

Capping the redevelopment of Battery Park at the southern tip of Manhattan in New York City, the Battery Playscape opened to rave reviews on an unusually warm December day in a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by a cadre of political and community leaders—and many happy children. The Playscape is a unique playground for a unique community, and delivers an inclusive, creative, and educational destination for Lower Manhattan residents as well as visitors to the historic park. Three times the size of the former playground, the Playscape offers residents of and visitors to Lower Manhattan's Community District 1 an open and engaging 1.5 acres of green space inspired and informed by the local ecosystem.

The Playscape construction was managed by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYCDPR) with support from Hill International, Inc., designed by BKSK Architects and Tribeca's own Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners. It was built by contractor Paul J. Scariano, Inc. (PJS), and represents the culmination of years of careful planning, community involvement, environmentally responsive design, and high-quality construction.

Board Member Chair Tammy Meltzer
for their support, funding from the U.S.
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features five “zones” - Bluff with five granite slides; Riverbed and Marsh with salt-tolerant gardens, elevated tree houses, and sand/water play area; and Dune and Meadow presenting ShowBox, the first improv/puppet theater in a New York City playground.

Each zone reflects its own typology, with custom play equipment and structures and plantings. These zones encourage play while also educating children on the unique ecologies of marshlands and rocky bluffs. “The features here are amazing,” says Short. “They come from around the world, and a lot are one-of-a-kind.” Specific features include:


