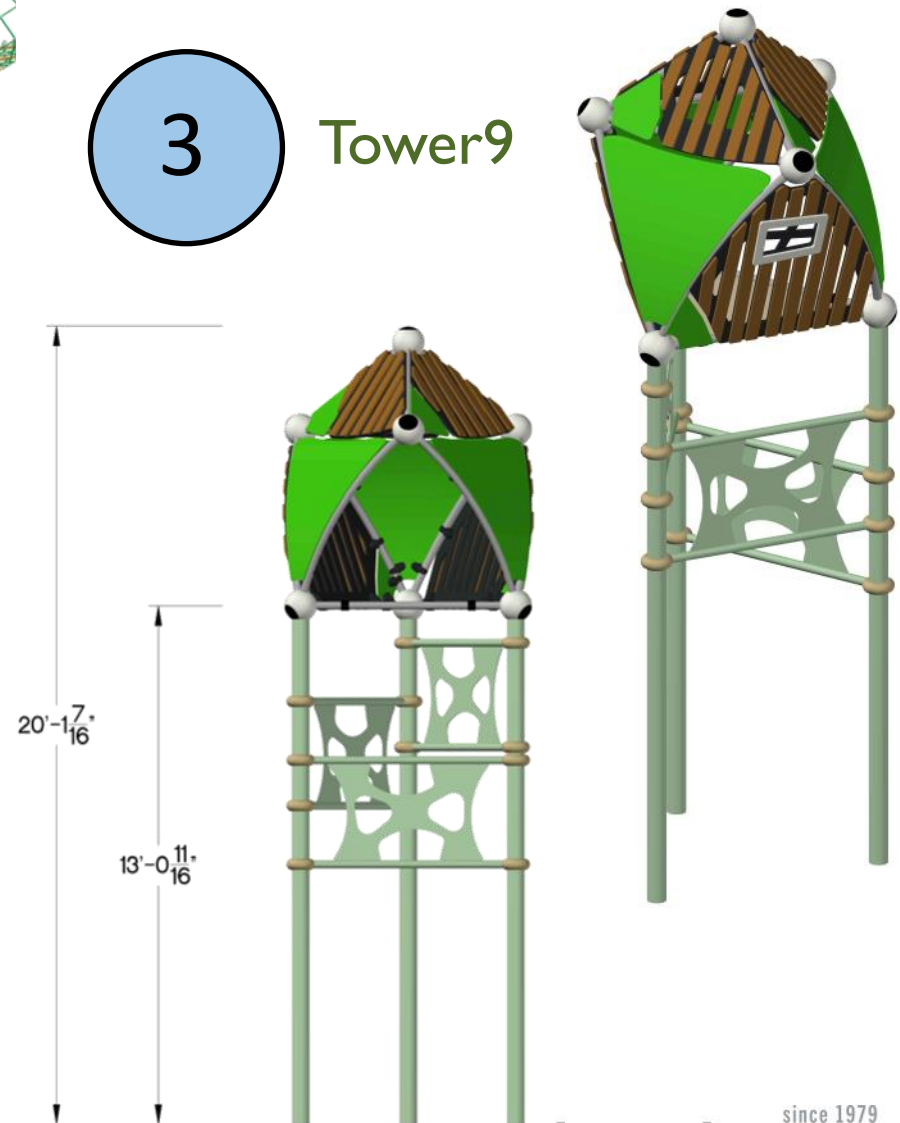
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Mesh Net Tunnel



3

Tower9

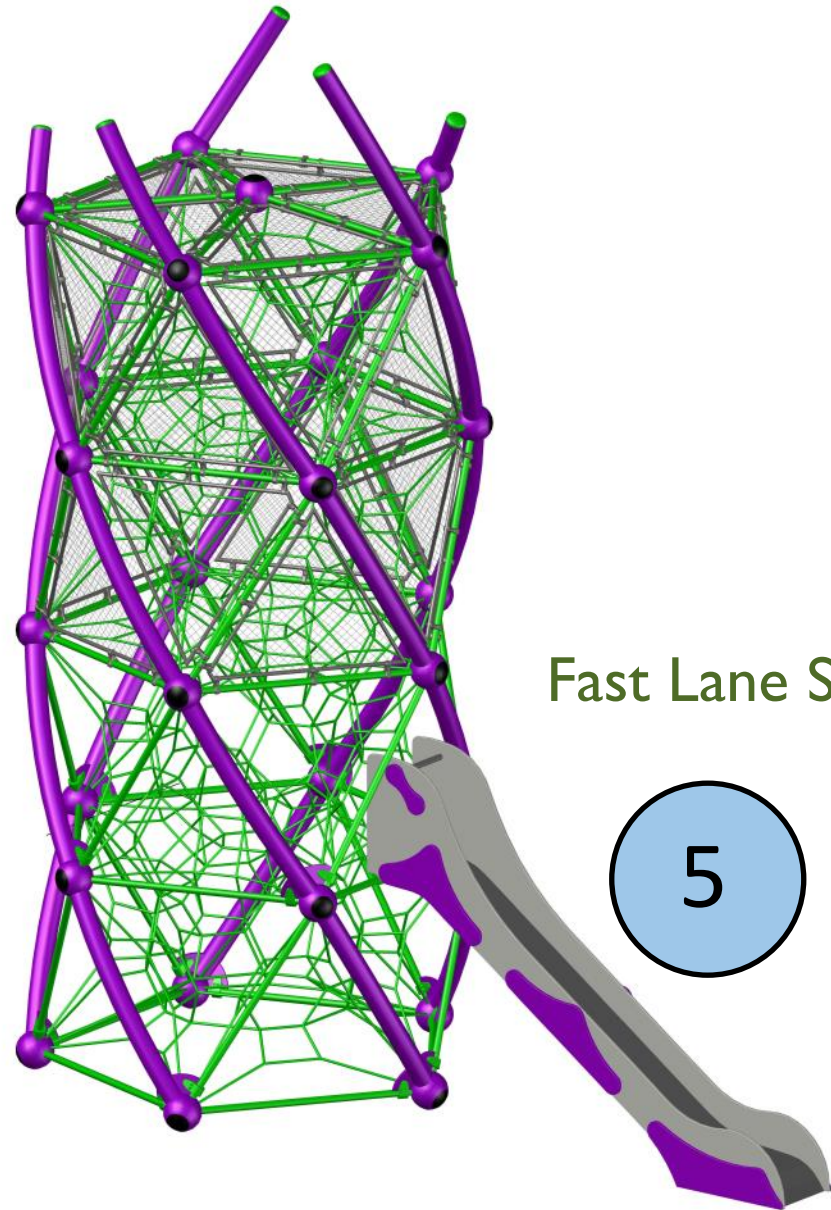
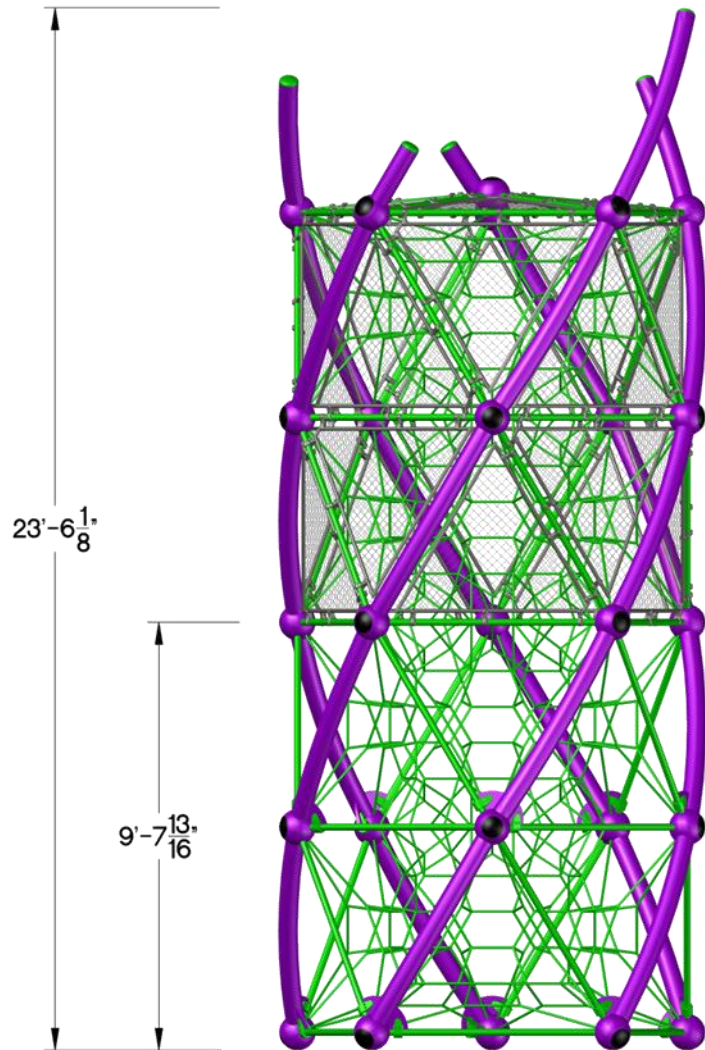


**Central Park West Playground**



4

DNA Tower L.04



Fast Lane Slide

5



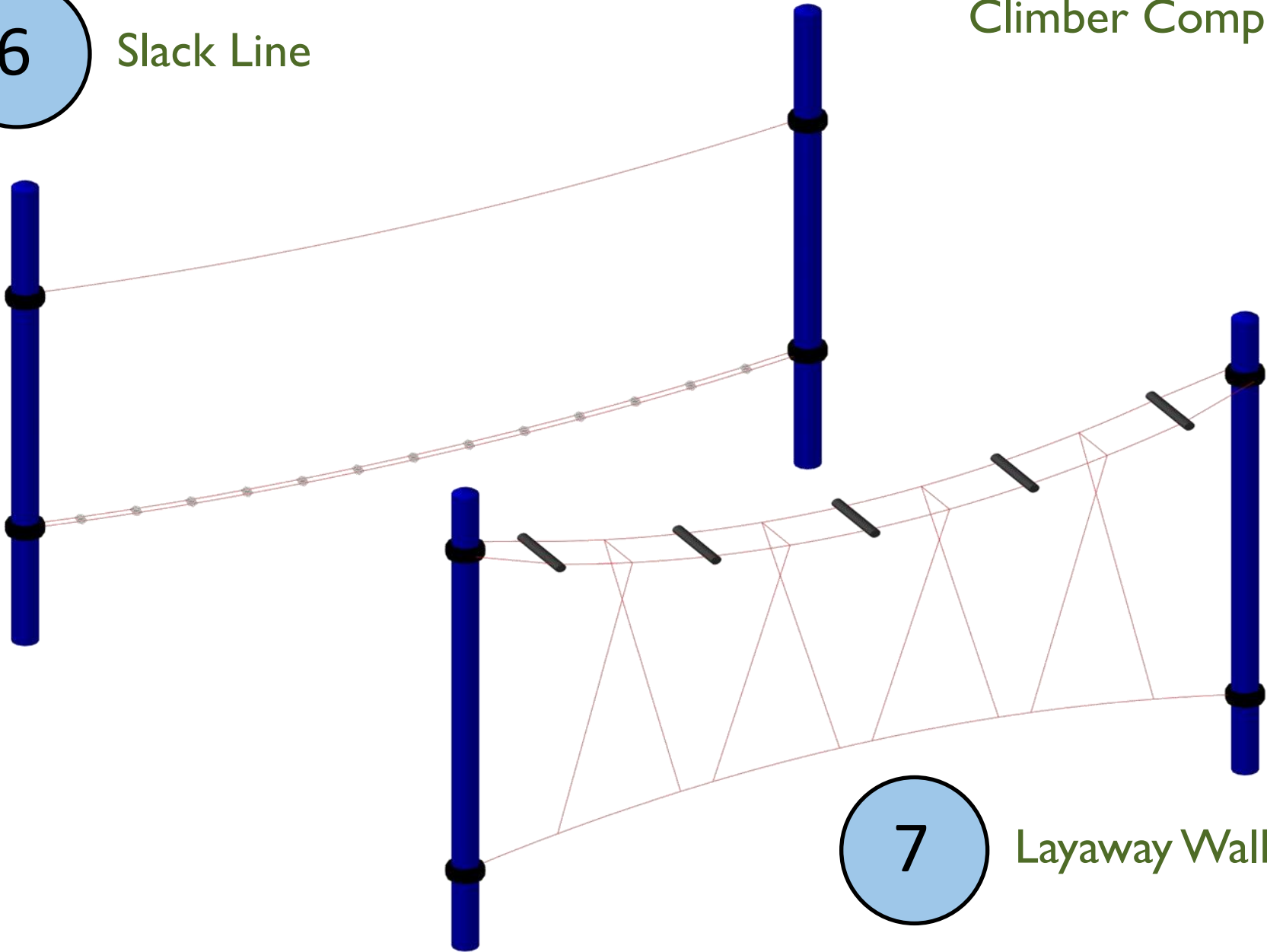
**Central Park West Playground**



# Terranos Bridges and Climber Components

6

Slack Line



7

Layaway Walk

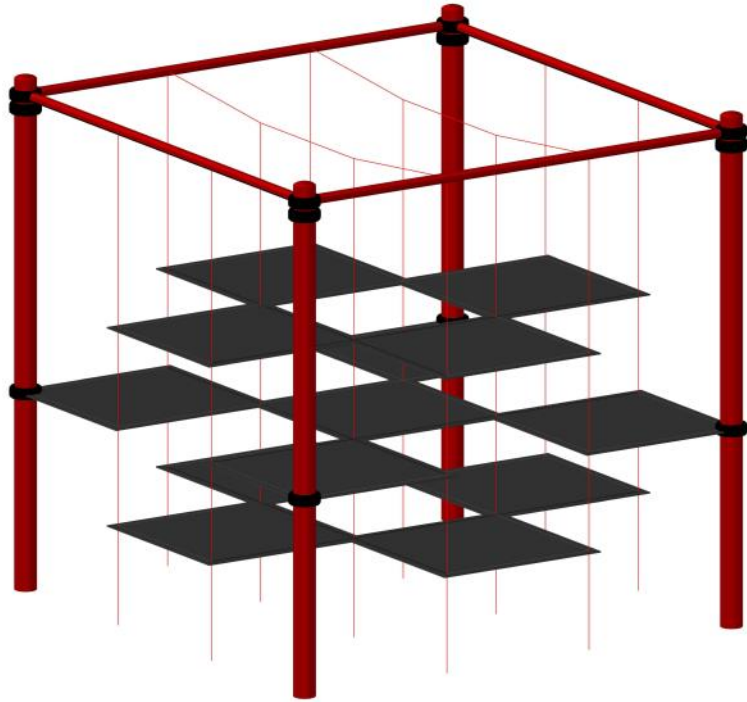


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8

Flubber Cube



9

Chessboard Bridge with Splash Base

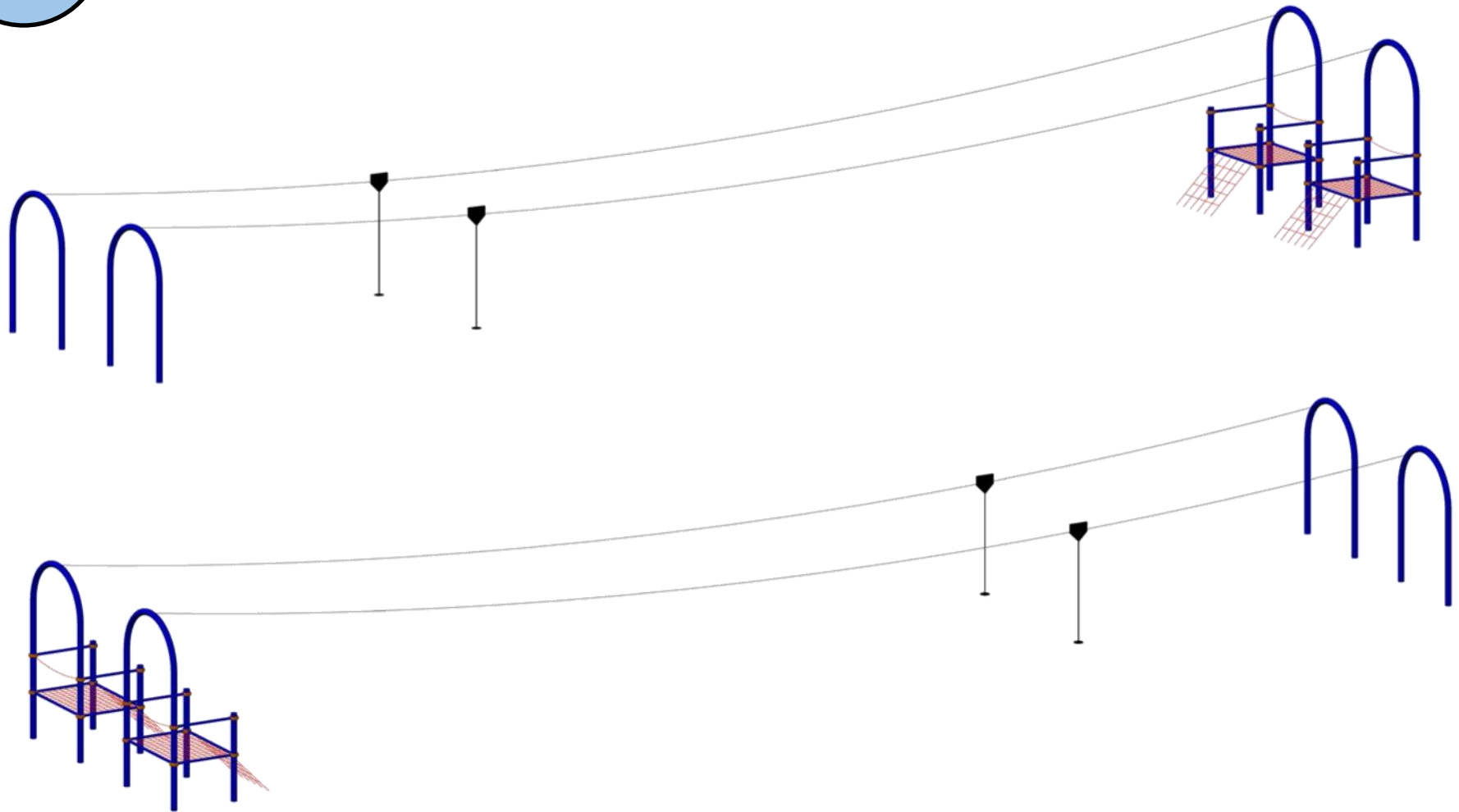


**Central Park West Playground**



10

Speedway.I3



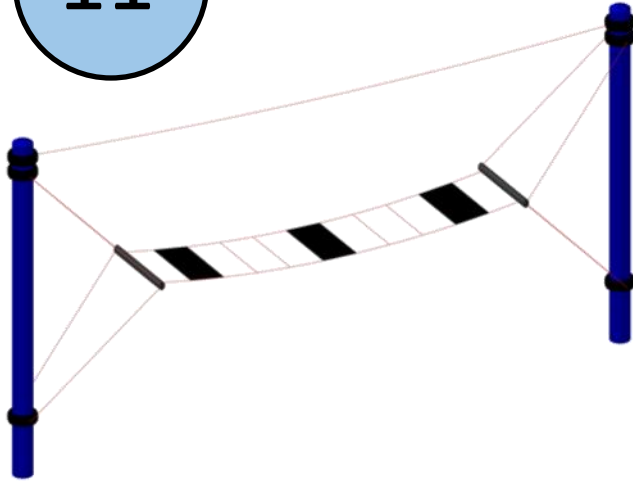
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# Terranos Bridges and Climber Components

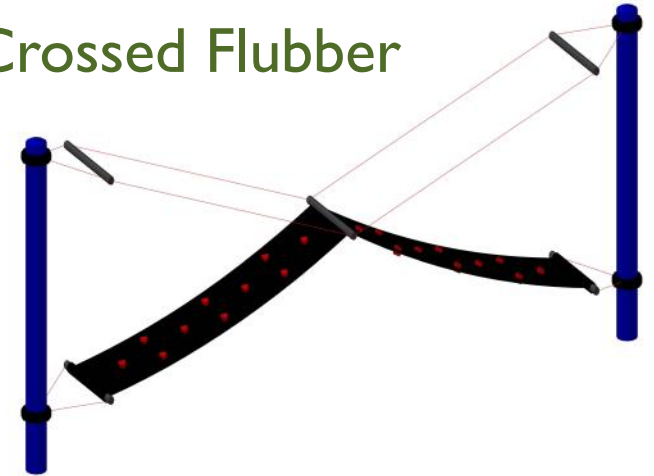
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Airwalk



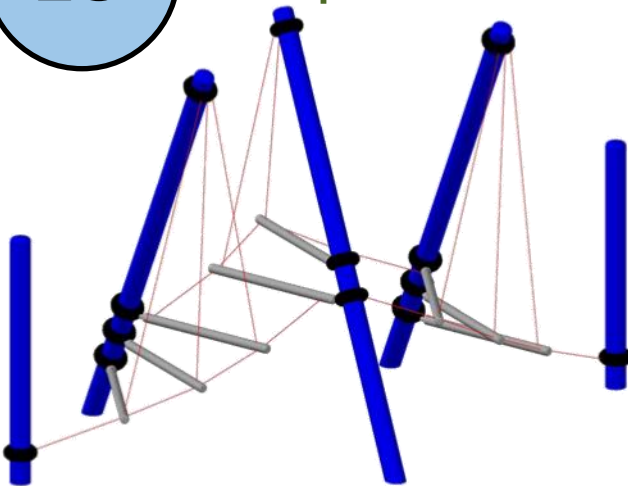
12

Crossed Flubber



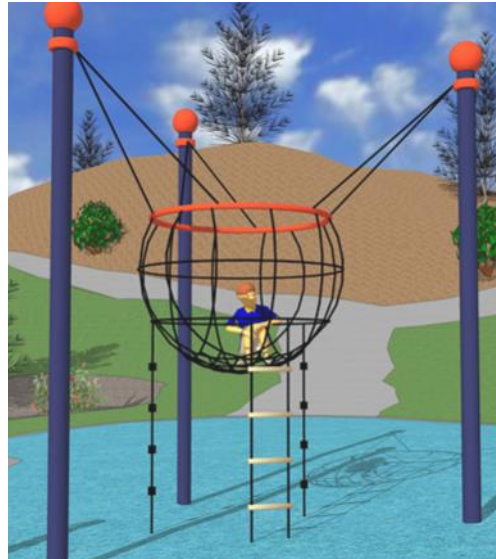
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Sculptura .02



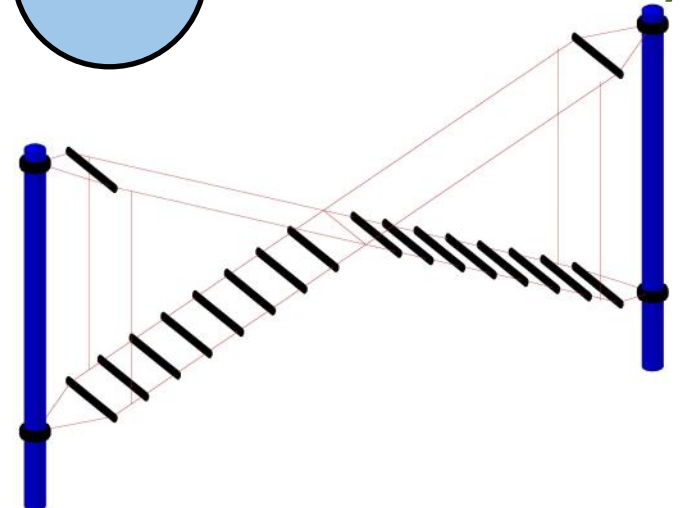
14

Wespennest .120



15

Crossed Stairway



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## 2-5 Year Old Play Components

16

Swings



17

Quattro Seesaw



18

Activo Bambino



19

Diggables



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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** This playground looks different. Is it compliant with safety regulations?

**A:** You're right—this is definitely a unique playground design. Because of that, there can be a perception that it does not meet the same safety requirements as most traditional playgrounds. In reality, all of the equipment in this design meets the required ASTM guidelines (F-1487) for playground safety. Accordingly, a letter from the President of Berliner, David Kohler, is attached confirming compliance to the ASTM guidelines.

**Q:** This looks pretty high—should we be worried? Is it safe for children to play on?

**A:** The two main, and highest, features of the play space are our Pentaboo and DNA Tower. The Pentaboo is just over 24' high with the highest accessible portion being just over 16' high. The DNA Tower is 23'-6" high with the highest accessible portion being just over 16' high. The DNA Tower has a 9'-8" fall height. The fall height of the Pentaboo is 6' per the ASTM definition of fall heights for "3-D Nets". This is because the design of the net eliminates a vertical path for falling due to the sizing of the cells. In short, if a child were to fall they would not fall directly to the ground but would fall to ropes lower on the structure. I have included a couple images that showcase this below.

For both of these pieces, safety mesh is incorporated into the design to prevent against any possibility of falling from the highest points. In addition to this, it's believed that children actually tend to play more thoughtfully and carefully when playing on equipment that is higher. They tend to experience increased focus and control, keeping two points of contact on the ropes at all times. Finally, in over 48 years of manufacturing rope based play equipment, Berliner has never

had a serious or life threatening accident reported.





## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** Is the equipment designed for older kids or can younger children play on it as well?

**A:** The equipment in the “upper” portion of the play area is designed for children ages 5-12. There is an area that is specifically designed for younger children, ages 2-5 in the lower area closer to the lake. This area includes many sensory, interactive, and dynamic play components including swings, seesaw, a structure with a slide, climbing components and panels, as well as a small sand area with faux-fossil structures for kids to play archeologist!

**Q:** This park is very popular with runners and walkers. Will the expansion of the play area create an issue with the current walkways?

**A:** This was a factor that was considered during design. It was observed that the trails were heavily used. The “linking” of the two existing play areas would potentially block off foot traffic so the idea of making a pathway through the play area came about. The design includes a small pathway delineated with a different color in the rubber surfacing where the existing trails will end and pick back up again. In addition, there will be a rope tunnel that will be over this portion of the rubber “trail” which creates a unique feature.

**Q:** Has this type of equipment been installed in other parks in Southern California?

**A:** Even though this is a unique design, many of the same components and features have been installed at park sites all over California where communities are looking to create destination play experiences. Several of these sites are located in Southern California and some even in Orange County. The site with the closest approximation in design and proximity would be the “Backyards Linear Park” in Rancho Mission Viejo. Photos of this space are included in this presentation. In addition, several images are included of other high profile parks throughout the country and globe.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** How durable is the equipment? Will this become a maintenance nightmare?

**A:** All of the cables feature a steel reinforcement with 4-6 strands as well as a steel core, covered with a polyester yarn. The cables feature the highest abrasion and color fastness in the industry. Because of this, the equipment should last for years without failures. In the event that a rope needs to be replaced, you are able to replace small sections (not the entire piece) relative-ly easily. In addition, because of the steel core on the cable it is extremely difficult for the cables to be vandalized by cutting them. Finally, Dave Bang Associates has 4 full time field service tech-nicians and we offer free warranty replacement as a value added service.

**Q:** Does the equipment meet ADA standards?

**A:** As all of the equipment is considered ground based play and does not feature any elevated platforms like traditional equipment, the entire space would comply with ADA standards. Beyond that, we feel the design meets the intent of an Inclusive Playground. All of the pieces are accessed on the ground level and many of the components can be played with while on the ground. There are many areas where varying degrees of challenge are featured. All of these are hallmarks of Inclusive design.

**Q:** I'm concerned about vandalism and older kids getting onto the equipment inappropriately—is there anything that can be done to prevent this?

**A:** This particular design was based on an effort to eliminate enclosures and hiding spots. With the open cable design there should not be any opportunities for people to access and hide within the equipment. This open design also helps with parental supervision. In addition, with less surface area, there should be fewer opportunities for vandalism.



Berliner Seilfabrik  
Play Equipment Corporation  
96 Brookfield Oaks Dr Ste 140  
Greenville, SC 29607

Phone +1.864.627.1092  
Fax +1.864.627.1178  
info@berliner-playequipment.com

www.berliner-playequipment.com

06/03/2020

To whom it may concern:

All products proposed on Huntington Beach Park project provided by **Berliner Seilfabrik**, produced by Berliner Seilfabrik GmbH & Co. and exclusively distributed in the U.S. by Berliner Seilfabrik Play Equipment Corporation are **compliant to the ASTM F1487, CPSIA 2008, ISO 9001, and ISO 14001 guidelines.**

Best regards,



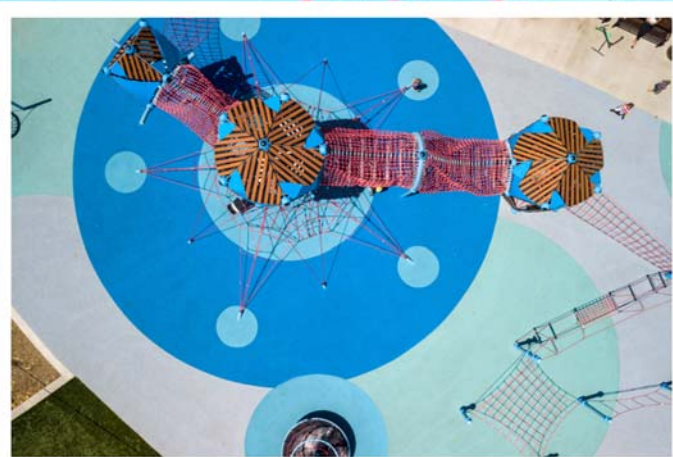
David Koehler  
(IPEMA certified Inspector &  
President of Berliner Seilfabrik Play Equipment Corporation)





# Central Park West Playground

Backyards Linear Park  
Rancho Mission Viejo, CA



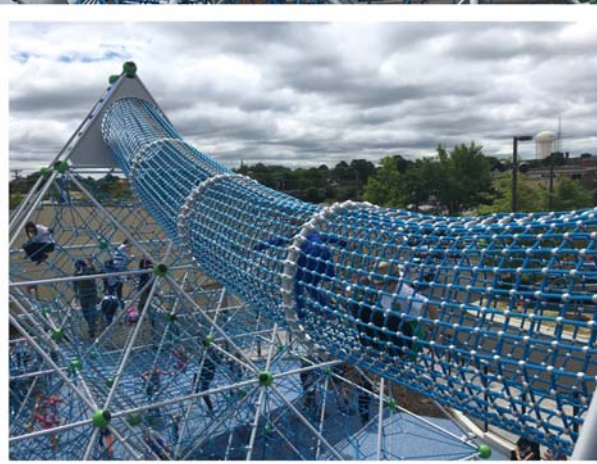
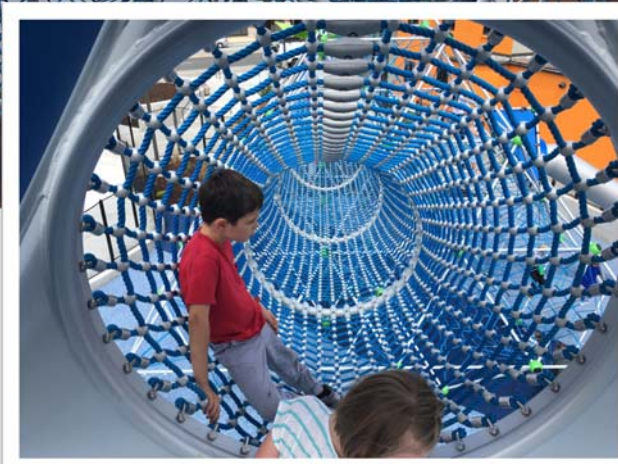
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## Central Park West Playground

Greensboro Children's Museum  
Greensboro, NC



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## Central Park West Playground

Varosliget Park  
Budapest, Hungary







## Central Park West Playground

Beresford Park  
San Mateo, CA







## Central Park West Playground

South Park  
San Francisco, CA



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