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Trees

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Reference

Smale Riverfront Park, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

The playground in Cincinnati's Smale River Park has individually designed play equipment like these slides, which allow users to sit next to each other, and a winged steel pig that is fun to climb on.

The John G. and Phyllis W. Smale Riverfront Park in downtown Cincinnati, Ohio/USA was designed by Sasaki Associates as part of a series of public parks and open spaces along the Ohio River. It is framed by city landmarks such as the famous Roebling Bridge and Paul Brown Stadium. The 32-hectare complex is located along a national recreational trail and connects the heart of the city centre with the river.

In addition to a stage and a long promenade with picnic areas, the park also has a large playground set against the backdrop of the Cincinnati skyline.

When the city of Cincinnati commissioned Richter Spielgeräte from Frasdorf, Germany with the planning and implementation of the playground, one of its wishes was to thematically integrate Cincinnati's animal icon "The Flying Pig". The pig has a long tradition in the city: In the decades after its founding in 1814, Cincinnati was particularly famous for its production of cured pork, and to this day large quantities of fat and grease are produced here, which are further processed in the cosmetics industry. With the so-called "Oinkithopter", the playground equipment manufacturer created a winged pig made of stainless steel, which was produced at the company's headquarters in Germany. Children can climb up the belly of this playful pig using a climbing net attached to its wings and body. The children's movements on the climbing nets and in the pig's belly are transferred to the wings and the entire object via pivot points on the wings

and flexibly mounted base points, so that when sitting in the pig's belly you can actually feel like you are flying.

In the large open space surrounding this attractive play area there is a variety of water-themed play equipment such as Archimedean screws and numerous channels, weirs and pumps, which are very popular, especially in the summer. Here, the flooding potential of the Ohio River can be simulated and a relief model of the city's streets can be flooded. You can also sit next to each other on wide, undulating hillside slides, which are framed and designed with natural stone and concrete ramps.

On the rope structures that connect various play modules and climbing walls at lofty heights, older children and young people in particular can try out their sense of balance and dexterity. The complex and demanding black locust climbing structures have steel feet embedded in a hard rubber surface in order to protect the wood, while steel caps protect the grain at the ends of the wood. Several children can sit on the large merry-go-round at the same time and determine whether they want to spin gently or more quickly.

It is interesting to note that this play world is not only visited by families with smaller children, but by a number of older children and adolescents as well. Vandalism is not noticeable – on the contrary, one gets the impression that this place has a certain fascination for people of all ages.

www.richter-spielgeraete.de

