

BRIEF FOR HILLY FIELDS PARK PLAYGROUND

Over-arching aims

1. To create playable space where children and young people have a range of play opportunities within the park.
2. To ensure that disabled children and young people have access to quality playable space.

Principles

What follows are general aspirations that we want Hilly Fields Playground and the wider park to meet.

1. The playground should work on the principle of inclusiveness: used by all ages, abilities and disabilities, with the requirements of parents and carers also to be given attention, particularly in respect of very young children's playable space.
2. It should be biased towards the formation of a 'natural' environment that changes with the seasons, allowing experience of the natural elements.
3. It should 'design in' a capacity to change and evolve and be changed by users, and the possibility of the temporary.
4. It should be designed in the context of the park and the areas of Brockley and Ladywell and should evoke a sense of place and local identity.
5. No presumption that fixed play equipment provides best possible play opportunities, though some might.
6. There should be seating and shade; with consideration for people's sense of safety and security; management and maintenance. The design should be sustainable.
7. Children and young people should have access to a wide range of play experiences and a varied and interesting environment; challenge in relation to the physical environment; movement - e.g. running, jumping, rolling, climbing, and balancing; manipulating natural materials, stimulation of the five senses, and social interactions.
8. There should be opportunities to experience risk and challenge.



ideas for children's participation in our park design: gates, bespoke paving slabs, casting in concrete

Ideas for Detailed Brief

- Play in the park currently takes the form of a traditional enclosed play space, focused on equipment, and featuring extensive areas of tarmac and rubber surfacing and excessive railings. The new scheme will aim to make the whole playground more creative and integrated with the park
- The playground will retain its perimeter fence to prevent access to dogs.
- Retain East - West footpath with self closing pedestrian gates.
- Create a windbreak across site to help shelter from exposed winds
- The top site will be sensitively designed to incorporate more traditional fixed equipment.
- Lower sloping site to be designed with more natural play and an integrated sand pit.
- There will be more emphasis on quieter, creative, social play, than is the case at present. This will be achieved by the use of more natural features and surfaces within the play space.
- Safety surfacing will be chosen bearing in mind all of the relevant factors, including the activities which are to be catered for. Loose fill surfaces such as sand and play bark will be considered, especially where these can contribute to the play value of the equipment and the surrounding area.
- The play space will not be separate, but will be integrated in to the park landscape.
- Play equipment will be chosen partly for its ability to harmonise with the park landscape.
- Existing play equipment may be refurbished and re-sited within new design.
- There will be a minimum water provision of a drinking fountain and a possibility of water play
- The local community and schools will be involved in the new plans with art workshops, creating art work that will be built into the final scheme.

