

SCC/ASLA 2016 Quality of Life Design Awards - Image Summary: Rudolph Park



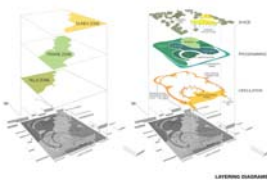
1. Rudolph Park is a 1.44 acre public space in Lawndale, CA. Funded by grants and private donations, the park is packed with community amenities, including a shaded plaza and an amphitheater. Two fully custom play areas include sand and water play, a one-of-a-kind climbing wall, and an embankment slide.



2. The site is a flat lot surrounded by single and multi-family dwellings. This diagram illustrates the ways we morphed the site's topography. All of the water on site gravity flows towards a detention basin through the bio-swale showcased along the property frontage.



3. Upon arrival, a bridge takes visitors over the bio swale and infiltration basin, and spills them onto a covered plaza. The custom structure has choreographed movement meant to be a playful backdrop for performances. The architecture of the structure blends well with the surrounding neighborhood.



4. A natural history narrative defines three zones in the park: The Dunes, The Prairie, and The Hills. Lawndale was once characterized by unique topography of vernal pools and dunes. The design seeks to playfully reintroduce the neighborhood to this topography. The contours of this topography are expressed throughout the park.



5. The Dunes give shape to a play area that includes a custom climbing structure with the shape and texture of a sand dune, a sand and water play area, and a rope climber. Whimsical custom "beach umbrellas" provide ample shade for kids and parents.



6. An accessible sand table with a water fountain gives children natural materials to play with. The surface of the sand table flows into the sand area in the form of a creek bed. It is engagingly adorned with hand-made mosaic by tile artist Frank Bauer.



7. The Dunes and The Prairie are separated by a wood boardwalk. As it winds along the edge of the play area, it provides seating for parents, and rewards kids with the sounds of natural wood underfoot as they run between play areas.



8. Built into the face of the climbing wall are two niches covered with handmade mosaic tile. The climbing wall forms the hills zone, and is built from a series of custom modular precast concrete units affixed to a structural wall. The layered effect expresses the contours of the site's playful topography.



9. Layered throughout are thoughtful details, upgraded materials, and a furniture selection that aims to create a sense of retreat.



10. Rudolph Park represents and fulfills the need for connection to nature in underserved and increasingly densifying neighborhoods. From active play to quiet perches embedded in native plantings, the park embraces and honors the residents of Lawndale.