

County Farm Park provides a unique playspace for children, gardening educational opportunities, and passive recreation for parents and child care providers.

The Johnson Hill Land Ethics Studio was asked to design a unique play area in County Farm Park for Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation. The JHLE Studio design process began with a public workshop where they identified priorities and ideas of park users. Incorporating the ideas generated during the public meeting, the following objectives were defined: safe and accessible, exemplifies universal design, inspiring space for children, complement existing character of the park, sensory rich, incorporate natural elements for play, easily supervised, family friendly, encourages interactions, connection to restroom, parking, gardens, recreation center, and circulation paths, and low maintenance.

The program elements included in the final design were garden plots including raised beds, discovery theme gardens, sensory gardens, climbing elements, farm inspired toys, structures and play elements, swings and slides, sand and water play, large motor play, dramatic and social play, and gathering spaces for different group sizes. The playground was completed in 2006, and has proven to be a successful intergenerational space providing a unique and enjoyable experience for children, parents, grandparents, gardeners, and other park users alike.



County Farm Park Playground

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Washtenaw County Parks and
Recreation Commission

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