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Parks in New York City and Their Relevance to a Child

New York City, the Big Apple, the City That Never Sleeps, clearly very fast paced, crowded and tense. However, the citizens of such a vast area need a place to relax as well. When an adult thinks of some “me-time”, rarely do they think of spending time at a park. This is due to the fact that parks have been altered to be deemed suitable for children only. That is simply not fair, adults should also be able to enjoy the open space.

The parks of New York city, whether it is the previously existing or the newly built ones, should be altered to give some space to adults. Parents should be able to have some time to their selves, in a designated area, while their kids play games. Even if an adult is not a parent, there should be some room for them. Possibly, during their break from work, they might want to take a stroll around and take a seat in a nearby park. That’s pretty hard to do in the crowded streets of New York city, which is why some area should be reserved for adults in parks.

One of the most popular parks in United States is Central Park for a reason. It gives people the room to walk around and explore without being in the jumble of the city. Moreover, many adults enjoy Central Park just as much as kids do. More parks in the city should contain the architecture of Central Park so that it can appeal to a larger group of residents rather than just children. Author Miller emphasizes on the great architecture of Central Park and states that it is an American masterpiece. He says that more parks in the city should follow in the steps of the architect of Central Park, using open land as a way to appeal to the entire city, even the entire nation. Furthermore, another author, Brown, goes in depth to how the pinpointed park was made. Brown discusses the architects and the makers of Central Park, his work can be seen as a guide to creating a park that is similar to Central Park, probably smaller due to lack of space, yet just as appreciated by residents. Both authors investigate the relevance of Central Park and why it is

such a successful public space, it appeals to everyone and leaves room for everyone to enjoy the nature.

Yet most parks in New York city are not good enough for the adults to enjoy. Even some kids are not able to use parks to their full advantage. Some of the parks in New York city limit the child's activity and is not put together in a way that creates fun for any kid. An author, Mcneur, went in depth to the historical changes within the parks in New York city, focusing on the progression and the regression. Mcneur discusses how the area where parks could be made is polluted and there is a regression in the amount of open space that is left for children to enjoy and, even though there is space, the parks were not tailored in such a way that would make it fit for all the surrounding residents.

Researching on the topic of public spaces, specifically parks, show the importance of architecture of parks within the city. Ideally, a park would have many trees, so the people can get a break from the concrete city, a play area for kids, so the major purpose of parks is served, a picnic area, so that families can bond and enjoy time together before sending their kids off to play, and finally, a resting area for adults, be it parents of the kids playing on the property, or any other adult that needed a break from the world. These requirements can become a reality, and it has been in a park within the city. Normally, a severely polluted area would be deemed as the worst place to create a park, it would not be considered suitable for children. On a side note, a short movie "The Land" encompasses all that is deemed unsuitable as a play area for kids, it is known that kids have a vast imagination and can make a game out of anything. Some architects also possess this ability to turn any area into a fun place, and an architect changing a hazardous area to a park is no different. An architect turned a severely polluted area in Staten Island into a beautiful park where kids and parents can relax, according to Wilczkiewicz. New York City is

not the best area when it comes to clean air and management of pollution. Many areas are left deserted or in bad condition. However, those areas can be repaired and used for the better. The area can be turned into a neighborhood, a mall, a park, and more. The city should focus on improving areas that have regressed to give better public space to its residents.

It is important to delve into the history of parks as well, so that mistakes can be learned from and the area can be improved for residents. In the past, parks were mostly green without much equipment for the children to play with. This was beneficial for everyone; the children were able to play in nature and the parents had room to socialize. People were able to get together and have picnics within the open land while the kids ran around and played. Now this is not quite possible, parents do not have much room to sit around in, nor do they have a nature to take in. Children are now limiting their imagination because they play with mostly equipment. Also, in the past, kids were more likely to create groups and play with each other. Now that is not so much of a reality because kids are more likely to prefer playing with their equipment on their own. This can cause problems in children of growing age because they lack social skills. Furthermore, it can cause children to feel lonely and isolated. Just a simple idea like the architecture of a park can have a great impact on a child's mental state and the skills they possess. The past systems were, according to author Soullière, so much better because they allowed kids to socialize and use their imagination.

Aside from the impacts that lack of proper architecture in parks can have on children, poorly designed parks can also have an impact on parents. A parent should be able to engage in physical activity with their child, however, they obviously cannot join their children by playing on the equipment. This creates a lack of bonding between the parent and the child since they are not able to spend time together through socializing. More reason that parks should contain some

sort of open area to allow parents to bond with their children. If there is no sort of play time between a parent and the children, the child will feel isolated and that can cause many psychological problems, isolation can cause the child to grow up feeling alone. Obviously, children rely on their parents for support, yet without proper bonding, that child will not be able to relate to the parents, leaving the parents to feel lonely as well. Children need proper bonding with their parents in order to avoid psychological problem in the future. A parent and a child should be able to have room to run around together and enjoy themselves. However, parents cannot run around on the equipment with their child, leaving the kid lonely. If there was more open land provided by architects, there would be more room for parents and their children to bond. Moreover, parents are probably working, the only time they really have to bond with their child is at times where the child is ready to play and wants a partner. Yet the park system and the excessive amount of equipment can limit the child's social interactions, even with parents. A child at a growing age would be found on a park, yet most of the children do not feel the need to communicate with each other because they are too busy playing on the equipment. With a lack of equipment would come an improvement of social skills, bonding with parents, and most importantly, use of imagination. Parks should not have the amount of equipment they currently do and should instead focus on creating an environment that encourages children and parents to use their imagination as well as supporting the use of social skills.

The architecture of a park is more complex than it may seem upon first investigation. A park is where most children enjoy spending most of their time. It is important that they are designed in such a way that children develop the skills they need in order to excel in their future. This includes giving room for children to socialize, use imagination, and bond with parents and create friends. Without proper architecture in a park, children can lack the skills they need and

might start to isolate themselves to play with just the equipment, further reasoning as to why the architecture of Central Park is one of the greatest. Central Park simply leaves room for all ages to enjoy nature, yet still includes some sort of equipment for children to play with, making the park ideal and a well known area. More parks within New York City should have similar architecture to Central Park, with little equipment and more open space for children to spend time with their families. Parks should be more nature oriented in order to provide more room for children to be kids.

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