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Conclusion



10.1 Conclusion

The aim of this project was to create a natural children's playground in a high-density residential area. It is argued that nature is beneficial for the healthy cognitive, physical and socio-emotional development of children.

Through using archetypal landscapes, a complex environment offering multiple interlinking play opportunities are created. Such an environment is conducive to children's well-rounded development.

The issue of safety, maintenance and the Broken Window Theory¹ had a large influence on design decisions. The project shows that it is possible to create a complex natural environment that stimulates the imagination in the city without exaggerating costs or compromising safety. Children are able to take risks and stretch their own limitations within safe parameters.

The project demonstrates how a natural playground can be more sustainable through the use of recyclable materials that can easily be dismantled, as well as through natural materials, such as logs from alien invasive trees.

The park offers an opportunity for the residents in Sunnyside to become involved with their environment and take ownership of it, creating a sense of community and a place which young and old can use. It is hoped that the principles established in this dissertation will be used to create wonderful play experiences for the children of South Africa.

1. See page 61.