

Kinsol Play



VOL. 4

KinsolPlay



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HASTINGS MILL



OUR TEAM

Kinsol Timber Systems Ltd. (“Kinsol”) is a specialist carpentry and rigging company based on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada. The Kinsol team works both locally and internationally to design, build and assemble new structural timber systems, and to conserve historic timber buildings. Our teams have delivered projects on six continents and our business is recognized as a world-leader for innovation and wood design.

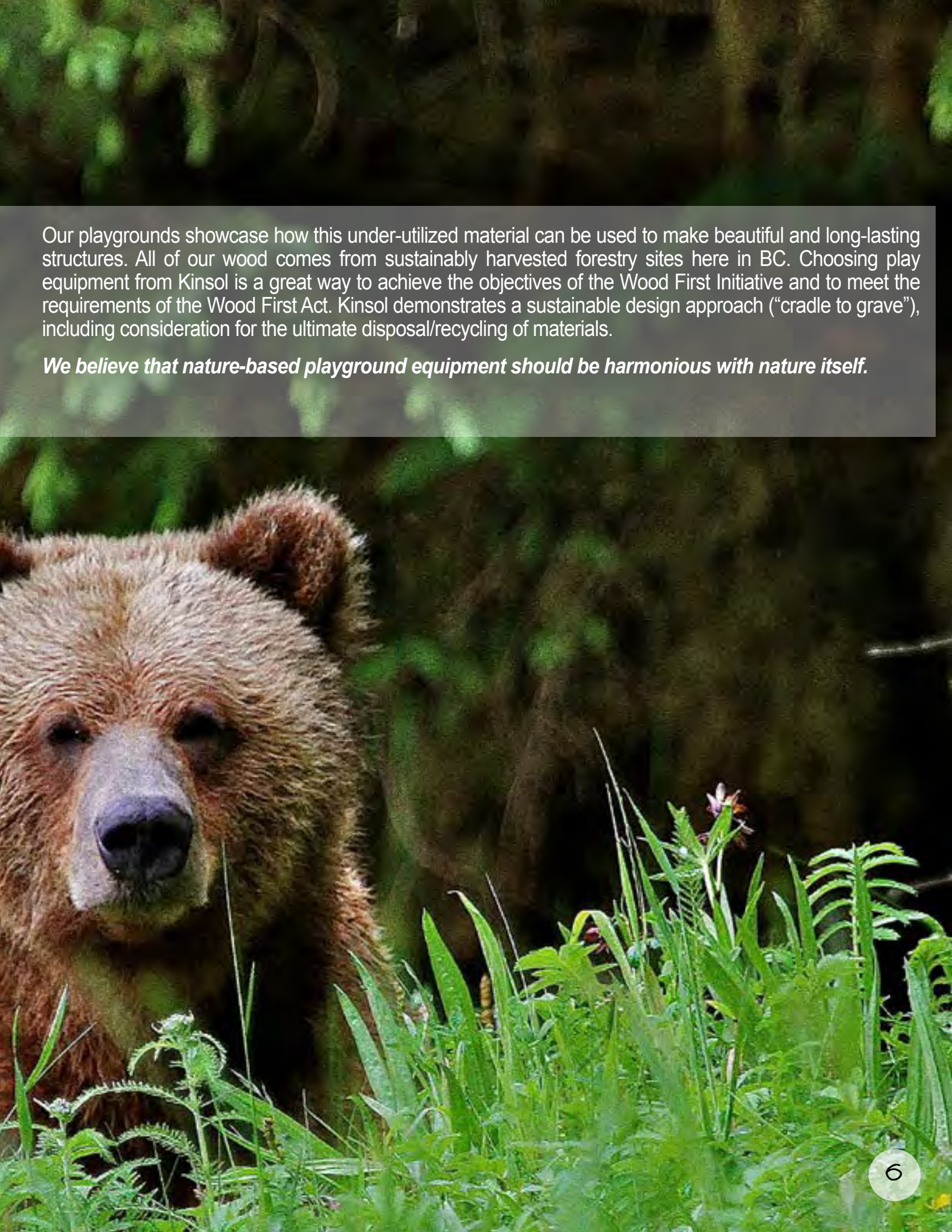
In 2010, we were invited to collaborate on the design of a new playground for the City of Richmond. The team wished to explore the complimentary themes of nature-based play and risky-play; two rapidly emerging trends in Canadian playground design. The initial challenge was to create fully-compliant, safe spaces for children to play, where they could be the authors of their own self-directed adventures. Additionally, the team had a strong desire to use local, sustainable materials as opposed to imported wood species. The result was the multiple award-winning Terra Nova Play Environment, which has attracted international attention and honours.

We learned a lot during that initial project and one thing became crystal clear: we LOVE making playgrounds! We haven’t looked back. Since then, we have designed and delivered play equipment all across the province and beyond. We now have a dedicated team of designers and craftspeople working on play equipment year-round.

SUSTAINABILITY

From the earliest planning stages right through to our site installation, environmental sustainability is very important to us. Our designs and details are specifically made to minimize environmental impacts by reducing the volumes of steel, plastic, concrete and other energy-intensive materials. British Columbia is blessed with some of the finest natural building materials to be found anywhere on earth. Our play equipment is made from small-diameter Cypress logs (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*). This extraordinarily durable and decay-resistant wood grows in the coastal forests of BC and Alaska, and is also known as Yellow cedar and Alaskan yellow cedar. Timber from mature Cypress is highly-prized and very valuable, but small diameter logs like the ones we use for our playgrounds more often go for pulpwood.



A close-up photograph of a brown bear's head and shoulders, looking directly at the camera. The bear is surrounded by lush green foliage and ferns in a forest setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing more trees and greenery.

Our playgrounds showcase how this under-utilized material can be used to make beautiful and long-lasting structures. All of our wood comes from sustainably harvested forestry sites here in BC. Choosing play equipment from Kinsol is a great way to achieve the objectives of the Wood First Initiative and to meet the requirements of the Wood First Act. Kinsol demonstrates a sustainable design approach (“cradle to grave”), including consideration for the ultimate disposal/recycling of materials.

We believe that nature-based playground equipment should be harmonious with nature itself.

PLAY THEORY

In a culture bent on organizing and standardizing everything in our world, PLAY is generally regarded as something we do to take a break from the seriousness of life – in other words, the thing we do that has no purpose. This separation between Play and Purpose, however, overlooks the fundamental role of Play in our lives. The rapidly growing consensus today is that humans are innately designed to collect information, cultivate creative thinking and develop skills ranging from fine motor coordination all the way through social behaviour and bonding... through the act of PLAY.



As our population centres become more urbanized, our young people become more distant from the natural world and all the valuable lessons and connections available to us there. Increasingly, we are left to fill our need for connection to nature at a municipal park, expertly manicured and with play structures made from man-made synthetic materials that make no connection to the organic world from which we all hail. It is from this super-controlled environment that parents, teachers, designers, civic leaders and, most importantly kids, have created a groundswell of demand for access to Natural Play.

Beyond the desire for more connection to nature, one of the central tenets of this Natural Play movement is risky play. Young children - being blissfully unaware of their limitations - have some pretty simple and effective ways of testing the safety of things: they put their hands on things, they put things in their mouth, they push things, they pull things. Then, if it hasn't bitten back or fed back some other piece of alarming information, they carry on playing with it. Without some empirical data that says "danger," a child will explore the outer edges of their comfort zone with pretty limited caution. It usually isn't until a terrified adult, or otherwise ill-programmed child, screeches some caution that the exploring child considers that their activity may not be safe. And in that same moment, the opportunity within that risk disappears.

What could have been an opportunity to test the child's tactile and cognitive skills - thereby developing confidence, resilience and executive functioning abilities - is lost, if only for the time being. That child will continue to push boundaries until they have been made to fear everything in their environment as a possible risk of danger or injury. Given the embedded risk (financial, social, emotional and physical) of life, itself, teaching children life skills in the absence of risk is just setting them up to learn a heard reality later on.

It is this disconnection from nature and absence of risky play that we are pushing back against. By design, and with local and organic materials, KinsolPlay is recreating access for children (and parents) to experiences which create growth opportunities and resilience through play while connecting them back to nature. Life is loaded with risk for adults, so creating play environments that introduce children to risk in a way which allows them to build confidence and a healthy tolerance to risk is setting them up to become successful and happy adults.



TERRA NOVA



DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Kinsol designs sustainable, nature-based playground equipment that supports social interaction and creativity. Our play pieces are designed to encourage children to use their imaginations.

Nothing is scripted.

We believe that little hands respond to the natural feel of materials such as wood and stone in a way that deeply connects them with nature. Nature-deficit results from an absence of this sort of connection, and our playgrounds are one part of the solution.

Our play pieces are intended to help children explore their physical environments through balancing, jumping, climbing, swinging and sliding. Learning to take incremental risks and experiencing the joy of overcoming obstacles is an essential part of early-childhood development. Our play equipment is designed to support this type of self-led exploration, with features that are suitable for different age groups from 18-months to teens (moms and dads welcome too).



DESIGN

At its heart, Kinsol is a design/build firm. This means that our team is perfectly comfortable starting a project with nothing more than a blank sheet of paper and a great idea.

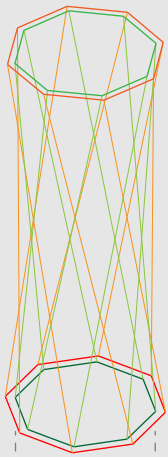
Our design team specializes in collaborative, team-based approaches to design where all stakeholders have a place at the design table and a role to play in the development of concept. Our drawing office works primarily in Revit 3D modelling software; this allows us to coordinate drawings quickly and effectively with our consulting geotechnical and structural engineers. But we are just as comfortable with pencils and chalk, the tools of choice when we work with some of our younger clients!

As a design/build firm, Kinsol operates a fully equipped, in-house design and engineering team who specialize in the creation of complex timber, steel and cable-suspended structures. Kinsol excels at bringing seemingly impossible structures to life through innovative collaborations between clients, designers, craftspeople and engineers.

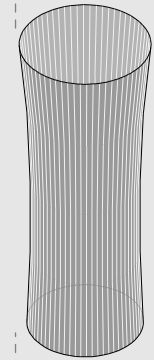
STEP 1:

SITE ANALYSIS

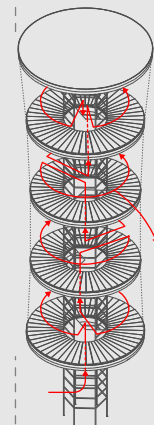
Gathering accurate site data early in the design phase is key to any successful project. KinsolPlay's team includes in-house surveyors who create detailed models of the landscape to both inform the design of the structures, and to eliminate costly errors associated with working on unknown sites. Kinsol uses kite and drone aerial photography to document the site's topography, vegetation cover, and relationship to adjacent buildings and natural landforms.



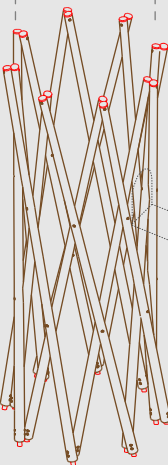
<< GEOMETRY



<< NET SHELL

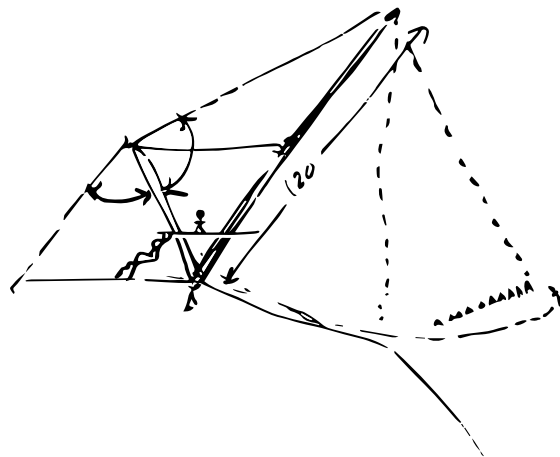


<< CIRCULATION



<< STRUCTURE

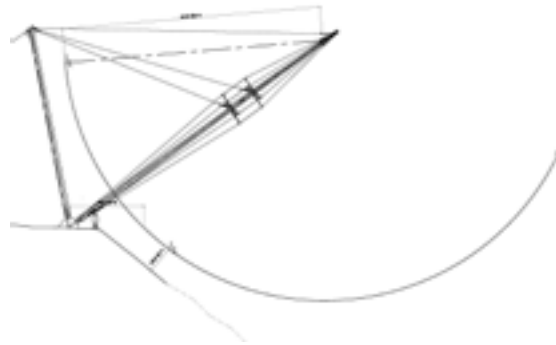
Schematic Diagram
Terra Nova Treehouse



STEP 2:

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Design can begin with as little as a quick hand-sketch, often with just enough information to convey the general idea. Concepts are developed through the use of 3D models to test their viability prior to detailing.

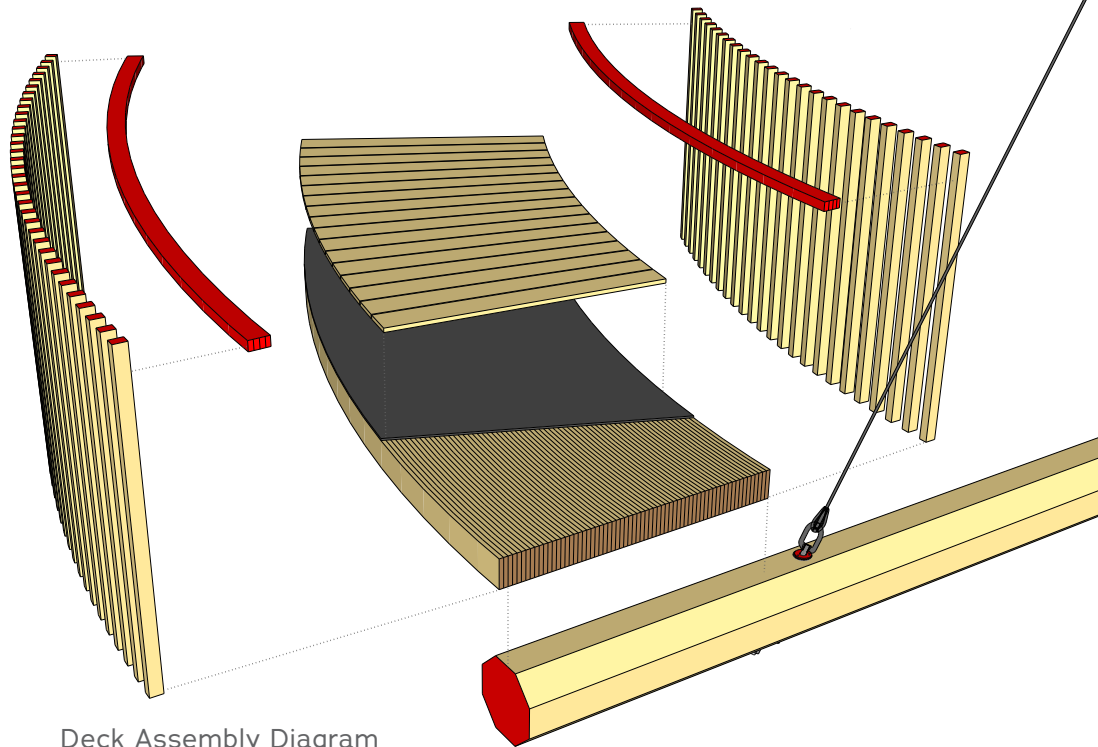


STEP 3:

DETAILED DESIGN

Next, the design team works collaboratively to develop the idea. Numerous iterations of the concept may be worked through before the final design is reached. Once completed, a set of engineered construction drawings are created.

Concept and Detailed Elevations
Primal Swing - Kelowna, B.C.



Deck Assembly Diagram
Cloudwalk - Tomamu, Japan

RENDERING, SIMULATION & DIAGRAMMING

Throughout the design process photo-realistic renderings, animated simulations, and schematic diagrams are created to ensure that the finished product is aligned with the client's original vision. In addition to being valuable design tools, these graphics can also help the client team with fundraising, planning and permitting.



A photograph of a nature-based playground. In the foreground, a child in an orange shirt is climbing a structure made of large, stacked logs. In the background, another child in an orange shirt is visible near a white slide that winds through a wooden lattice structure. The playground is set outdoors with trees and a cloudy sky in the background.

NATURE-BASED PLAY

Nothing is scripted...

LOG CLIMBERS

Log Climbers are one of our most popular playground components and it's easy to see why! These pieces embody the spirit of nature-based play by allowing children to create their own games and possibilities. They encourage coordination and balance through climbing while also offering rope play. The log climbers are perfect on their own or as part of a larger playground.



SMALL LOG CLIMBER

Footprint Required: 14.97m x 9.57m

Intended Age Group: 18 mos - 5 yrs

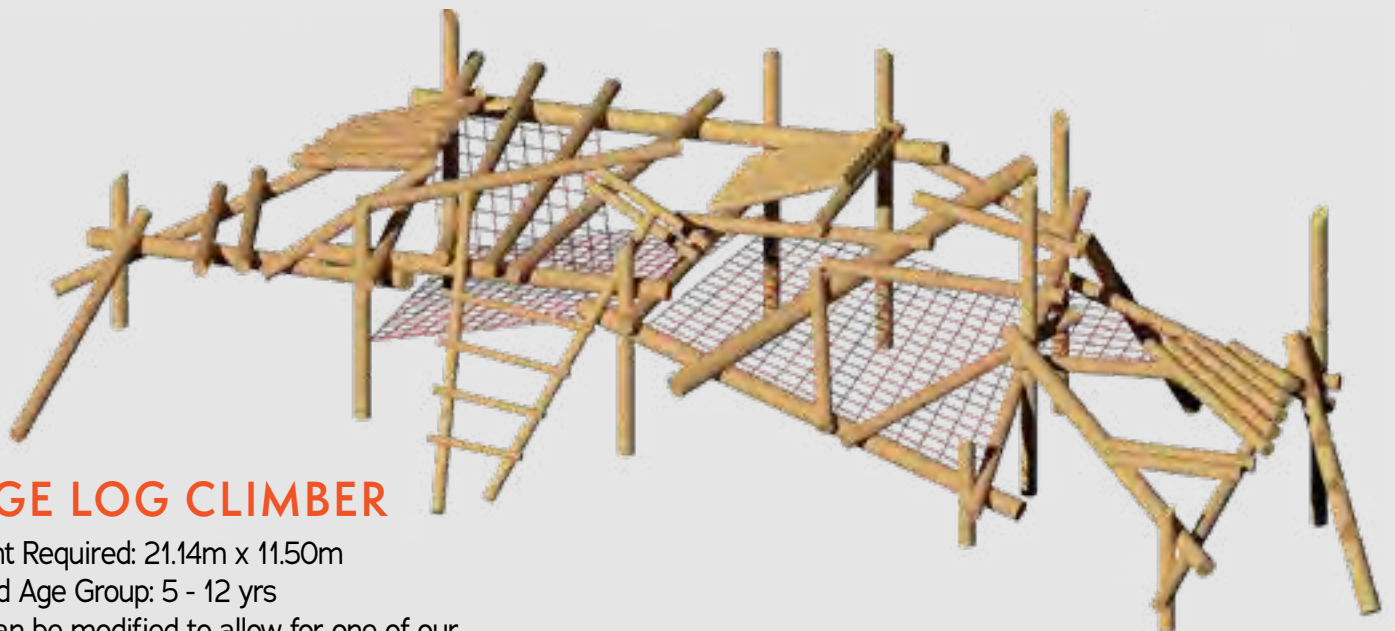
Note: Can be modified to allow for one of our stainless steel slides.

MEDIUM LOG CLIMBER

Footprint Required: 17.11m x 10.55m

Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs

Note: Can be modified to allow for one of our stainless steel slides.



LARGE LOG CLIMBER

Footprint Required: 21.14m x 11.50m

Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs

Note: Can be modified to allow for one of our stainless steel slides or climbing walls.

MEDIUM LOG CLIMBER



SINGLE TO-FRO SWINGS



TO-FRO SWINGS

Swing sets are classic playground features that require little in the way of introduction. These are a perfect addition to any park, with toddler-specific options as well as swings that are geared for older kids (and parents!).



TODDLER SWINGS

Footprint Required: 8.08m x 11.12m

Intended Age Group: 18 mos - 5 yrs

Note: Available with bucket seats or standard seats.



DOUBLE TODDLER SWINGS

Footprint Required: 11.98m x 11.12m

Intended Age Group: 18 mos - 5 yrs

Note: Available with bucket and/or standard seats.



SINGLE TO-FRO SWINGS

Footprint Required: 8.58m x 19.73m

Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs



DOUBLE TO-FRO SWINGS

Footprint Required: 12.98m x 19.73m

Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs



Still not big enough? Try one of our triple or quad swings!

PIVOT SWINGS & SLIDES

Our Tower Slides allow children to practice climbing and balancing while also giving them familiarity with being higher up from a safe distance. The addition of the stainless steel slide only adds to the appeal!

Our Pivot Swing, a multi-access friendly component, allows for a modified swing experience among multiple users.



TODDLER TOWER SLIDE

Footprint Required: 8.03 m x 6.69m
Intended Age Group: 18 mos - 5 yrs



TALL TOWER SLIDE

Footprint Required: 12.85m x 4.81m
Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs



PIVOT SWING

Footprint Required: 7.42m x 7.42m
Intended Age Group: 5 -12 yrs
Note: A multi-access, multi-user swing!

PIVOT SWING



LARGE PARKOUR



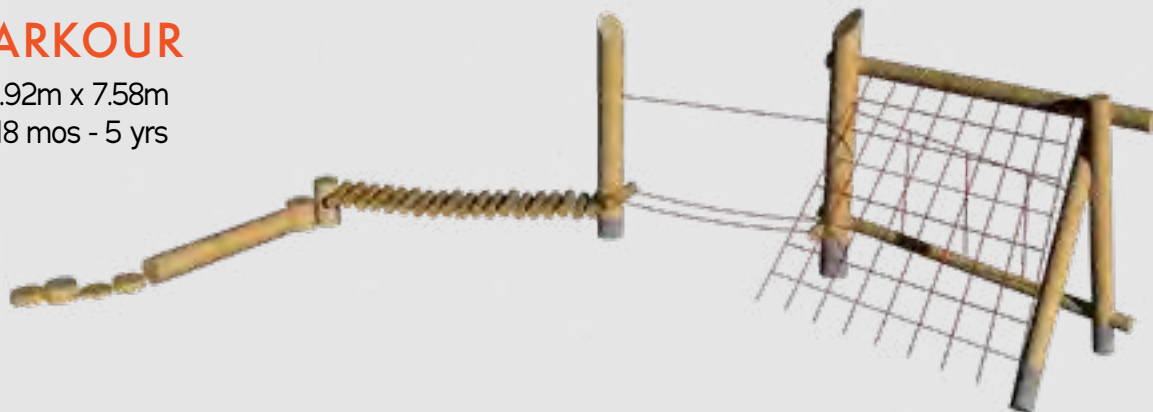
PARKOUR

Our Parkour courses allow toddlers and older kids to explore balance, coordination and rope climbing. They are an ideal fit for tight, narrow park spaces.

TODDLER PARKOUR

Footprint Required: 14.92m x 7.58m

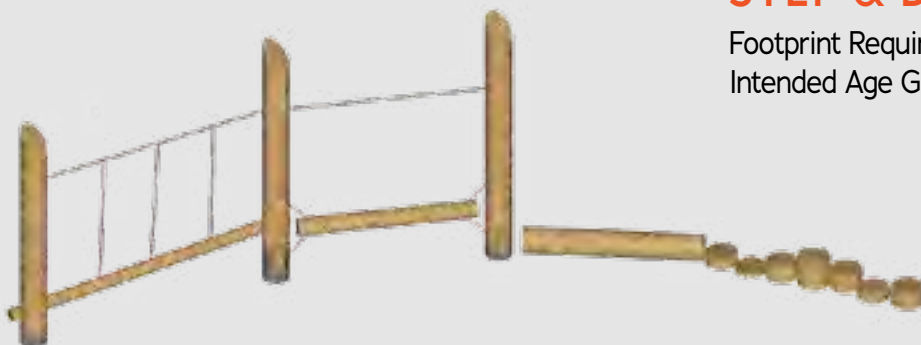
Intended Age Group: 18 mos - 5 yrs



STEP & BALANCE PARKOUR

Footprint Required: 13.04m x 5.44m

Intended Age Group: 18 mos - 5 yrs



LARGE PARKOUR

Footprint Required: 24.36m x 12.93m

Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs

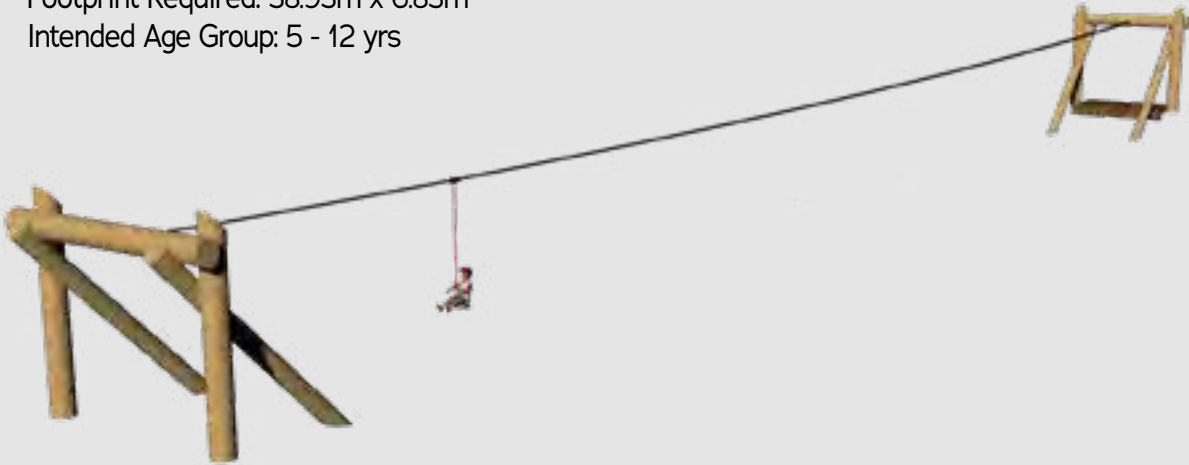
ZIPLINES

Easily one of the most popular attractions at any playground, Ziplines are pure FUN! They are available in single and double options that include launch platforms. Our standard lengths are shown, but spans can be modified depending on the terrain.

SINGLE ZIPLINE

Footprint Required: 38.93m x 6.83m

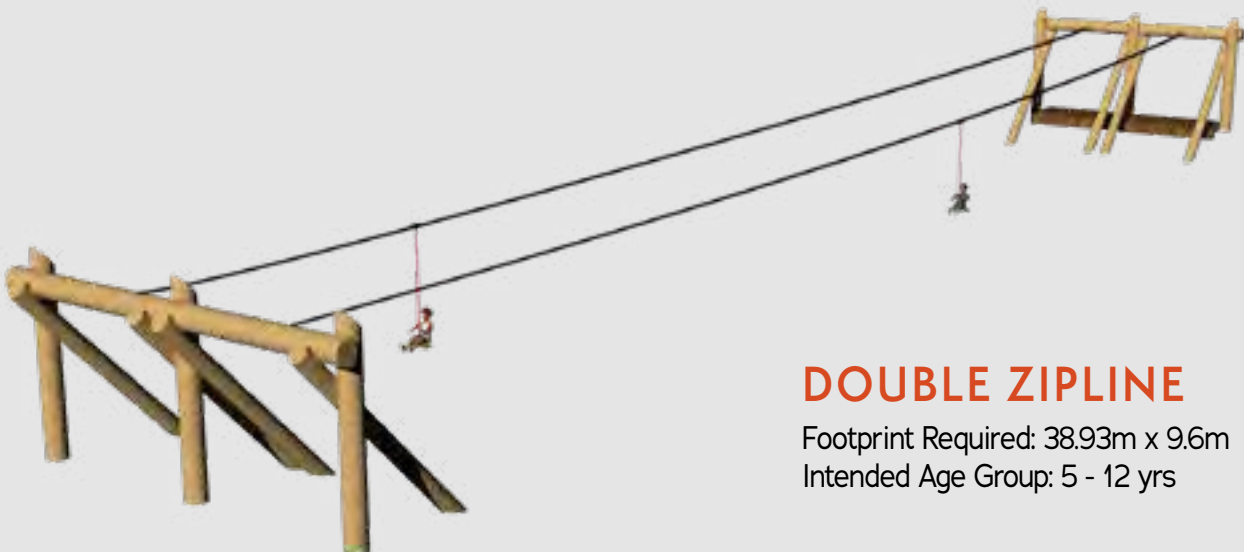
Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs



DOUBLE ZIPLINE

Footprint Required: 38.93m x 9.6m

Intended Age Group: 5 - 12 yrs



DOUBLE ZIPLINES





CUSTOM ELEMENTS

Kids get to explore spatial concepts such as over, under and through while building strength and coordination as they make their way through tunnels; and traversing bridges builds these skills further while also incorporating balance. Sensory play not only enhances the children's creativity, but it also builds on their linguistic, cognitive, visual spatial, social and emotional skills.

WOBBLY BRIDGE

Footprint Required: 5.46m x 3.67m
Intended Age Group: 3 - 12 yrs



LOG FLUME

Footprint Required: 3.75m x 0.5m
Intended Age Group: All ages

HIDEAWAY LOGS

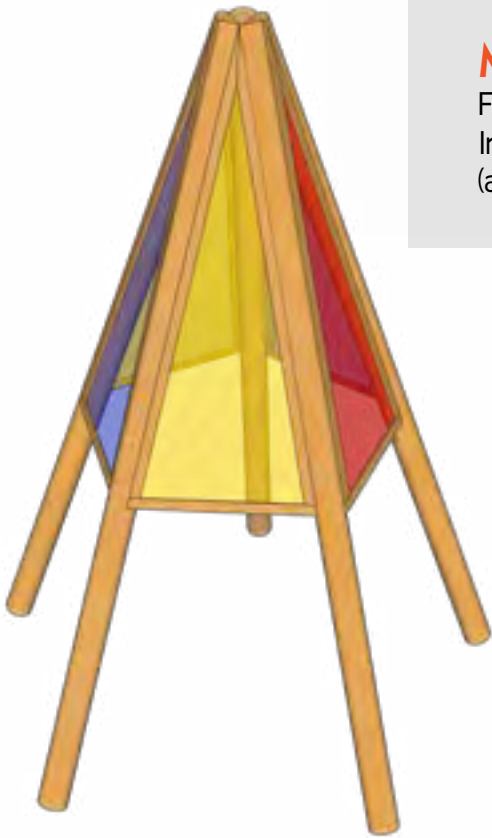
Footprint Required: 1.95m x 1.52m
Intended Age Group: 18mos -12 yrs





MUD KITCHEN

Footprint Required: 3.71m x 0.9m
Intended Age Group: All ages
(accessories not included)



LIGHT PYRAMID

Footprint Required: 3.97sq.m
Intended Age Group: All ages



MUSIC WALL

Footprint Required: 4.8m x 1.1m
Intended Age Group: All ages



OUTDOOR CLASSROOM



OUTDOOR SEATING

Spending time in nature is known to reduce stress, restore depleted attention, and improve immune function, and with nature-deficit being a real issue for today's youth, outdoor learning is a valuable and trending solution. And it helps that an outdoor classroom does double duty as a parkour course during non-instructional times!



STICKS & STONES

Intended Age Group: All ages





RICHMOND NATURE PARK



SAFETY

Everything that we do begins with safety. KinsolPlay's designers and builders are accredited by the Canadian Playground Safety Institute and one of our certified Playground Inspectors oversees the entire process, ensuring that only environmentally sound, child-friendly, non-toxic materials are used throughout. The play pieces are engineered and built to meet or exceed the requirements of the National Standards of Canada (CSA Z614:20). This means that there are no causes for entanglement, no sharp points, and appropriate guarding is in place. The result is that our equipment gets two thumbs up from children and their caregivers!

We support Owner Operators with ongoing inspection and maintenance services, and we guarantee the quality and craftsmanship of everything that we make.

“One touch of nature makes



the whole world kin

Bill Shakespeare





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