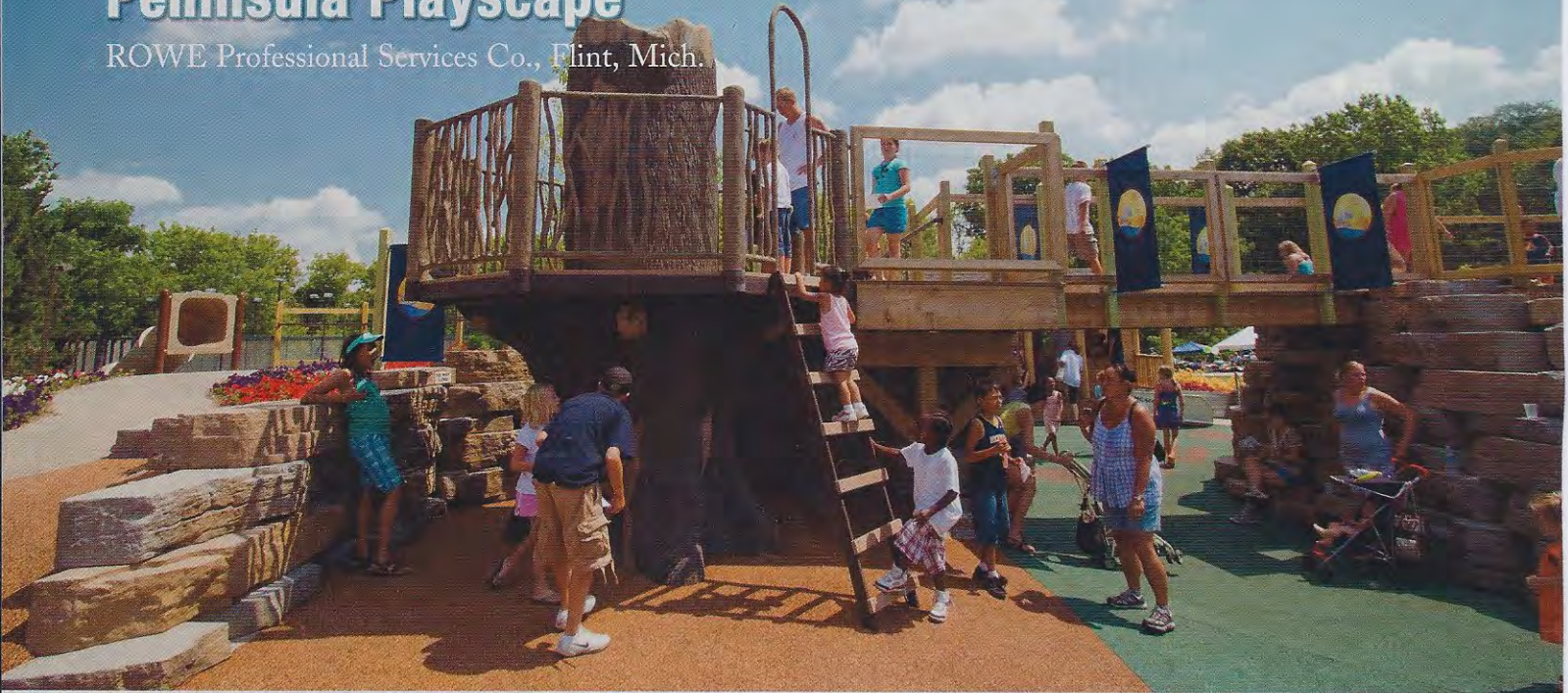


Paradise Peninsula Playscape

ROWE Professional Services Co., Flint, Mich.



Above: The “Paradise Peninsula” playscape is modeled on Michigan’s Great Lakes shorelines. It’s located 37 miles north of Detroit in Waterford Township. The playground is designed to be accessible and promote inclusive play.

Top: Run under a bridge, roll up a ramp in a wheelchair, climb inside the accessible tree (Cre8Play) or scale a “rock” wall ... just a few of the activity options on the playground.

Little explorers can discover Michigan’s wonders and learn about the Great Lakes State when they visit Paradise Peninsula Playscape at Waterford Oaks County Park in Waterford Township, Mich.

Located about 37 miles north of Detroit within the Oakland County Parks system, the playground was designed to be accessible and promote inclusive play. Young adventurers worked with 3D site models to give their feedback to the design team.

The site went above and beyond ADA requirements to provide accessibility and meet safety standards.

The play pieces recreate elements native to Michigan. Kids of all abilities two and older thus can:

- Balance on a cattail or explore nooks and crannies in the log crawl, while navigating the Marsh Challenge Course. The marsh features simulated logs, as well as real and simulated stones that create challenges for balance, movement and navigation. The course mimics the many nearby cattail marshes that are home to wildlife ranging from grasshoppers to birds.
- Climb up the interior of a simulated tree (by Cre8Play) at the playground’s highest elevation, or use the walkways and “trails” to access the deck that surrounds the top. Michigan boasts thousands of acres of forests, which provide ample recreation opportunities.
- Camp along the water’s edge or fish from a fully accessible rowboat modified by county staff. A log



Top, Left: The winning entry for naming the playground was nine-year-old Benjamin Godfrey of Royal Oak, Mich. The signage supports are Michigan pine.

Top, Right: Climbing areas offer varying levels of challenge using a combination of natural and manufactured stone (Rosetta Stone).

Bottom, Left: Fossils are embedded in the “rock” (fiber-reinforced polymer). Local quarried stone is on the ground plane.

Bottom, Right: Children take a spin on a cattail in the “marsh,” mimicking the many nearby cattail marshes that are home to a wide range of wildlife. The safety surfacing is poured-in-place (GameTime GT Impax).

cabin built by local students lets children set up camp after a hard day of rock climbing and playing in the sand. The log cabin represents the experience of going “up north” and enjoying some of the most pristine, natural parts of Michigan.

- Dig for fossils in Michigan’s sandy beach areas, or climb sand dunes to backwoods trails. Simulated beaches and an elevated, accessible sand play area, complete with simulated fossils, allow children of all ages to discover and learn. Michigan’s sandy beaches make the state’s shorelines a great vacation spot for millions of visitors each year.
- Climb glacial rock formations. There are several real and simulated rock features great for climbing and exploring, or just sitting down to rest. Northern Michigan is well known for its rocky shorelines, cut by the glaciers as they receded across the landscape thousands of years ago.
- Cross natural river ravines and canyons or hop across open waters on stepping-stones. The simulated water elements represent Michigan’s nickname (“Great Lakes State”) and emphasize the importance of the Great Lakes to

Michigan’s economy and culture. Oakland County is home to 1,400 natural lakes and the headwaters of five major watersheds.

Landscape architects led the county and consultant team in developing the concept, grant application and coordinating construction. Paradise Peninsula was made possible in part by a \$250,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation-Access to Recreation Initiative administered by the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Foundation. ROWE developed the concepts and a grant application for the Kellogg Access to Recreation-funded Paradise Peninsula Playscape.

Project Team

Client: Oakland County Parks and Recreation

Prime Landscape Architect: ROWE Professional Services Co., Flint, Mich. Douglas Schuitz, RLA, Director of Landscape Architecture.

Subconsultants: PM Blough Inc., Grand Haven, Mich.; Mark Triglaiff, Wheaton, Ill.

Contractor: Clark’s Construction Co., Detroit; Michigan Recreational Construction, Howell, Mich.; ABC Construction, Trenton, Mich.

Volunteers: Oakland Schools Technical Campus Northeast – Construction Technology Students

Vendors: Sinclair Recreation, Cre8Play, GameTime, Rosetta Stone