Park Playscape FAA Design Competition
By Samuel L.

This is an urban park in the Midwest designed to contain a lot of different activities and features in a small space. It’s divided into eight circles about 20 feet in diameter, with walking paths around the circles.

- Two circles have sculptures with native plants, such as prairie grasses.
- Two circles have a ring of flowers along the edge, with a tree in the center.
- Two circles have natural playscapes (one with boulders and mounds, the other with logs)
- One circle has a gaga pit. (Gaga is an easy, active sport similar to dodgeball. It is also called Israeli dodgeball.)
- One circle is a fountain, designed to be both aesthetically appealing and fun for kids to play in.

This park appeals to all ages. Young children can enjoy the fountain and the natural playscapes. Older children can enjoy the gaga pit and the fountain and natural playscapes as well. Adults can enjoy the beautiful walking paths surrounding the circles. These paths have many trees around them to provide shade.

The northeast section of the park is located on a hill. The fountain circle cuts into the hill. The path going around the fountain is on the hill, and elevated about six feet off the ground. There is a drop off from the path to the fountain. Water flows down the dropoff, creating a small waterfall that falls into the fountain. The rest of the fountain contains water that is about a foot deep with a few jets that go three feet high. This area inside the fountain is available for people to play in. It has a concrete bottom so that people won’t slip. There is a rail between the path and the fountain to keep people from falling in.

On the natural playscape circle with mounds and boulders, there are three mounds and two boulders. The mounds are considerably smaller, and have small tunnels going through them, for kids to crawl through. The ground of the natural playscapes is wood chips, the ground of the gaga pit is nontoxic recycled rubber.