# Landscape Design of Urban Parks from a Children Friendly Perspective

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**Abstract:** With the rapid development of urban economy and people's continuous pursuit of quality of life, children's parks have become an important pillar of national development, playing an increasingly important role. In recent years, many large cities in China have conducted extensive and in-depth research and practical work on establishing children's parks. However, the current design of urban public spaces often overlooks the actual needs of children and fails to provide spaces that are suitable for their behavior patterns, which has a profound impact on the development of children's physical and mental health. Due to age differences, children of different age groups have different psychological characteristics. Therefore, in the future design of children's parks, it is necessary to comprehensively consider the physiological and psychological characteristics of children of different age groups to ensure the perfect presentation of children friendly parks. At the same time, with the continuous acceleration of urbanization in China, more and more people are paying attention to urban green landscape, hoping to build a more suitable green space for children's growth. It is necessary to integrate activity facilities into various age groups from the perspective of children, so that they are closer to the essence of nature.

## 1. Introduction

'Nature' is the core concept of this' Forest Oxygen Bar 'design. By utilizing various natural elements, creating diverse entertainment spaces, restoring the original ecological environment, and creating a suitable outdoor natural environment for children, they can reconnect with nature and reunite with nature[1]. In this place full of childlike fun and vitality, children can feel the joy brought to them by nature, learn a lot about environmental science, and improve their hands-on abilities. Using elements from nature, extract landscape designs suitable for children's activities, cleverly integrate various natural elements, and create a rich and colorful living environment for children. In urban space, children's friendly parks have become a new design concept, injecting new vitality into the development of the city[2]. This article explores how to create a good children friendly park from the perspective of children, creating a happy, lively, interesting, and safe activity place for children, allowing them to fully participate, interact, and experience the atmosphere of nature. In park design, the concept of child friendliness is perfectly integrated with the exploration and utilization of natural resources, creating a vibrant natural environment that is both aesthetically pleasing and suitable for children to play in.

## 2. Art Research on Public Landscape

### 2.1 Research background

Children are the future of our country, and their healthy growth is related to the future and development of our country, as well as the happiness and well-being of millions of households. Therefore, we must give more social attention and concern. With the continuous improvement of urban construction level, more and more people are turning their attention to the natural environment, pursuing a pleasant and fresh natural environment. In this process, children, as important participants, need to participate in natural activities and achieve their healthy growth through communication with peers[3].Currently, there are a large number of places in Chinese cities that provide open spaces for children. However, due to the lack of scientific and effective management methods and game facilities, these places cannot be fully utilized, and many places have even been abandoned or

renovated. Due to the dense population and accelerated pace of life in cities, children lack sufficient outdoor activity space. In this case, we must do our best to create a natural and comfortable environment to enhance children's interest in games and cultivate their understanding of nature through games.

## 2.2 The purpose and significance of the topic selection

Providing children with a joyful and healthy growth environment to promote their comprehensive development is the main goal of designing a children friendly park. Based on an in-depth analysis of children's nature and needs, a series of principles and methods are proposed to create a friendly park centered around children. The design of the park should fully respect children's right to play, allowing them to fully enjoy the fun of playing in the embrace of nature, thus becoming a paradise full of joy. Currently, the vast majority of urban parks in China are mainly for adults, while the facilities required for children's leisure activities are relatively scarce[4]. Children are an important component of urban development, and designers must pay high attention and care to children friendly parks.This article mainly explores park landscape design with children as the core, considering the behavioral characteristics of children, and providing new ideas to meet their needs. At the same time, theoretical innovation and supplementation are carried out on the pavement, activity facilities, layout, plants, and safety of children's outdoor activities.

## 2.3 Research content and innovation points

By conducting in-depth research and analysis on theories and concepts related to children's activities, we aim to clarify the physical and mental development of children, as well as the activity space related to their behavioral characteristics and type preferences.By comprehensively analyzing and summarizing the mutual influence between children's activities and public landscape spaces, a solid theoretical support is provided for the landscape design of children's parks.

## 3. The current situation and analysis of public landscapes in children's parks

### 3.1 Conceptual issues

At present, the development of urban children's parks mainly comes from comprehensive parks, but due to the lack of suitable activity space, the needs of children cannot be fully met. Although the beauty of this park is intoxicating, with convenient transportation and a wide variety of plants, from an entertainment perspective, it clearly cannot meet the needs of children. Children's play spaces are primarily for "playing", rather than like most landscape spaces. Currently, the applicability of parks is clearly not suitable for younger children. If young children are allowed to participate, there are certain safety risks, so they often become the home of young and elderly people, and the service objects are also diverse.

### 3.2 Lack of functionality

In the park, the range of free activities is relatively small, lacking diversity, and children cannot feel the atmosphere of freedom within the venue. Therefore, it is an urgent issue to combine game venues with other facilities to fully improve the correct use of land resources and leave enough activity space for children. Due to the limited land area and the establishment of multiple landscape squares, the green environment of the area is not satisfactory compared to traditional landscape design. To create a good landscape effect, it is necessary to combine the hard space and soft space in the site for design to meet the usage requirements of different groups of people[5]. Although the floor plaza has a wide view and bright colors, the guided activities in the children's playground often impose considerable restrictions on children's behavior.

### 3.3 Overview of Landscape Design for Children's Parks at Home and Abroad

Compared to China, research on children's entertainment venues in foreign countries is more early. Since the 1950s, many countries have started to scientifically and reasonably design children's parks. Since the 1960s, Western countries have conducted extensive research and exploration on them for

over a decade. In the 1970s, significant progress was made in this field, and children's playgrounds began to emerge and gradually increased. The planning and design of urban and outdoor children's facilities had reached a stage of basic completion, laying a solid foundation for children's growth and development. Nowadays, children's parks not only provide entertainment projects, but also consider the various needs of children's growth. In this context, children's playgrounds have become a brand new public domain and have therefore gained more and more favor from parents and teachers. In these places, children can fully enjoy games, entertainment, and the fun of games, while parents can provide them with a quiet place to rest.

The commonality of children's public places abroad lies in that children's product designers must consider factors such as the social environment, family background, and children's own development characteristics. Children's groups exhibit diversity due to their unique age and psychological needs. When designing them, these factors must be taken into account and coordinated with each other. Therefore, how to meet these requirements has become one of the focus issues for designers. In the children's park of the Ian Porter Foundation in Australia, children stroll in small groups under the guidance of teachers, collect samples, observe and record their most interesting places, and their interactions, in order to explore suitable spatial elements for them. As a result, it has become a very famous public project in the local area.

## 4. The main design content of children's park landscape

### 4.1 Emphasize the fun shaping of the venue

For children, only those places full of fun can stimulate their deep curiosity, thirst for knowledge, and desire to explore external things. Therefore, as a special form of public activity space, the design of children's parks should be centered around "fun". Think about how to create a park full of joy for children, so that they are attracted by interesting game spaces, and thus stimulate their enthusiasm for active exploration. When designing landscape elements such as vegetation, pavement, and terrain, the use of colorful colors, unique forms, and flexible amusement facilities creates a vibrant and themed landscape space, thereby stimulating children's curiosity and exploration spirit, allowing them to draw inspiration from games and further recognize the significance of plants, animals, and architecture.

### 4.2 Introducing natural elements into the activity space

When designing children's parks, special attention should be paid to creating a natural environment to enhance its appeal to children of different ages. As children grow older, their love for nature deepens. Introduce as many natural elements as possible, allowing children to observe animals and plants in nature up close, in order to achieve the goal of education and entertainment. By setting flexible, dynamic, and variable elements in the activity space, children's thirst for knowledge is stimulated, interaction with game facilities is promoted, and children are guided to participate in and interact with the surrounding environment. By discovering or exploring unexpected functions or usage methods, children's innovation ability can be cultivated and their confidence can be improved.When selecting natural elements, special attention should be paid to cultivating the development of the five senses of sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. Create a vibrant and dynamic landscape environment through reasonable planning of road systems and various architectural sketches.

### 4.3 Considering the actual needs of children of different age groups

The main audience of children's parks is children between the ages of 0 and 12. Due to the unique characteristics of each age group, design must be based on these characteristics. For children between the ages of 0 and 12, they lack sufficient self-protection ability and require the care and care of adults. Therefore, in order to meet the needs of children in terms of safety, entertainment, and beneficial activities, children's parks should provide age-appropriate entertainment, facilities, and environment to ensure their physical and mental health and comprehensive development. In order to meet the needs

of children of all ages, it is necessary to fully consider their behavioral characteristics when designing children's activity venues. The park not only needs to provide places for activities such as climbing, running, jumping, and chasing each other, but also needs to provide a quiet place for children to communicate with their parents and rest quietly. Therefore, based on considering the physical characteristics and development trends of children, scientific and reasonable functional planning and design must be carried out to enable them to grow freely and happily.

## 4.4 The Integration of Theme Culture into Amusement Environment

Children integrate their perception of culture with games by participating in entertainment, thereby deepening their understanding of culture. Firstly, in order for children to gain richer knowledge and experience in daily life, we need to create a friendly environment in which they can better develop. Secondly, through game activities, cultivate children's imagination, creativity, and hands-on abilities, allowing them to control more free time. The gaming environment should focus on practicality and cultural connotations, rather than just meeting their different needs and expectations. Considering that children's cognitive abilities and cultural cognitive structures are relatively simple, we should closely integrate cultural content with the cultural elements encountered in daily life and learning to achieve better results. Through these life scenes, cultivate children's curiosity and imagination towards all things in the world.

## 4.5 Considering the position of guardians

Due to the fact that most children's physical and mental development has not yet reached a mature stage, it is necessary for parents to take care of them when engaging in outdoor activities. To ensure that parents have sufficient physical and psychological rest, when designing children's parks, it is necessary to cleverly divide the children's activity areas, integrate the care space with them, and ensure appropriate direction from multiple perspectives such as distance, scale, and field of view, Let children play and interact happily in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. This not only benefits children's growth, but also allows parents to fully relax. The emotional connections between family members can also be enhanced through the integration of parental care and entertainment activities such as family interaction.

## 5. Conclusion

As an important component of the future workforce, children's growth will directly affect the country's future competitiveness. Games play an indispensable role in children's growth. Games are not only a form of entertainment, but also a part of children's daily lives. As the pioneer of early childhood education, Froebel advocated for stimulating the nature of young children through games. Children's lives cannot be separated from games, and games can also promote the comprehensive development of children's physical and mental health. In the world of games, children can explore, discover, and learn to help them better understand the world. By participating in games, children can communicate more effectively, participate more actively, collaborate more closely, and also express themselves more fully. Outdoor space is not only a place for children to play and exercise, but also an important channel for children to have close contact with nature, promote communication, and develop intelligence. In the future, we need to delve deeper into its value, connect it closely with children, and achieve wider dissemination throughout the city through the internet.

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