

# DESIGNING PARKS FOR EXPERIENTIAL ENGAGEMENT



**COURSE INSTRUCTOR**

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(PSYC 298)

**PROJECT LEAD**

Michael Healy, City Planner,  
Big Lake, Minnesota

## OBJECTIVES

- The City of Big Lake has several parks with aging playground equipment. Rather than repairing or replacing this equipment, the City is interested in exploring alternative designs to create a better park experience for all ages.
- Students will draw on psychological research and theory about how people interact with and respond to natural spaces as well as the psychology of play, child development, and sense of place to create recommendations for experiential park design.
- Students will also provide recommendations to encourage/motivate residents to use the new spaces.



Powell Park, Big Lake, Minnesota  
Soucre: [biglakemn.org](http://biglakemn.org)