

**Product Name**

Plant – a – Ball Parks

**Designer**

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**Description of innovation social values**

- product category
- formal and functional features
- problems solved by innovation
- user
- field of application

Plant-a-Balls are urban children's play structures integrated with tree planters above to allow for an immediate installation and flexible park design. The intended site typology for these structures are vacant urban lots. Typically there are varied levels of contamination within these sites. Connections into existing urban infrastructure will be needed to provide electricity, water, and sewage for each site. The prefabrication of the BALLS off-site allows for rapid installation and quick turnover of the identified lots into playable and vibrant surfaces within the community. These structures are intended to provide planning departments with a tactically urban sustainable and playful solution to their issues of land vacancies. Vacant lots are eyesores on communities and are becoming more typical in the urban fabric. BALL parks can be utilized as a temporary or permanent installation into the site. With the understanding that time and planning needs can change, the BALL structures are intended to be easily transferable but also provide an appropriate framework for redefining the contemporary play structure in flexible urban areas. They can also be utilized in existing urban parks as the standards for play equipment become more complex. This experimentation of play, integrated with ecology, provides an educational component for the children while they play amongst the BALLS.

**Description of technical features**

- operations
- technology

The BALL shell will house all of the infrastructure needed to provide the tree with irrigation, drainage, and soil, as well as acting as a structural footing for the BALL. The filtration system embedded into the shell will capture rainwater and allow groundwater recharge into the existing groundwater table. Establishing these structures as multi functional facets for each site, they also allow high flexibility in terms of applicable program, based on the scale of each site. Designers and planners can choose from single play BALLS or a combination of them, with the option of suspension bridges connecting them into an elevated play network.

**Dimensions**

The orbs height and scale provide adequate housing for the planting compartments above, as the shell's design enables the trees and plantings space to grow through the membrane and stabilize itself with the existing sub-grade.

**Materials**

Polycarbonate shell exterior with interior infrastructure for planting and structure

**Certifications**

Not Applicable

**Benefits for environment**

Many cities are currently faced with a high number of vacancies across their existing urban fabric. The proposal of a "Plant-a-ball Park" provides an experimental platform for criticism of play equipment design today and how it can further provide a synergy between ecologies, cities, and the populations that occupy them. In addition to the BALLS being rehabilitation vehicles for different types of play: slides, swings, pools, climbing, and spinning; they also bring an ecological component into the parks. Through appropriate selection of tree and plant types, the BALLS can also provide habitat in both the urban and rural settings.

**Benefits for human being**

Plant-a-BALL parks are an interactive, multi functional approach intended to engage children and adults in an outdoor recreational setting. This new model of equipment will promote and stimulate fun for the future of play, and create a series of miniature worlds for children to inhabit in the city.