Jabalpur Khel Plan 2025



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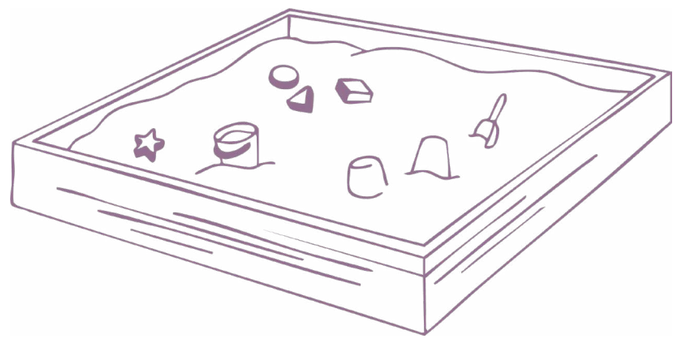
Jabalpur Municipal Corporation
Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.

About Jabalpur Khel Plan



The Jabalpur Khel Plan is a strategic planning document developed by Jabalpur Municipal Corporation and Jabalpur Smart City Ltd. under the Nurturing Neighbourhoods 2.0 program. The initiative hosted by the Smart Cities Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with Van Leer Foundation and with the technical support of WRI India, aims to mainstream young children and caregiver-centric development in Indian cities.

The Khel Plan has been developed as a step towards institutionalization of young children and caregiver-centric urban development in Jabalpur and will enable the systematic scaling of play spaces across the city. It provides a structured framework for enhancing and developing play spaces across the city over the next 12 years, with a focus on improving access to play spaces for young children and caregivers and fostering a culture of play in the city.

The document emphasises the role of play in supporting physical activity, cognitive and emotional development of children and overall community wellbeing. It intends to be a guiding tool for city officials, planners and designers, community organizations and implementation partners to integrate play as a core component of urban development in Jabalpur.

Foreword



I congratulate the city corporation for spearheading India's first Play Masterplan – Khel Plan - towards shaping a young children and caregiver friendly development in Jabalpur. I think this is a very necessary push needed for channelling the rapid growth seen in our city. Initiatives such as the Nurturing Neighbourhoods program should be leveraged by the city to generate momentum from the ground up towards prioritizing people-centric development and drive focused action.

The Khel Plan sets a bold ambition for the city to create public spaces across neighbourhoods that bring people together and create a healthy urban environment that fosters wellbeing of families. The Khel Plan can be seen as a tool to instil a culture of play in Jabalpur where public spaces become synonymous with places offering social interaction opportunities for people of all ages and stimulating play spaces for young children.

Shri. Jagat Bahadur Singh
Mayor, Jabalpur



Jabalpur is at a critical stage of urban growth where infrastructure development must go hand in hand with improving quality of life for residents, especially young children and caregivers. Under the Nurturing Neighbourhoods initiative, the city has demonstrated how public spaces can become key urban assets that support early childhood development, encourage outdoor activity, and strengthen parental wellbeing. Building on these learnings, the Jabalpur Khel Plan establishes a clear and actionable roadmap to scale young children and caregiver-friendly public spaces across the city in a systematic manner.

A major step towards institutionalizing this vision has been the formation of the cross-departmental Khel Cell, which brings together multiple departments and agencies to drive coordinated planning, implementation, and monitoring of play-centric urban development. Through this mechanism, the city aims to integrate play and family-friendly design into parks, neighbourhood open spaces, streets, and ongoing infrastructure projects. Alongside physical interventions, regular community campaigns are helping reinforce behavioural change and encourage greater use of public spaces by families. The Khel Plan is not only a vision document but a governance framework to embed inclusive, safe, and healthy urban development into the city's long-term planning processes.

Shri. Ram Prakash Ahirwar, IAS
Commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation



Jabalpur has made significant progress in strengthening public spaces for young children and caregivers through the Nurturing Neighbourhoods initiative. Building on these learnings, the city is now scaling efforts to develop new parks and retrofit existing open spaces in alignment with the Jabalpur Khel Plan. These interventions aim to ensure that every neighbourhood has access to safe, inclusive, stimulating and playful environments that support the physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of families.

The Khel Plan provides a clear framework for integrating play and young children and caregiver-friendly infrastructure into urban development. Along with improving accessibility and safety standards, the city is prioritizing spaces that encourage social interaction, active lifestyles, and opportunities for parental wellbeing. Through coordinated efforts across departments and agencies, Jabalpur is moving towards creating a network of vibrant public spaces that can become a model for other cities looking to build healthier and more inclusive urban environments.

Shri. Arvind Shah, IAS
Chief Executive Officer, Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.



Jabalpur envisions becoming an inclusive and family-friendly city where public spaces respond to the diverse needs of all residents, especially young children and caregivers. Through the Nurturing Neighbourhoods initiative, the city has recognized play as an important tool to address infrastructure gaps, strengthen community connections, and improve the overall wellbeing of families. By developing diverse play environments across neighbourhoods, Jabalpur aims to ensure that every child and caregiver has access to safe, engaging, and welcoming public spaces close to home.

The Jabalpur Khel Plan brings together the city's vision for scaling and institutionalizing these efforts through coordinated planning and implementation. Along with creating opportunities for outdoor play, the plan also emphasizes the importance of parental wellbeing by encouraging spaces that support recreation, social interaction, and mental wellbeing for caregivers. It is encouraging to see departments, communities, and partners coming together to build a culture of play in the city. These collective efforts will help shape Jabalpur into a healthier, more connected, and resilient city for young children and caregivers.

Shri. Sambhav Ayachi
Deputy Commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation



The Khel Plan reflects a clear vision: ensuring that every child and caregiver has access to safe, inclusive public spaces within 500 meters of their homes. This is more than just a play infrastructure project, it's a city's wellbeing strategy that acknowledges the importance of early childhood and the need to support caregivers, especially women, with environments that promote mental, emotional, and social wellbeing. The aim is to build a scalable, play-centric approach that can serve as a model for Madhya Pradesh and beyond.

The launch of the Khel Plan is an important milestone, but the journey ahead is what truly matters, ensuring implementation across every neighbourhood and creating lasting change through planned action. We will need to ensure all relevant departments, city agencies, community partners come together in this endeavour and put collective efforts into making Jabalpur a playful city for all.

Shri. Deepak Kumar Saxena, IAS
Former, Collector & District Magistrate



Jabalpur has consistently demonstrated its potential to transform public spaces from the young children and caregiver-friendly lens under the Nurturing Neighbourhoods initiative, supported by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Van Leer Foundation, and WRI India. The launch of the Jabalpur Khel Plan marks another important step in that journey which will help to consolidate efforts and integrate the family-friendly lens in urban development holistically. By scaling family-friendly public spaces at every 500 meters, the masterplan envisions to strengthen community wellbeing and provide equal opportunities for outdoor play for young children in the city. By ensuring collective action with cross-departmental coordination for the outlined strategies, the plan can become a catalyst for lasting change creating a thriving urban environment for young children and caregivers in Jabalpur.

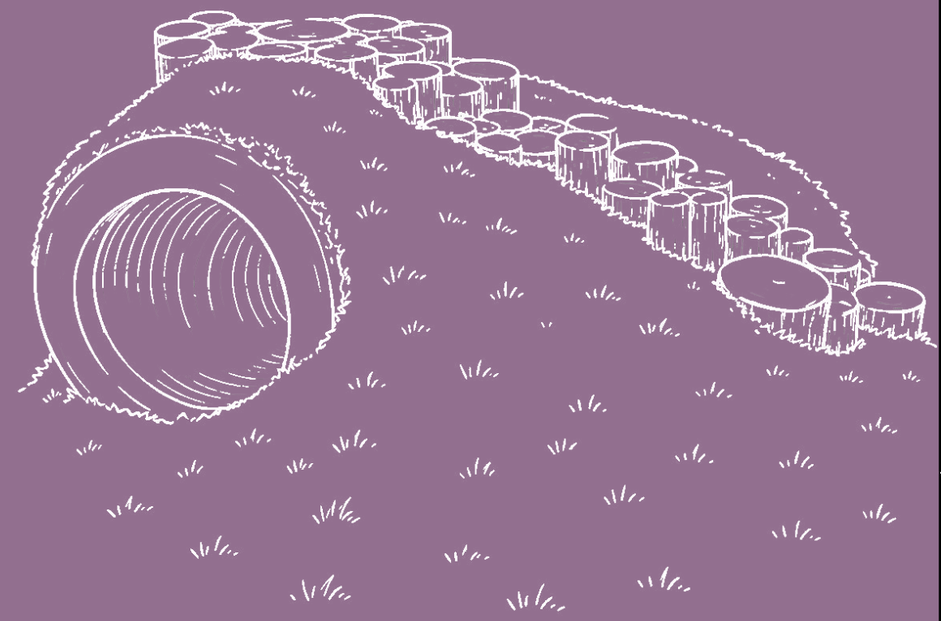
Smt. Preeti Yadav, IAS
Commissioner, Jabalpur Municipal Corporation



Jabalpur has been committed to enhancing public spaces for the wellbeing of young children and their caregivers under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Nurturing Neighbourhoods program. Encouraged by the positive impact of these early efforts, we recognized the importance of embedding young children and caregiver-friendly approach into city planning at scale.

This led to the development of the Jabalpur Khel Plan — a citywide Play Masterplan that envisions accessible, inclusive play spaces within 500 meters of every neighbourhood by 2037. More than just a vision, this plan is a step towards institutionalizing young children and caregiver centric development in our city and integrating the lens into our everyday work. It is a blueprint for building a culture of play across Jabalpur — one that nurtures healthy, connected, and vibrant communities.

Shri. Anurag Singh
Chief Executive Officer, Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.



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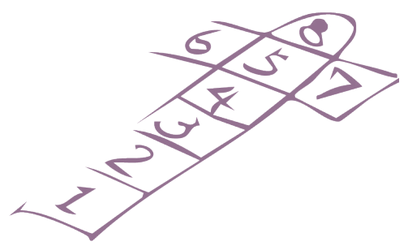


Abbreviations

AMRUT	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
BaLA	Building as Learning Aid
DWCD	Department of Women and Child Development
ECD	Early Childhood Development
ITC	Infants, Toddlers, and Caregivers
ITCN	Infant, Toddler, Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhood
JCTSL	Jabalpur City Transport Services Ltd.
JDA	Jabalpur Development Authority
JMC	Jabalpur Municipal Corporation
JSCL	Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.
MoHUA	Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
MUZ	Multi-utility Zone
NBC	National Building Code
NCAP	National Clean Air Programme
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NMT	Non-motorised Transport
NNC	Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge
NRC	Nutrition Rehabilitation Center
O&M	Operations and Management
PHC	Primary Health Center
PMAY	Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
PWD	Public Works Department
RWA	Resident Welfare Association
SCM	Smart Cities Mission
SHG	Self Help Group
URDPFI	Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation
WHO	World Health Organization

Glossary of terms

Accessibility- Accessibility refers to the design of spaces and services, in a way that allows all individuals, including those with children, disabilities, and the elderly, to use them safely, comfortably, and independently. Families with young children often travel at a slower pace, typically covering less than 300 m in five minutes. To ensure that caregivers and their children can safely reach their daily destinations, enjoy play areas, and access supportive amenities, it is crucial to provide them with secure and convenient access.

Caregivers- In this document, the term "caregivers" refers to those responsible for the care of young children, ensuring their safety and well-being. Caregivers also provide children with the necessary skills and resources to thrive as they grow into adulthood. (Source: Infant, Toddler, Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhood (ITCN) Resources by Van Leer Foundation https://vanleerfoundation.org/publications-reports/infant-toddler-caregiver-friendly-neighbourhood-itcn-framework-and-guidelines/)

ITC- ITC stands for Infants, Toddlers, and Caregivers. The term "ITCs" includes various combinations of ages and genders, generally involving at least two individuals, with the youngest being under five years. The caregiver can be anyone responsible for the child, not just the parents. This can include older siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, or nannies either alone or accompanying the parents.
(Source: Infant, Toddler, Caregiver-Friendly Neighbourhood (ITCN) Resources by Van Leer Foundation https://vanleerfoundation.org/publications-reports/infant-toddler-caregiver-friendly-neighbourhood-itcn-framework-and-guidelines/)

Infant- An infant is a young child between the ages of 0 and 18 months. They require constant care and support from their caregivers. (Source: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP))

Informal Settlements- Residential areas that have developed outside formal planning systems and may lack secure tenure or basic services. In Jabalpur, this includes notified slum areas, slum redevelopment colonies, and other unplanned or unauthorized housing typologies.

KHEL– "Khel" is a Hindi word that translates to "game" in English. According to the Oxford Dictionary, a game is an activity undertaken for enjoyment, often governed by rules, with the possibility of winning or losing.

Nature Reserve- A natural reserve is a protected area of land or water set aside for the conservation of wildlife and natural resources, often regulated by law to preserve its ecological value.
(Source: [National Geographic](https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/nature-reserve/)).

Play Value- Play value refers to the level of engagement and enjoyment that a toy, game, or play area provides to children. High play value indicates that the item or space holds a child's attention for an extended period, encouraging them to continue playing. Conversely, low play value describes items that children quickly lose interest in or set aside. (Source: Shelly Newstead, 2004, *The Buskers Guide to Playwork*, Common Threads Publications Ltd., ISBN 1-904792-13-8).

Per capita open space- Per capita open space is a measure of the amount of publicly accessible green space available to each person in each area. It is typically expressed in square meters or acres per person. (Source: URDPFI Guidelines).

Glossary of terms

Pre-schooler- A three to five-year-old child (Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC))

Serviceability- Serviceability refers to the adequacy and equitable distribution of essential urban services, amenities, and green spaces in relation to the existing population density, ensuring that all residents have fair access to necessary resources for a high quality of life.

Structured Play- Organized play that is governed by rules and controlled or directed by an adult. A teacher-initiated classroom play activity is an example. (Source: American Psychological Association (APA) Dictionary of Psychology)

Toddler- Toddlers are young children between the ages of 12-36 months who have just begun to walk independently. They have limited mobility and require the support of their caregivers. (Source: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP))

Unstructured play- Unstructured play is defined as children playing and establishing their own objectives. (Source: Vecchioni, 2008).

Young children– In India, a child aged 6 years or below is a young child. (Source: Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India)



Introduction

Chapter 1

Chapter 1 delves into the importance of play as a foundation of early childhood development and as a fundamental right. It begins by highlighting the role of play in fostering cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth, supported by global research. The chapter then explores the unique play needs of young children across different age groups, emphasizing the importance of contextual and sensory-rich environments.

It further examines the evolution of play in India, comparing traditional outdoor games with the modern shift toward screen-based activities, and discusses the challenges posed by urbanization and restrictive play spaces.

It introduces the concept of a Play Master plan as a strategic framework to create inclusive, accessible, and sustainable play environments, setting the stage for broader discussions on fostering a culture of play in urban spaces. Global examples of Play Master plans, such as those from Istanbul and Barcelona, illustrate successful strategies for integrating play into urban planning.

1.1

Why is play important

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 31, play is not just a pastime but a fundamental right integral to a child's development. Governments must ensure equal play opportunities for all children, regardless of their background or residence.[1] Research consistently demonstrates that outdoor play, especially during the formative years, plays a pivotal role in nurturing children's socio-emotional, cognitive, and physical growth.[2] The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that children engage in at least 30 minutes of active play daily, starting from infancy, for optimal physical and mental health.[3]

Play provides numerous benefits for young children across different developmental domains:

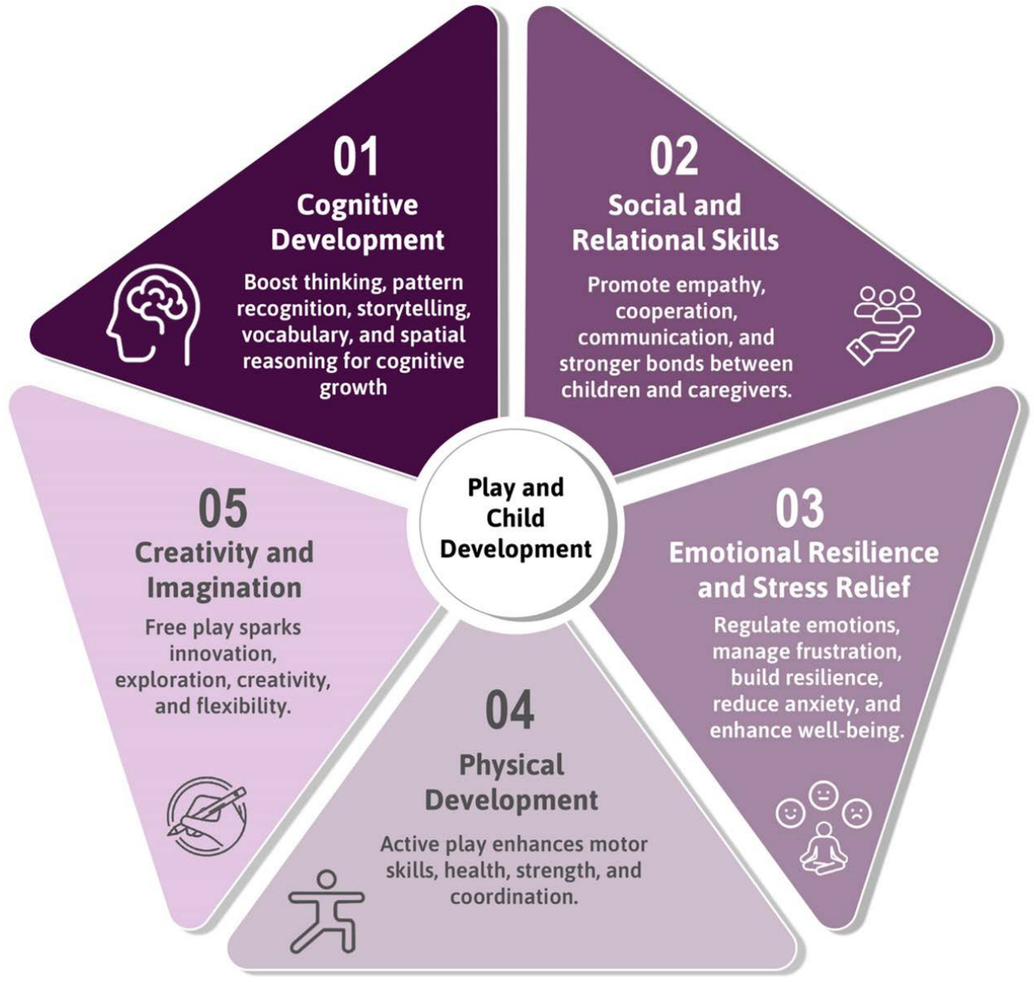
1. Cognitive Development: Play is a catalyst for cognitive development, offering children a natural and engaging way to enhance their thinking skills. Through activities like building with blocks or crafting imaginative scenarios, they not only grasp patterns and structures but also learn the art of storytelling. Guided play enhances vocabulary and spatial reasoning, making it a powerful tool for cognitive growth.

2. Social and Relational Skills: Playing with others helps children develop empathy, cooperation, and effective communication. It also strengthens bonds between children and caregivers. Parents engaging in play gain insights into their child's world, improving understanding and nurturing deeper connections.

3. Emotional Resilience and Stress Relief: Play provides a safe space for children to explore and regulate emotions, managing frustration and building resilience. It also acts as a stress reliever, reducing anxiety and promoting emotional well-being through joyful engagement.

4. Physical Development: Active play supports gross and fine motor skill development, improving overall physical health. Activities like running, climbing, or drawing enhance both physical strength and coordination.

5. Creativity and Imagination: Free play stimulates innovation and a sense of wonder, allowing children to explore new ideas and scenarios, which is essential for



Benefits of play for child development; *Source: WRI India*

1. Admin, I. P. A. S. (2012). *IPA Declaration on the Importance of Play*. International Play Association.
2. Sternin, M. (2022). *The Power of Play in Early Childhood Development*.
3. Willumsen, J., & Bull, F. (2020). *Physical Activity Guidelines for Early Childhood*. World Health Organization.

1.2

Addressing the unique play needs of young children

Play is crucial for young children, supporting their cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Yet, play spaces often overlook their specific needs. Tailored environments that encourage sensory, nature-based, unstructured, and imaginative play help foster creativity, exploration, and problem-solving.

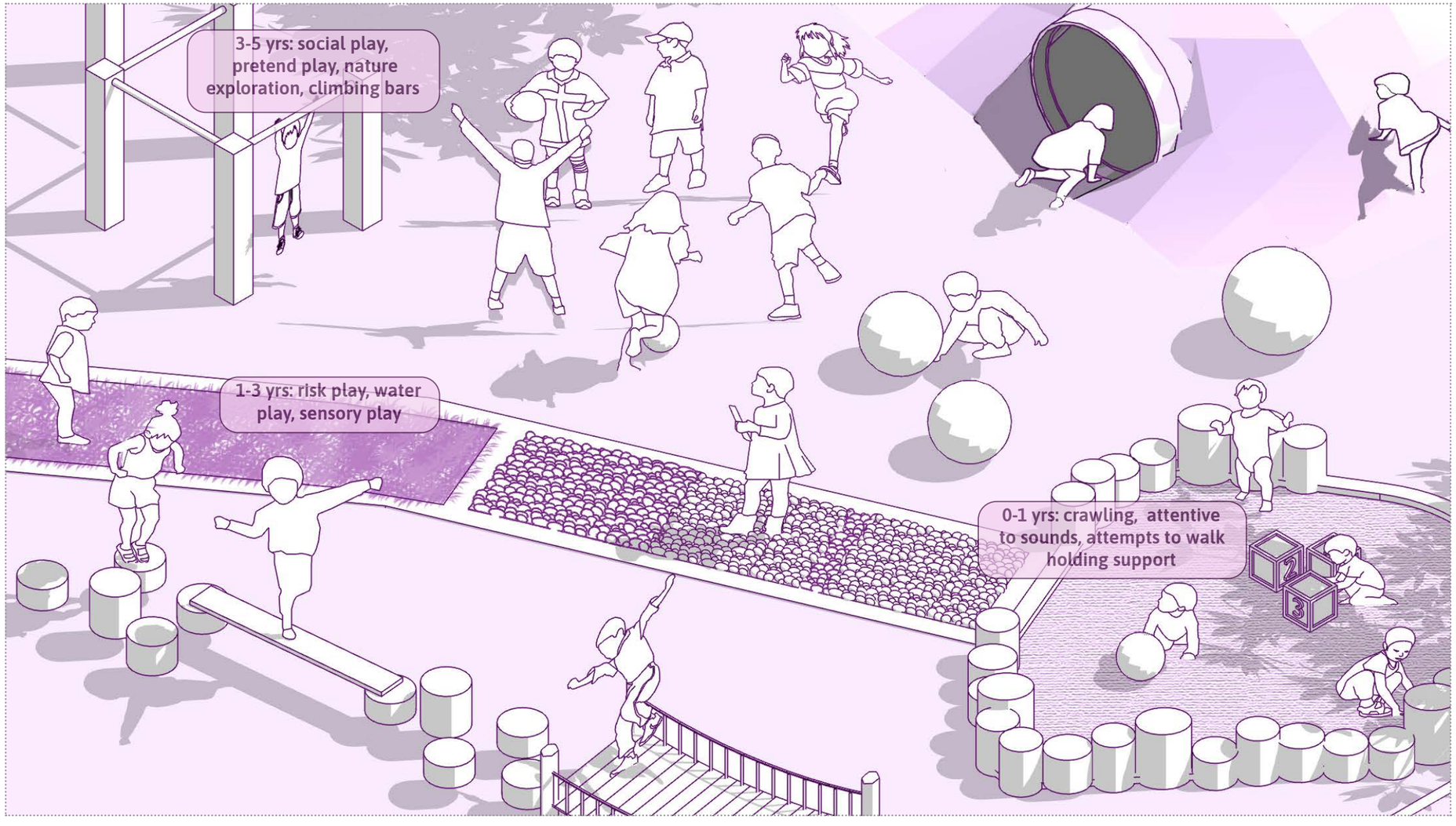
Outlined below are young children's distinct play needs:

a) 0-1 yrs.: Infants thrive on caregiver interaction, are drawn to bright colors and moving objects, and explore through crawling and tactile activities. Infants are sensitive to sharp sounds and often seek support while attempting to walk.

b) 1-3 yrs.: Toddlers enjoy water play and sensory activities such as playing in sandpits, exploring shrubs, initiating basic social interactions and exploring with cautious mobility.

c) 3-5 yrs.: Preschoolers prefer dynamic equipment such as swings and climbing bars, engaging in pretend play, cycling, and nature exploration.

To nurture young children's holistic development, play environments must be thoughtfully designed to align with their evolving needs, fostering exploration, creativity, and growth at every stage.



Addressing the unique play needs of young children;
Source: WRI India

1.3

Play in India

In earlier times, play in India revolved around outdoor activities that promoted physical growth, social bonding, and creativity. Traditional games like gilli-danda, kho-kho, kabaddi, pithu, and hide-and-seek were played in streets, fields, and community courtyards. These games passed down through generations, required minimal equipment and encouraged children to build skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving while fostering a sense of community.

However, over the 21st century, children's play has shifted from outdoor activities to indoor, screen-based engagements. Studies show that children in India spend an average of 2.7 hours daily on digital devices, surpassing the U.S. average of two hours. This decline in outdoor play stems from various factors, including the widespread use of technology, academic pressures, and changing societal attitudes.

The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated these trends, with increased parental concerns about safety and outdoor risks leading to more restrictive play opportunities. These limitations hinder children's physical activity, sensory exploration, social skills, and imaginative development.

Additionally, restrictive park rules and poorly maintained playgrounds further discourage outdoor play. Children are often prohibited from walking on lawns, touching plants, or playing with mud or sand due to hygiene concerns or maintenance issues. Many parks suffer from neglect, with garbage dumping, overgrown vegetation, and water logging compromising their proper usability. Limited funding and space constraints prevent the creation of new play areas and the upkeep of existing ones, leaving children with fewer opportunities to engage in meaningful outdoor activities.

While government initiatives at the city, state, and national levels aim to create parks and play areas, the focus remains on traditional equipment-based structures. This approach often overlooks the need for diverse, natural, and inclusive play environments that cater to the developmental needs of children across all age groups.

Nevertheless, there are instances where Indian cities have systematically enhanced play opportunities for young children and their caregivers. Recent national-level initiatives, such as the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge (NNC), advocate for people-oriented programs, with a special focus on developing young children and caregiver-friendly public spaces across the country.



Source: http://shorturl.at/ZM2Ku

Restrictive park rules

Lack of maintenance of play spaces


Source: Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation


Source: http://tinyurlcom/2s4yj8hx

Increasing screen-based engagement

Conventional play equipment and lack of age-appropriate play spaces


Source: WRI India

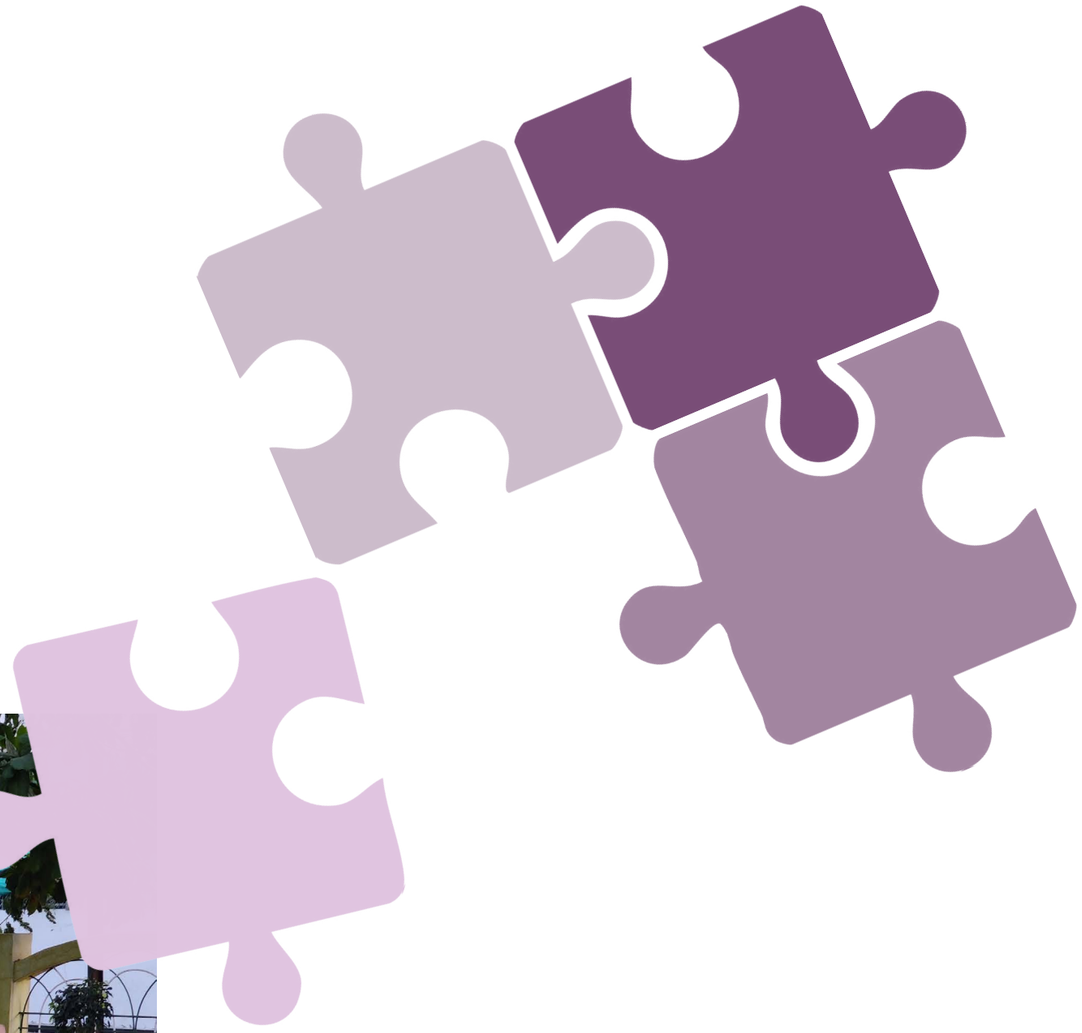
1.4

Bridging the gap

Role of Play Master plan in systematic scaling of play spaces and developing culture of play

The Play Master plan offers a strategic framework to systematically scale play spaces across neighbourhoods, ensuring every child, especially those aged 0 to 6, has access to safe, engaging, and developmentally appropriate environments. Embedding play spaces into urban planning, it addresses critical gaps in availability and accessibility, creating a network of child-friendly spaces that support physical, sensory, and social development.

This approach also nurtures a culture of play by prioritizing it as an essential component of urban life. By guiding local governments and planners to consider safety, inclusivity, and caregiver convenience, the Play Master plan fosters communities where outdoor play is both valued and easily integrated into daily routines.





Source: WRI India

1.5

Play Masterplans across the globe

Cities worldwide, including Auckland, Barcelona, London, Copenhagen, Melbourne, Berlin, Munich, and various regions of Italy, have developed Play Master plans to foster a playful urban environment. ***Istanbul*** and ***Barcelona*** stand out as prime examples.

Istanbul Play Master Plan: The plan highlights the importance of integrating play into urban planning to improve the quality of life for children and their families. It emphasizes creating a child-centered city by designing inclusive, accessible, and safe play spaces that cater to various age groups and abilities.

Istanbul's approach involved a comprehensive mapping of existing play areas and identifying gaps, allowing for targeted interventions to ensure every neighbourhood had access to play spaces. Public engagement, including input from children, parents, and community members, was central to the planning process, ensuring that the play areas reflected local needs and cultural contexts.

The city involved municipal departments, urban planners, educators, and private organizations to pool resources and expertise for sustainable implementation. Istanbul also linked its play master plan to broader urban development initiatives, such as improving green spaces, enhancing pedestrian safety, and promoting active lifestyles.
Barcelona Public Space Play Plan Horizon 2030: It demonstrates the importance of a clear governance structure for advancing children's right to play. It assigns accountability to the Barcelona City Council, aligning with the UN's recognition of play as a fundamental right. By integrating play into urban policies, the plan prioritizes accessible, inclusive, and high-quality play areas to address modern challenges like child obesity and screen addiction.

It emphasizes the need for creative, green, and community-oriented spaces, along with a coordinated approach to ensure play is central to urban development, fostering healthier, more playful environments for all.



Source: WRI India

Chapter 2

Understanding Jabalpur and the Khel Plan

Rapid urbanization in Jabalpur has created challenges, such as a lack of accessible public spaces, especially for young children and caregivers, with informal settlements being more affected than other areas.

Chapter 2 highlights how, in recent years, Jabalpur has shifted its approach to designing play spaces, incorporating age-appropriate, inclusive, and accessible play areas into young children-centric locations such as anganwadis, healthcare centers, and bus terminals. This transformation is rooted in community participation and the city's experiences from initiatives under the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge (NNC).

The Jabalpur Khel Plan builds on these efforts with a vision to create a playful, inclusive city by 2037. It emphasizes citizen participation, data-driven planning, and collaboration across departments to ensure every neighbourhood has safe and engaging play spaces within 500 meters. The plan outlines comprehensive strategies and targets, aiming to enhance the quality of life for young children and caregivers while fostering physical, mental, and social well-being.

2.1

About Jabalpur

Jabalpur, a major city in Madhya Pradesh, is nestled along the Narmada River and is renowned for its marble rocks, waterfalls, and cultural heritage. It is an administrative and educational hub, home to the Madhya Pradesh High Court, defense establishments, and prominent universities.

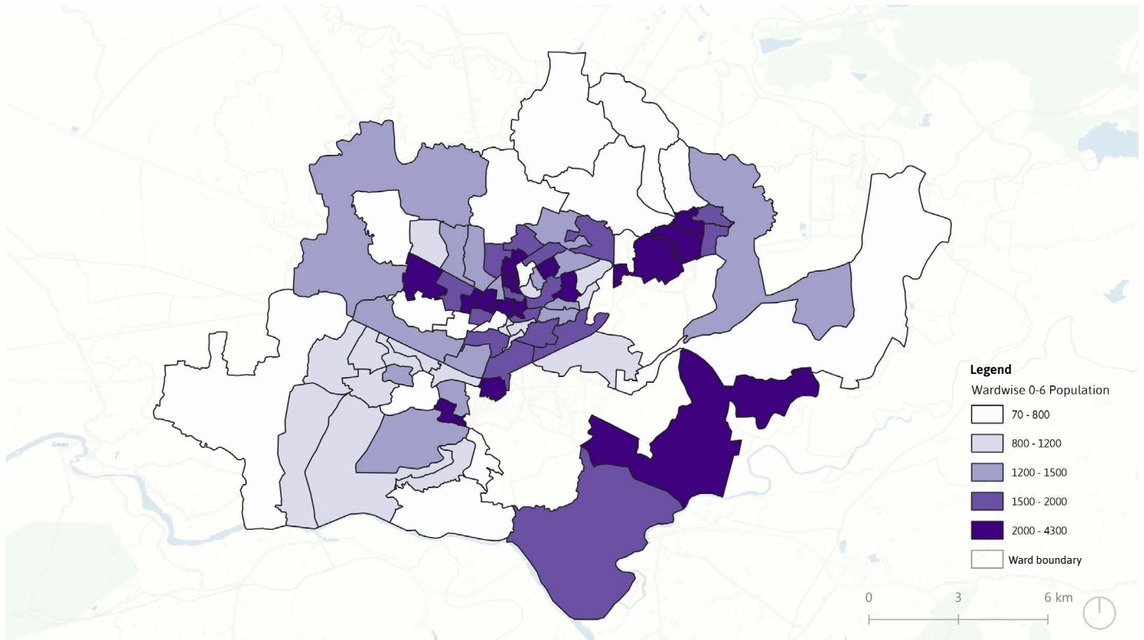
With a population of approximately 1,206,000 (as per Census 2011), the city is experiencing rapid urbanization, creating both opportunities and challenges in urban planning and infrastructure development.

Approximately 9% of children aged 0 to 6 years in Jabalpur live in informal settlements (as per Census 2011). These settlements, primarily concentrated in the core city area, are characterized by high population densities, proximity to commercial activities, and prevalence of household industries.

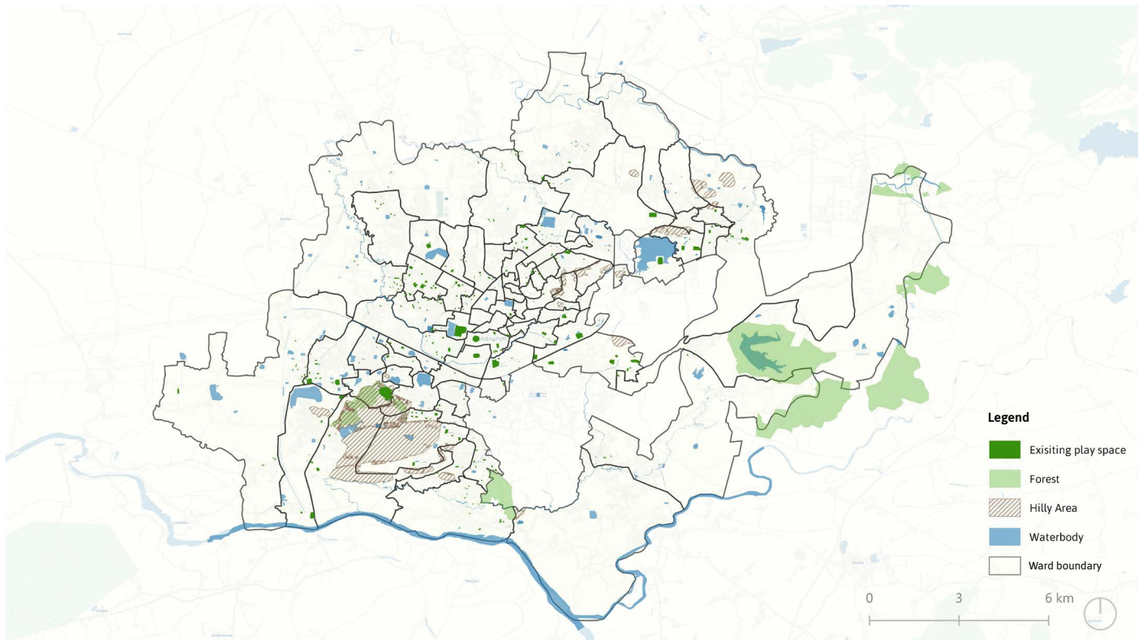
The city faces a pressing issue of limited accessible public space. This inadequacy is even more pronounced in informal settlements due to the inequitable distribution of space.

The lack of well-planned public spaces across the city creates significant barriers for young children and caregivers. Many public spaces are either too distant or require crossing unsafe streets, making them inaccessible for daily use.

As a result, families in Jabalpur often rely on infrequent, planned visits to city-level public spaces. This limits young children's opportunities for spontaneous outdoor play, exposure to nature, and social interactions. The shortage of accessible and child-friendly public spaces underscores the urgent need for inclusive urban planning that prioritizes equitable access to safe, vibrant, and engaging environments for all residents, particularly young children and their caregivers.



The map above illustrates the ward-wise distribution of the 0-6 years population across Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*



The map above illustrates existing recreational open spaces across Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*

2.2

Jabalpur's shift in approach to designing play spaces

Jabalpur is shifting from traditional, equipment-based play areas to unstructured play opportunities using natural materials. This change focuses on creating exploratory spaces that meet the needs of even the youngest children.
The transformation has been driven by:

- Designing play areas for children of different age groups and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Incorporating input from citizens through regular consultations.

Beyond parks and gardens, Jabalpur has added play spaces and caregiver-friendly amenities in everyday locations visited by young children and their families such as anganwadis, primary health centers, and bus terminals. For example, an anganwadi in one of the neighbourhoods now offers age-appropriate play options, combining recreation with learning.

Similarly, play areas and comfortable seating were added to PHCs and NRCs, creating spaces where children can play, and caregivers can relax during visits.

By including play elements in these frequently used spaces, the city is making them more inclusive and supportive of children's growth. This approach improves the quality of community spaces, encourages physical activity, and fosters a sense of well-being for all users.





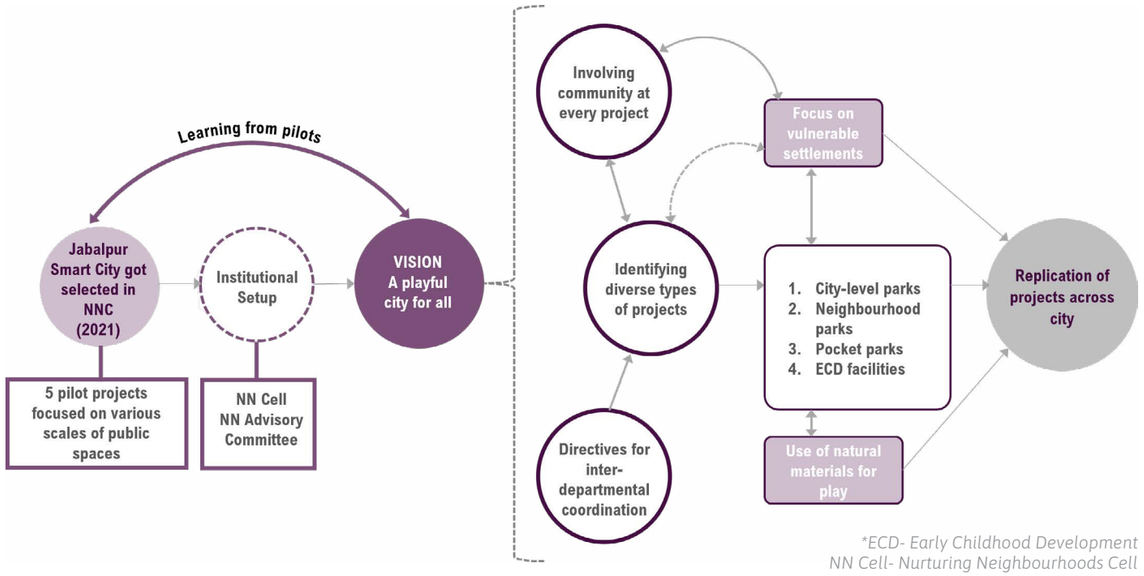
Civic Center Park, Jabalpur- Before Implementation(left); After Implementation(right)

2.3

Jabalpur's efforts towards young children- centric public spaces

Jabalpur began its journey with the Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge (NNC) in 2021, using insights from pilot projects in public spaces to guide its vision of creating an inclusive and playful city. Since then, the city has implemented over 20 projects as part of this initiative.

These projects include setting up play zones in healthcare facilities, reclaiming public spaces in underserved neighbourhoods, and upgrading parks with play features designed for toddlers. The city has also created a standard wooden play module that is used in all projects. Working closely with local communities, the city agencies have identified and transformed public spaces into vibrant play areas for young children.



**ECD- Early Childhood Development*
NN Cell- Nurturing Neighbourhoods Cell

Jabalpur's journey in NNC so far; *Source: WRI India*

The projects implemented by Jabalpur under the NNC program can be generally categorized into the following categories:



1 **Reclaiming play areas along streets**



3 **Reclaiming public spaces in informal settlements**



2 **Play and waiting areas in healthcare facilities**



4 **Retrofitting existing parks with toddler-friendly play areas**

1. Reclaiming play areas along streets

Developing a child-friendly pocket park along Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) corridor

The pocket park along the NMT Corridor in Jabalpur is a vibrant 120 sqm park with designated play areas for young children. The park featuring wooden balancing beams, sensory walls, age-appropriate play equipment, and shaded seating, serves as a play area for local children and a pause space for caregivers traveling along the pathway.



Source: Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.

2. Play and waiting areas in healthcare facilities

Children's vaccination center at Manmohan Nagar (PHC)

To address COVID-19 challenges, Jabalpur Smart City Ltd. (JSCL) set up a dedicated children-friendly vaccination center. The city aimed to make the vaccination process enjoyable and stress-free. They repurposed an existing building and converted adjacent vacant land into a welcoming play and multi-height seating area spanning 260 sqm.



Source: Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.

Child-friendly nutrition rehabilitation centre (NRC)

The NRC building rooftop has been transformed into a 250 sqm shaded play area, providing a much-needed relief space for both visiting young children and their caregivers. To further support caregivers, a vending machine offering diapers and sanitary napkins has been installed, enhancing hygiene and convenience. Additionally, a dedicated lactation room has been set up to offer a comfortable space for nursing mothers.



Source: WRI India

3. Reclaiming public spaces in informal settlements

Neighbourhood park at Kariya Pathar
The city created a play space for children by reclaiming a vacant plot along the entry to the slum. The play space was defined, natural features of the site were retained, sand bed was created around them to enable nature-based play, a gazebo was installed to create shaded space, along with few equipment. This has enabled access to play for young children from over 400 households in the vulnerable neighbourhood.


Source: WRI India

All age park at Brij Mohan Nagar
The city revamped a vacant plot near the low-income housing with age specific play and space for community events. Specific areas were identified for various age groups and appropriate play elements were added. This has provided outdoor play opportunities for young children from 380 families living in the vicinity.

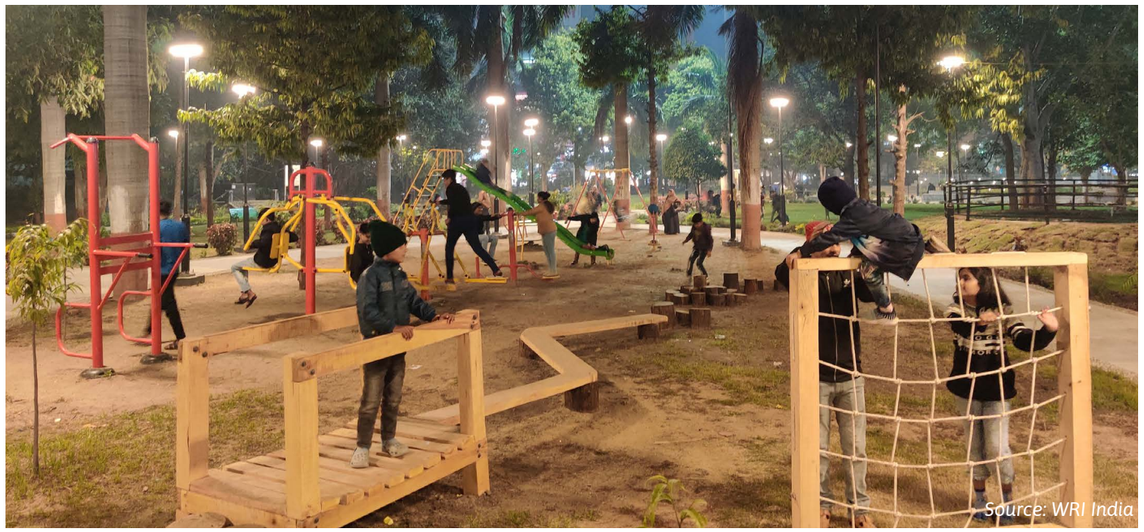

Source: WRI India

4. Retrofitting existing parks with toddler-friendly play areas

All ages park at Saraswati Garden
The 1800 sqm park offers amenities suitable for individuals of all ages, including age- appropriate play opportunities, a walkway, shaded seating areas, an open gym, and a multi-functional space for community gatherings. These additions have effectively turned the park into a welcoming and inclusive space for all.


Source: Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.

Nature-based play area in Civic Center
Civic center is a city level park in the heart of Jabalpur surrounded by commercial buildings and shops on all four sides. These is a dedicated play area for young children developed in the park which incorporates nature-based play by using wooden play equipment such as wooden bridges, balancing beams, etc.


Source: WRI India

Age-appropriate play area at Gulmohar Park

The city enhanced the existing neighbourhood park by installing age-appropriate play equipment, including a wooden bridge, climbing frames, stepping stones, and a tunnel play area. To further encourage daily visits, the city agency launched a behaviour change campaign featuring initiatives like distributing home play kits and organizing a “Bring Your Child to the Park” challenge. These efforts have significantly increased both the park footfall and the time young children spend playing outdoors.



Source: WRI India

Play Bus at Dumna Nature Reserve

An innovative project by Jabalpur Smart City Ltd. called “Play Bus“ or Playgrounds on Wheels aims to repurpose old, decommissioned public bus into fun and educational play areas for children. This bus is outfitted with slides, swings, and indoor games, creating a mobile play space that can be easily set up in any location with enough room due to their modular design.



Source: WRI India

2.4

What is Jabalpur Khel Plan

The city seeks to draw on insights from its past experiences with public space projects to shape its vision of becoming an inclusive and playful city. Building on these lessons, the Khel Plan focuses on creating age-specific play areas across various public spaces, emphasizing citizen participation at every stage and the development of a play master plan to ensure integrated urban growth.

A detailed assessment of Jabalpur’s play spaces highlighted several challenges, such as limited space for new parks, uneven distribution of existing play areas, lack of age-appropriate play opportunities, and poor accessibility to existing parks and open spaces. To address these gaps, the Khel Plan—scheduled for implementation from May 2025 to 2037—offers a comprehensive strategy to expand and enhance play opportunities citywide, particularly for young children in informal neighbourhoods.

The plan aims to ensure safe, inclusive play spaces are available within a 500-meter radius of every neighbourhood by 2037. It also seeks to improve the quality of life for young children and caregivers by providing spaces for play, exercise, and relaxation, fostering physical and mental well-being. Using data-driven planning and building a network of local play advocates, Jabalpur strives to create sustainable and long-lasting improvements in its public spaces.

This document serves as a comprehensive guide for various administrative bodies, including the Municipal Corporation, Smart City agency, City Development Authority, Public Works Department, Garden and Parks Department, Transport Department, Health Department, and Education Department, as well as urban practitioners, academicians, and civil society organizations to have a nuanced understanding of these concepts and take practical steps toward creating child- and caregiver-friendly urban spaces.

It also aims to provide city officials with practical guidance on integrating the needs of young children and their caregivers into their daily operations, promoting the adoption of play culture to foster positive play practices among caregivers.

Vision of Jabalpur Khel Plan

"Jabalpur envisions becoming a playful city for all by 2037, offering safe, green, accessible, and inclusive play opportunities within 500 meters of every neighbourhood."



खेल	K-H-E-L
A city which is	**K**id-friendly where children enjoy playing in accessible public spaces
A city that promotes	**H**ealth and well-being of young children through engaging in play in natural settings, fostering cognitive development
A city for	**E**mpowering communities to actively engage in the city's development and promote importance of outdoor play
A city that	**L**evels play opportunity for everyone, regardless of socio-economic status, age, gender, or physical and mental abilities

2.5

Jabalpur Khel Plan targets

Jabalpur has set four main targets to be achieved by 2037, following a comprehensive analysis of existing city spaces and adhering to global and national standards. These targets aim to create safe, green, accessible, playful, and inclusive neighbourhoods for young children and families, aligning with the city's development trend. Through systematic efforts, the city plans to enhance and expand the quality of existing play spaces by 2037.

Target 1.
Ensure access to safe and inclusive play spaces within 500 meters of every neighbourhood by developing new play spaces and upgrading existing ones, preferably in informal settlements.

Target 2.
Ensure that 55–60% of space within both new and existing play areas is designated for young children (0–5 years), incorporating age-appropriate activities.

Target 3.
Ensure new and retrofitted play spaces are safe and accessible for young children, caregivers (including pregnant women) and other vulnerable users, with yearly audits conducted.

Target 4.
Create greener and nature-based play spaces in all new and existing play areas.

The following section outlines the five targets and the corresponding actions aimed at achieving these targets by the city government. It further identifies the relevant stakeholders accountable for completing these targets and actions.

Target 1: Ensure access to safe and inclusive play spaces within 500 meters of every neighbourhood by developing new play spaces and upgrading existing ones, preferably in informal settlements.	
Action 1: Develop 48 new play spaces each year, preferably in or near informal settlements, as per applicable design guidelines. (See Section 3.8: Key Solution Domains) **Action 2:** Enhance 40 existing or underutilized play spaces each year, preferably in informal settlements as per applicable design guidelines. (See Section 3.8: Key Solution Domains) **Action 3:** Enhance walkability to play spaces by improving at least 300 m of walkways leading to these play spaces every 6 months, as per relevant design guidelines. (See 3.8 Key Solution Domains)	
Stakeholders involved	JMC, JSCL, JCTSL, Traffic Department, Garden Department, Colony Cell, PWD

Target 2: Ensure that 55–60% of space within both new and existing play areas is designated for young children (0–5 years), incorporating age-appropriate activities.	
Action 1: Integrate age-specific play opportunities (including nature-based, sensory, and unstructured play opportunities) across 88 play spaces (both new and existing) each year for young children (0–5 years), ensuring that each space supports at least two key activities tailored to the following age groups: 0–1 years: crawling, standing, climbing, rolling, grabbing 1–3 years: balancing, kicking, touching flowers, observing, sitting without support 3–5 years: doodling, chasing peers, singing, jumping, building, climbing (Source: Playground Ideas for 0–3 Years) **Action 2:** Install a minimum of 100 units of age-appropriate, nature-based play equipment annually, all fabricated through the carpentry workshop. **Action 3:** Organize a quarterly toy donation drive through a toy bank to benefit children in informal settlements, anganwadis, all-ability schools, and pre-primary schools.	
Stakeholders involved	JMC, JSCL, Garden Department

Target 3: Ensure new and retrofitted play spaces are safe and accessible for young children, caregivers (including pregnant women) and other vulnerable users, with yearly audits conducted.	
Action 1: Develop a safety audit framework for play spaces catering to 0-5-year-olds and other vulnerable groups in society. **Action 2:** Mandate the adoption of the safety audit framework by the Garden Department to ensure regular, systematic assessments and timely maintenance of all play spaces. **Action 3:** Conduct safety audits and improve play spaces as per safety considerations of at least 88 parks annually (22 parks every three months) based on the safety audit assessments.	
Stakeholders involved	JMC, JSCL, JCTSL, Garden Department, PWD

Target 4: Create greener and nature-based play spaces in all new and existing play areas.	
Action 1: Limit hardscape to a maximum of 25% in all new play spaces developed each year and enhance existing play spaces with additional greening based on annual site assessments. **Action 2:** Plant a minimum of 60,000 trees annually through monthly plantation drives to strengthen green cover in 88 play spaces (both new and existing). **Action 3:** Reserve 10% of space in each of all new play spaces annually for planting air-purifying saplings, along with flowering, fruiting, vibrantly coloured, butterfly-attracting, and fragrant plant species to enhance sensory engagement and biodiversity. (See page 102 for the list of suitable plants) Explore similar greening interventions in existing play spaces where feasible.	
Stakeholders involved	JMC, JSCL, Garden Department

Disclaimer:

- *The city area considered for the year 2025 is 263.54 sq km (excluding the cantonment area).*
- *The analyses are based on data available with JSCL from the year 2025.*
- *The Khel Cell will review targets and update as required annually, taking into account the city's expansion and changes in its population. It must also track progress and assess achievements.*



Source: WRI India

Towards a playful Jabalpur

Chapter 3

Chapter 3 outlines the critical role of a data-driven approach in implementing the Jabalpur Khel Plan to ensure inclusive, equitable, and accessible play spaces. It introduces key parameters for analysis – accessibility and serviceability. By using spatial and non-spatial data across city, ward and site level, to provide a comprehensive understanding of current play opportunities and infrastructure needs, and strategies to bridge existing gaps.

The chapter concludes by highlighting four key solution domains identified through data analysis for developing play spaces in the city: making streets safe and walkable, reimagining underutilized public open spaces, adapting public spaces with early childhood amenities, and improving connectivity to essential early childhood facilities.

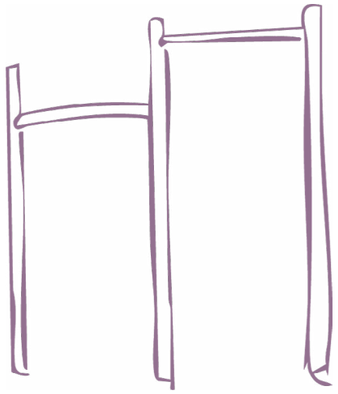
3.1

Need for a data-driven approach to implement Jabalpur Khel Plan

A data-driven approach to planning and designing play spaces is crucial for effectively implementing Jabalpur's Khel Plan. By utilizing tools like geospatial analysis, demographic studies, and behavioural data, technical experts can identify underserved areas, ensuring equitable access to play spaces within a walkable range for all neighbourhoods.

This data-centric methodology enables the development of diverse and inclusive age-appropriate play zones that cater to all age groups.

This approach ensures efficient resource allocation, and evidence-based decision-making while enhancing engagement with local stakeholders and continuous monitoring to further enhance existing play spaces over time.



3.2

Methodology

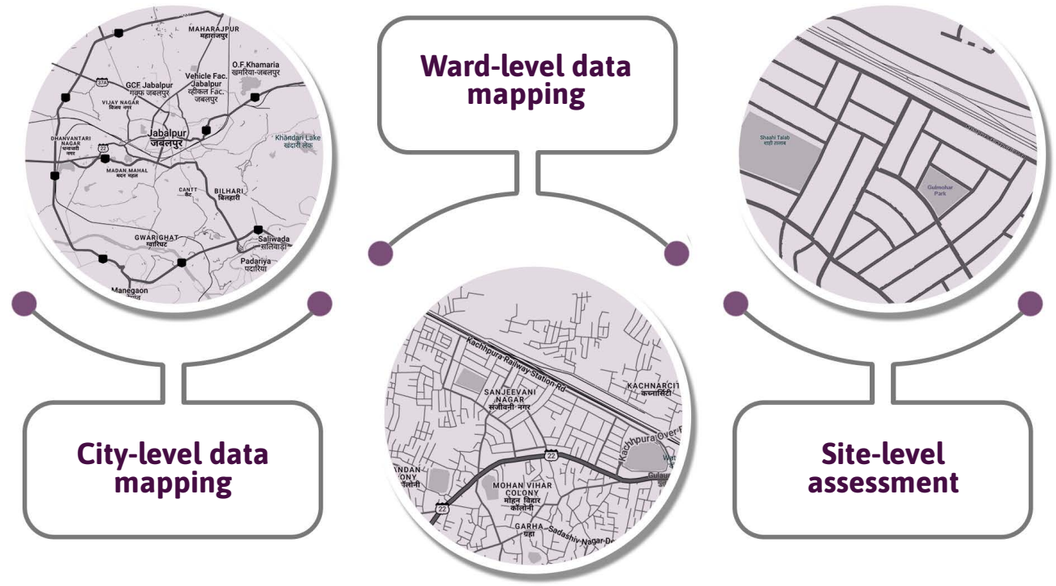
This data-driven approach used for the development of the Jabalpur Khel Plan involves data collection, mapping, analysis, and visualization of data at three levels- city, ward, and site.

The first level involves a city-wide analysis of existing play opportunities, focusing on service gaps in the provision of play opportunities based on population needs.

The second level consists of ward-level data mapping to analyze deficient wards in the city and identify areas of intervention.

The process concludes with a broad site assessment, whether of existing or proposed sites, along with the gathering of both physical and user-oriented data to outline the project's scope of intervention.

Data-centric approach to implement Jabalpur Khel Plan



Data collection and analysis at three levels- city, ward and site; *Source: WRI India*

3.3

Types of data

The types of data which should be collected for analysis include both spatial and non-spatial data, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the context.

Spatial data includes geospatial information such as the locations, total areas, and pedestrian walksheds (300-meter radius from the facility) of key destinations frequented by young children and their caregivers and includes distance of these facilities from informal settlements. These destinations include parks, open spaces, anganwadis, preschools, daycare centers, primary health centers, women and child hospitals including maternity hospitals, and transit stations.

Non-spatial data involves collecting physical attributes and user-centric insights, such as space usage patterns, and demographic details, which collectively inform the scope of intervention.

This combined approach to data collection ensures that the analysis addresses both the physical environment and the needs of its users, enabling well-rounded and actionable outcomes.



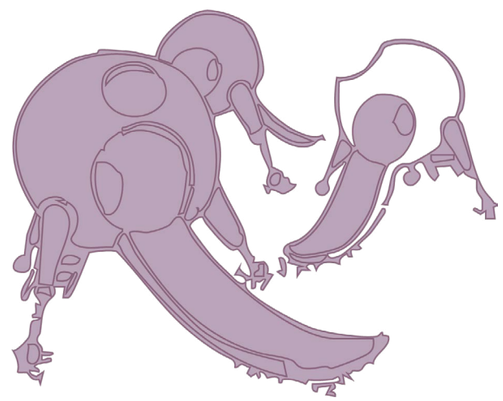
3.4

Parameters for data analysis

Ensuring young children's optimal growth and development requires creating environments that cater to their limited mobility and reliance on caregivers. As they rarely travel beyond 800 meters from home, public spaces must be accessible, inclusive, and equitably distributed. Studying **accessibility** and **serviceability** helps identify gaps in existing infrastructure and supports the development of safer, more child-friendly urban environments.

Accessibility: Accessibility focuses on the ease of accessing public facilities, particularly for infants in strollers and toddlers with limited mobility. Families with young children move at a slower pace, limiting their access to facilities to within a 5-minute walking distance. Ensuring proximity and navigable pathways is vital to making public spaces truly accessible.

Serviceability: Serviceability examines the availability and equitable distribution of urban services, amenities, and parks. In Indian cities, disparities in providing these resources across various wards or neighbourhoods are evident. When benchmarked against the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) guidelines and the National Building Code of India (NBC), it becomes clear that many areas lack the necessary infrastructure and amenities to serve their populations effectively when considering population density.



3.5

City-level data analysis

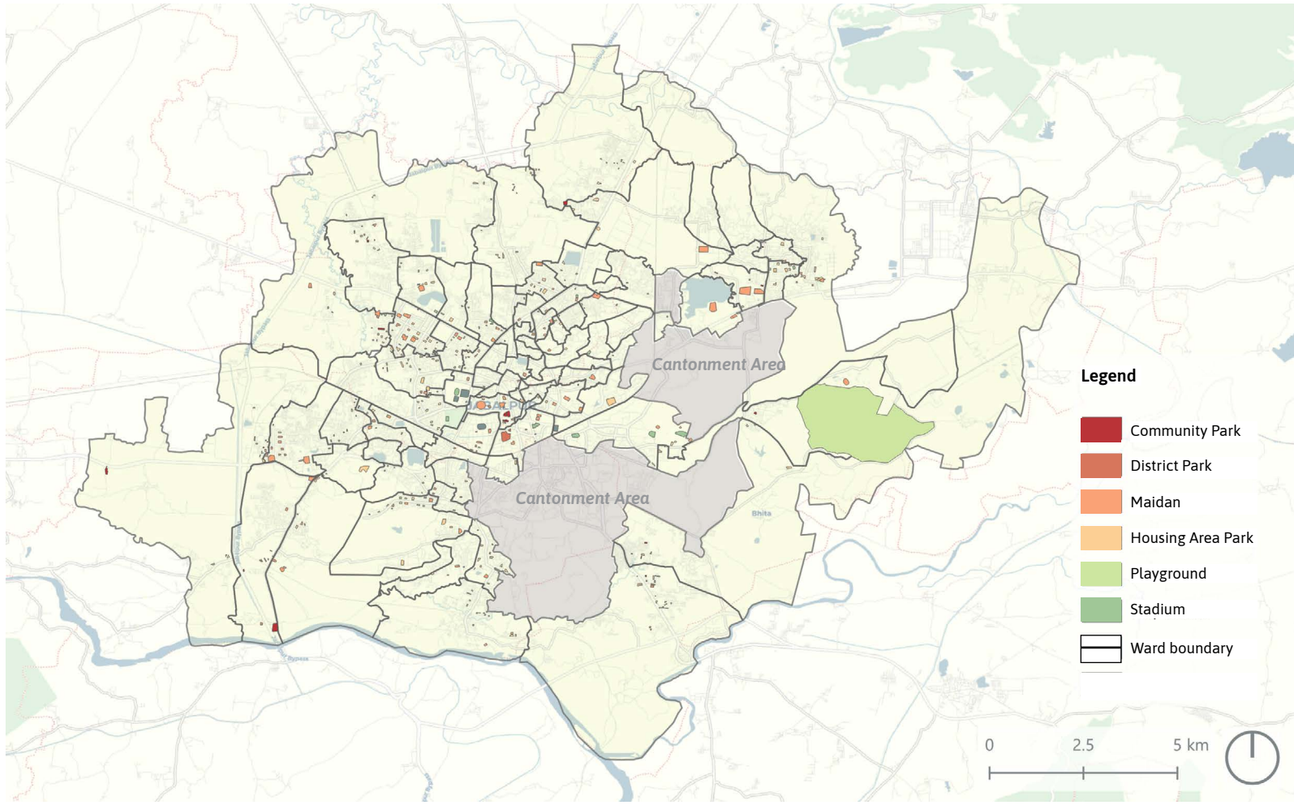
City-level data analysis plays a pivotal role in understanding the current landscape of play opportunities, enabling a focused evaluation of service gaps based on population needs. By assessing the accessibility and serviceability of existing play and recreation spaces, we can identify underserved areas and gaps between available facilities and demographic demands, particularly for young children and their caregivers. This ensures a comprehensive approach to enhance equitable access, prioritizing interventions where they are needed most and fostering inclusive environments for play and community well-being.

3.5.1

City-level mapping of existing parks and open spaces

This analysis reveals that 480 parks and open spaces currently function as play areas in Jabalpur.
As per the Jabalpur Development Plan 2021, recreational areas—including parks, playgrounds, open spaces, stadiums, and forest areas, constitute approximately 7.36% (702 hectare) of the total land area.
Similarly, we need to conduct city-level mapping of existing educational and healthcare facilities, including anganwadis, crèches, and primary health centers.

**Disclaimer:* The mapping visualization presented is based on the available data with Jabalpur city agencies and are subjected to change, with availability of additional information.*



The map above illustrates the existing typologies of open spaces across Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*

Data layers used for analysis	
Layer 1	Ward boundaries
Layer 2	Existing open spaces including parks, playgrounds, stadium, etc.

3.5.2

Accessibility to existing parks and open spaces for pedestrians

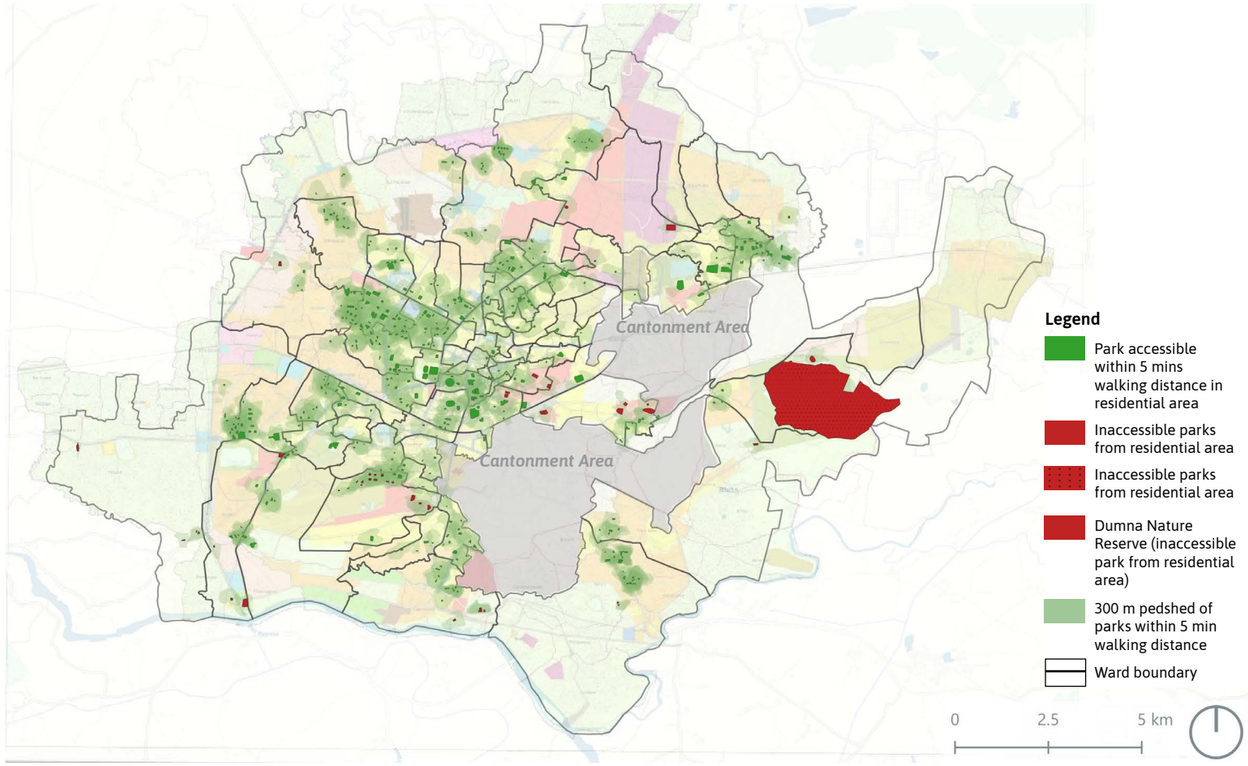
Families with young children tend to move at a slower pace, making distances beyond 300 meters—or more than a 5 to 10-minute walk—impractical. To ensure easy access to recreational spaces for young children and their caregivers, it is crucial to locate these spaces within a 300-meter pedestrian walkshed of neighbourhoods.

Therefore, a geospatial analysis of the 300-meter pedestrian walkshed (equivalent to a 5-minute walking distance) from open spaces in residential areas has been done.

The accessibility mapping of parks within Jabalpur's residential areas reveals a significant gap in green space availability. Out of the 4,734 hectares of residential land designated in the Jabalpur Development Plan 2021, only 27.69 hectares have access to parks and open spaces within a convenient five-minute walking distance, based on available data. While the Dumna Nature Reserve serves as a significant recreational area, it functions as a city-level facility that attracts visitors from across the region rather than serving as a localized green space for residential neighbourhoods.

This highlights the urgent need for the development of additional parks, along with a more equitable distribution to ensure all residential areas have adequate access to green spaces.

A similar analysis will be conducted for existing educational and healthcare facilities, including anganwadis, crèches, and primary health centers, to evaluate their accessibility and equitable distribution across the area.



The map above illustrates accessibility to parks and other open spaces for pedestrians across Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*

Data layers used for analysis	
Layer 1	Ward boundaries
Layer 2	Existing open spaces including parks, playgrounds, stadium, etc.
Layer 3	300 m pedestrian walkshed from exisiting parks & other open spaces (5 min walking distance)
Layer 4	Land use plan

**Disclaimer:* *The mapping visualization presented is based on the available data with Jabalpur city agencies and are subjected to change, with availability of additional information.*

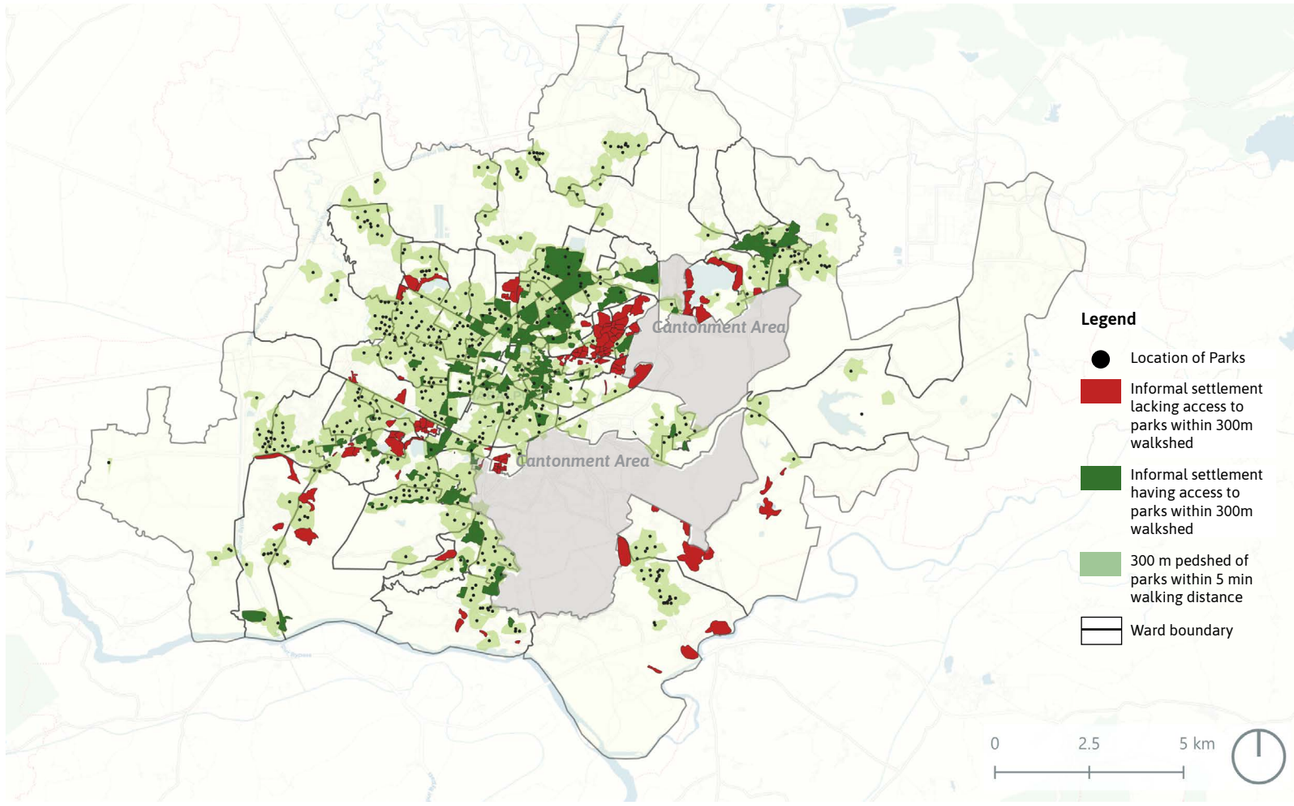
3.5.3

Accessibility to existing parks and open spaces in informal settlements

Analyzing the accessibility of people living in informal settlements to parks and open spaces is crucial for promoting social equity, mental well-being, and environmental justice. These spaces serve as essential buffers against urban heat, provide recreational and community-building opportunities, and enhance overall quality of life, particularly for marginalized populations with limited access to private green areas.

Therefore, a geospatial analysis of the 300-meter pedestrian walkshed (equivalent to a 5-minute walking distance) from open spaces in and around informal settlements has been done. Approximately 78% of informal settlements are located within 5-minute walking distance of parks and open spaces.

A similar analysis will be conducted for existing educational and healthcare facilities, including anganwadis, crèches, and primary health centers, to assess their accessibility and ensure equitable service provision for the population in informal settlements.



The map illustrates accessible open space in the informal settlements; *Source: WRI India*

Data layers used for analysis	
Layer 1	Ward boundaries
Layer 2	Informal settlements
Layer 3	Existing open spaces including parks, playgrounds, stadium, etc.
Layer 4	300 m pedestrian walkshed from existing parks & other open spaces (5 min walking distance)

**Disclaimer:* *The mapping visualization presented is based on the available data with Jabalpur city agencies and are subjected to change, with availability of additional information.*

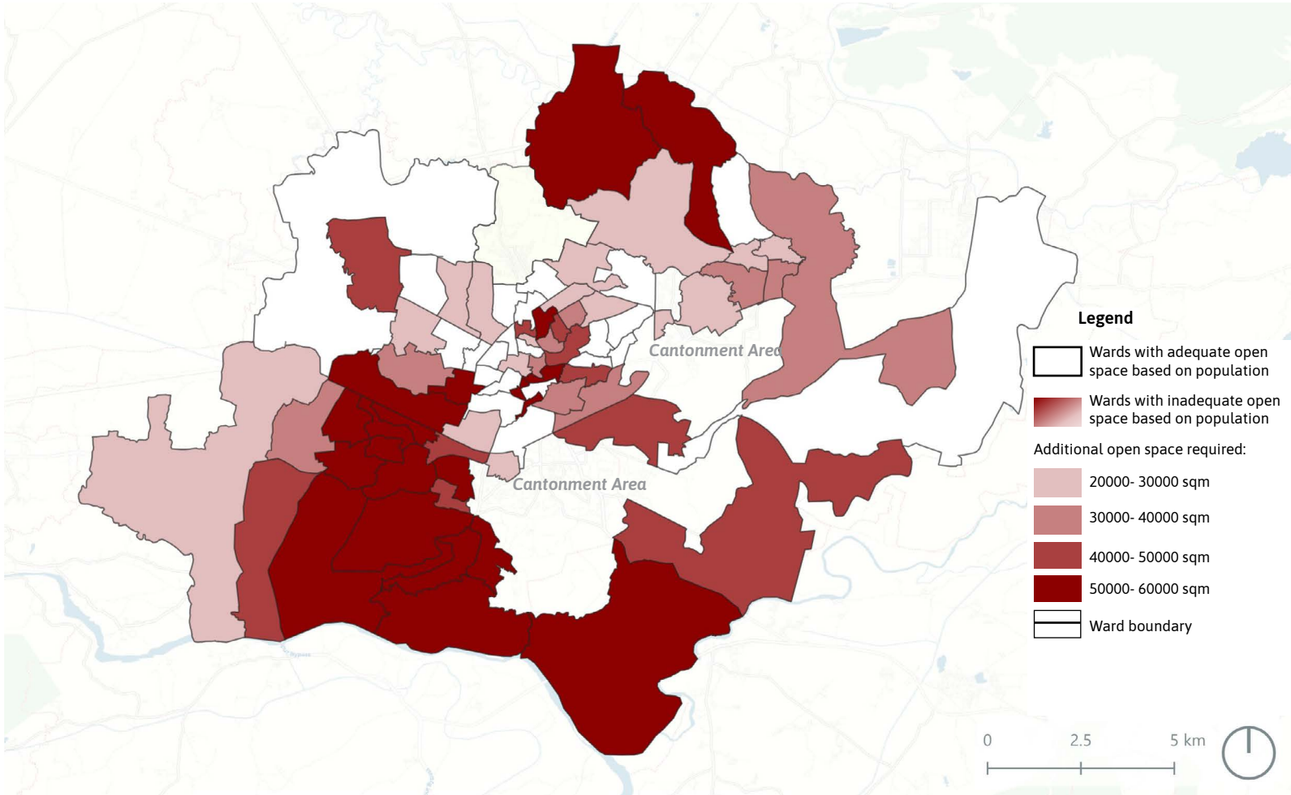
3.5.4
Serviceability of existing parks and open spaces

According to the National Building Code of India 2016 (NBC), a minimum of 3 sqm of open space is required per person. Currently, only 22% of wards meet or exceed this standard, while the remaining 78% fall short and require additional open space area.

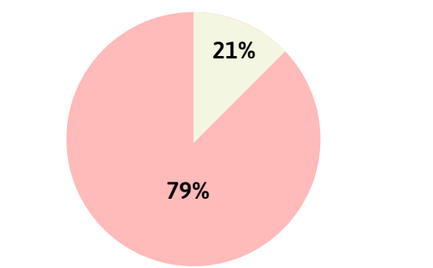
A similar analysis will be conducted to assess the serviceability of existing educational and healthcare facilities, including anganwadis, crèches, and primary health centers, ensuring their effective distribution.

Below is the current recommendation by Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) specified for anganwadi centers and primary health centers in India which will aid in analyzing the demand for these public facilities.

- Anganwadi Center: 1 Anganwadi for every 5000 people
- Primary Health Center (PHC): 1 PHC for every 50000 people



The map above illustrates the ward-wise additional areas (in sqm) required for parks and other open spaces, based on ward populations and NBC standards; *Source: WRI India*



Data layers used for analysis	
Layer 1	Ward boundaries with population
Layer 2	Area of Open Space required as per population (in sqm)

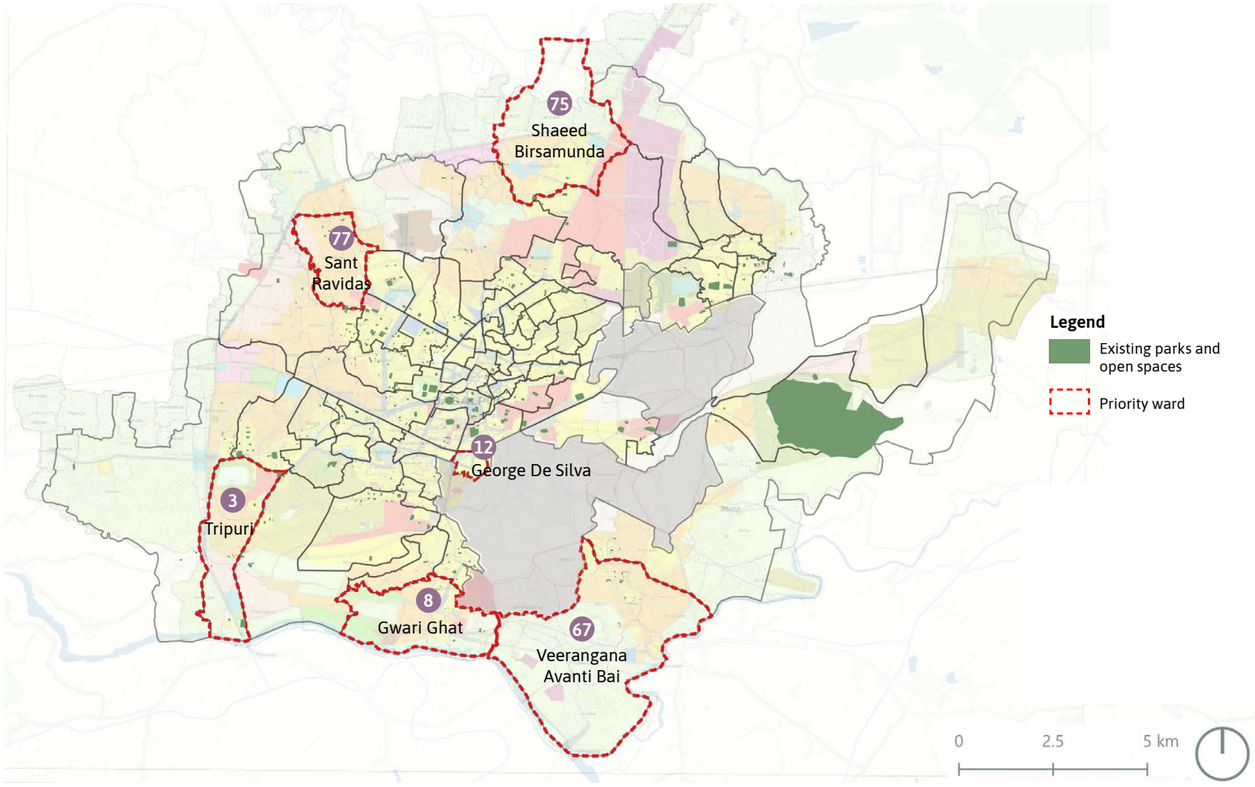
**Disclaimer:* *The mapping visualization presented is based on the available data with Jabalpur city agencies and are subjected to change, with availability of additional information.*

3.5.5

Comprehensive city-level analysis of wards

To effectively identify priority wards for intervention, we need to overlay both city-level accessibility and serviceability maps of existing facilities (parks and open spaces).

This combined analysis will help identify wards where gaps in infrastructure and inequitable access exist, ensuring that resources and improvements are directed toward the wards that need them the most. Likewise, we need to integrate city-level mapping of existing educational and healthcare facilities, such as anganwadis, crèches, and primary health centers, to identify priority wards for intervention.



The map above illustrates prioritized wards based on the analysis; *Source: WRI India*

Data layers used for analysis	
Layer 1	Landuse Plan
Layer 2	Existing open spaces including parks, playgrounds, stadium, etc.

**Disclaimer:* *The mapping visualization presented is based on the available data with Jabalpur city agencies and are subjected to change, with availability of additional information.*

3.6

Ward-level data analysis

A city-level analysis of existing play opportunities helps identify wards that require additional play spaces. Ward-level analysis is essential for evaluating areas lacking adequate and accessible play spaces, allowing for targeted interventions based on accessibility to parks and open spaces. George De Silva Ward has been taken as a case study, and similar analyses can be conducted for all wards.

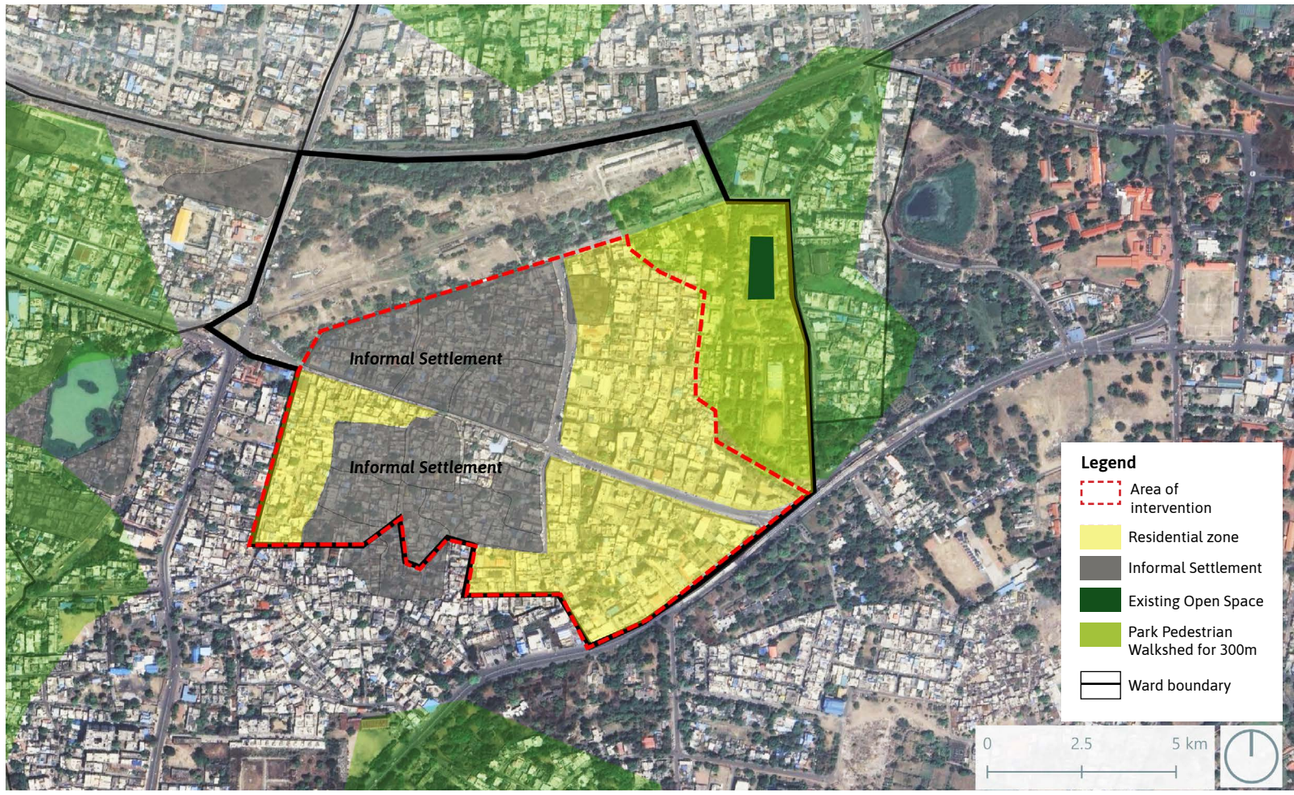
Analysis of George De Silva Ward (Ward 12):
Based on ward-level data analysis, Ward 12 has a shortfall of approximately 42000 sqm (0.042 sq.km) of open space. For a more detailed assessment, a 300-meter pedestrian walk shed around the existing park within the ward has been mapped onto the perimeter of the residential zone and informal settlement boundary. The red dotted lines indicate areas where access to park facilities may be challenging for young children and caregivers.

- **Ward area:** 0.65 sq. km
- **Ward Population:** 14,177 (Census 2011)

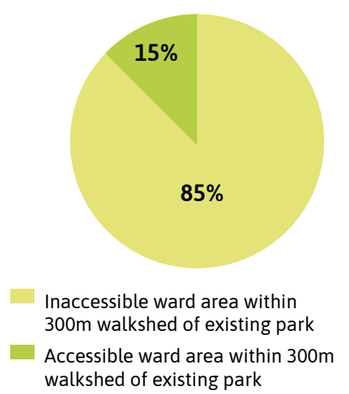
Analysis:
- **Parks Serviceability:** According to the open play space requirement, the ward does not meet the standard of more than 3 sqm per person, as recommended by the National Building Code (NBC).
- **Parks Accessibility:** Parks are not well distributed within the ward, with only 15% of the area falling within a 300-meter walking distance from an existing park.

Recommendation: To address these deficiencies, priority should be given to the areas highlighted by the red dotted lines within the ward. These locations should be considered for the development of new parks and open spaces to improve accessibility and serviceability for residents, particularly young children and caregivers.

A similar analysis will be conducted for existing educational and healthcare facilities, including anganwadis, crèches, and primary health centers, to assess their serviceability and ensure equitable service provision in the ward.



Analysis of existing parks and open spaces in George Da Silva Ward; *Source: WRI India*



Data layers used for analysis	
Layer 1	Ward boundary
Layer 2	Residential Zone
Layer 3	Informal Settlement
Layer 4	Existing parks and open spaces in Ward 12
Layer 5	300m pedestrian walkshed from existing open space

**Disclaimer:* *The mapping visualization presented is based on the available data with Jabalpur city agencies and are subjected to change, with availability of additional information.*

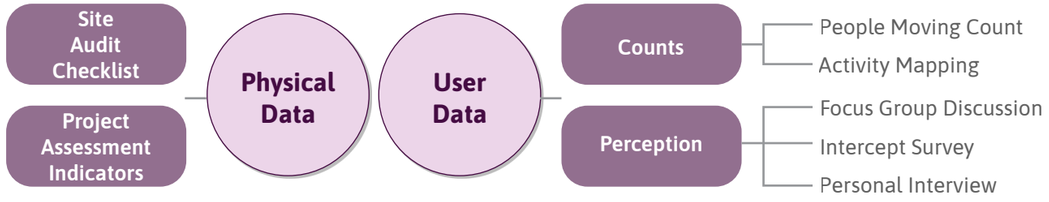
3.7

Site-level data analysis

A site assessment, whether for an existing or planned project, involves gathering physical and user-focused data to define the project's scope. Assessing young children and caregiver-centric facilities can identify gaps and areas for improvement in each project. This process also helps cities create tailored site designs by engaging relevant stakeholders and using insights to guide similar initiatives citywide.

After implementation, these tools can periodically measure impact, compare results with baseline data, and support effective evaluation and monitoring, ultimately guiding project improvements based on key learnings.

To conduct a site assessment, consider using the following on-ground data collection tools:



Data collection tools; *Source: WRI India*

3.7.1

Physical data collection

a. **Site Audit Checklist:** The checklists (street, park/ playground and ECD center design checklists) are divided into two sections: core guidelines (mandatory) and supportive guidelines (optional). This structure helps government agencies and technical experts identify intervention needs, prioritize them based on site context, and customize plans to suit each project's unique conditions.

b. **Project Assessment Indicators:** Derived from the ITCN Framework, the indicators align with its five objectives—safe, green, accessible, play, and inclusive—to foster thriving neighbourhoods for children.

They serve three main purposes-

- Establish benchmarks and gather data on child-friendly aspects of specific areas or facilities.
- Help city authorities assess current site condition and develop pertinent solutions.
- Monitor and measure the impact of site-level interventions on the routines of young children and their caregivers.

**Note: All data collection formats have been provided in the annexure for reference.*









Design Guidelines Checklist; *Source: WRI India*

2	**Safety of young children and their caregivers at the parks**	
	1. Compound Wall	
	a. Total length of the permeable compound wall facilitating outsiders to see the activities within the park.	##
	b. Total length of the peripheral compound wall	##
	2. Play Area	
	a. Does the play equipments have sharp edges	Yes/No
	b. Are there multiple level differences within the play area	Yes/No
	c. Is the play area along the road side and exposed to vehicular traffic	Yes/No
	3. Other Risks	
	a. Is there a risk of electrocution from open transformers in the close proximity to the play area	Yes/No
	b. Are there any open drains and nallas along the streets in the close proximity to the play area	Yes/No
	b.1 Total length of open drains closed	
	c. Are there any water bodies, rivers, puddles, open tanks posing as a risk for drowning	Yes/No
	a. Are their any deserted or desolated spaces within the park which could be a potential or perceived risk for ITC	Yes/No
	b. Are there instances of Incompatible activities such as encroachments, nuisance etc in the park	Yes/No
	Instructions/descriptions	
	1. Permeable compound wall- observe the section of the compound wall with planters, fences, brick or stone jalis, etc. which makes the wall see through at the height of 80 cm (Permeable boundary walls create a sense of safety to the young children)	
	2. Electrocution is the injury or killing of someone by electric shock	
	3. Observe if there are any specific spaces within the park with no footfall due to some reason that might be risky for ITCs	
	Ease of accessibility to the park for ITC	
	1.General	
	a. For how many hours in a day is the park open?	##
	b. Specify the timings	##
	c. Is there any kind of ticketing for the park?	##
	d. Total area of the park accessible for young children and their caregivers for play and other activities?	##
	2. Access to the park	
	Quality of pedestrian Infrastructure along parks	
	delineate a project boundary keeping in mind the area of intervention, major access points and roads wherever the impact can be seen.	

Parks and Gardens-Project Assessment Indicators; *Source: WRI India*

3.7.2
User data collection

a. **People moving count:** by analyzing footfall patterns, demographics, and activity zones, we can identify peak usage times, preferred pathways, and underutilized areas. This data helps tailor spaces to meet user needs, improve accessibility, and address safety concerns, such as poorly lit or isolated zones.

b. **Activity mapping:** it captures how spaces are used, offering important insights for site-level decision-making. By observing and documenting activities across different zones, we can identify high-use areas, underutilized spaces, and patterns of interaction. It also informs design adjustments to support diverse activities, improve accessibility, and foster inclusivity. It is essential to analyze this data alongside people moving count results for a better understanding of the observations.

Observations : People Moving Count

Location:	PJ Antony Cultural Ground
Survey date:	12/03/2025
Survey done by:	

Observe people during peak hours on both weekdays and weekends for one hour morning, afternoon and evening, respectively.
Stand at all entry/exit points

1. Week Day - Morning

9:45 AM to 9:55 AM

	10 min	Total
Pregnant Women		
Children (0-2)		
Children (3-5)		3
Children (> 5)		
Caregiver - Female		1
Caregiver - Male		2
Caregiver - Elderly		
Others - Male		
Others - Female		3

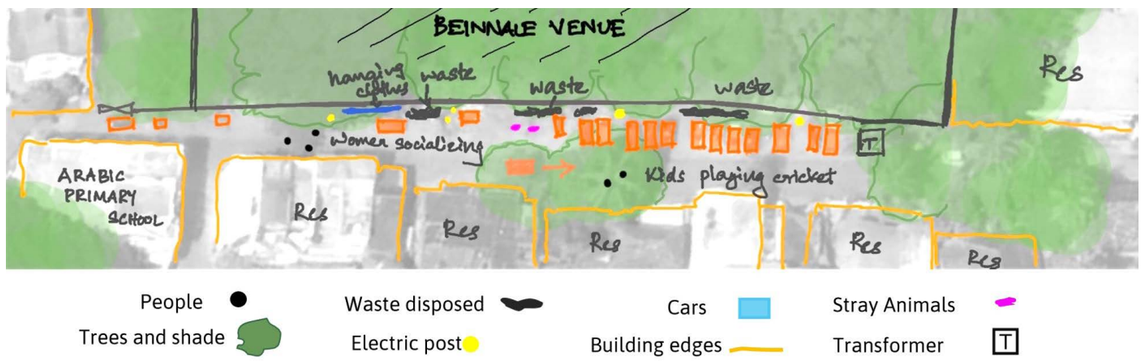
9:55 AM to 10:05 AM

	10 min	Total
Pregnant Women		
Children (0-2)		
Children (3-5)		2
Children (> 5)		2
Caregiver - Female		3
Caregiver - Male		
Caregiver - Elderly		
Others - Male		2
Others - Female		2

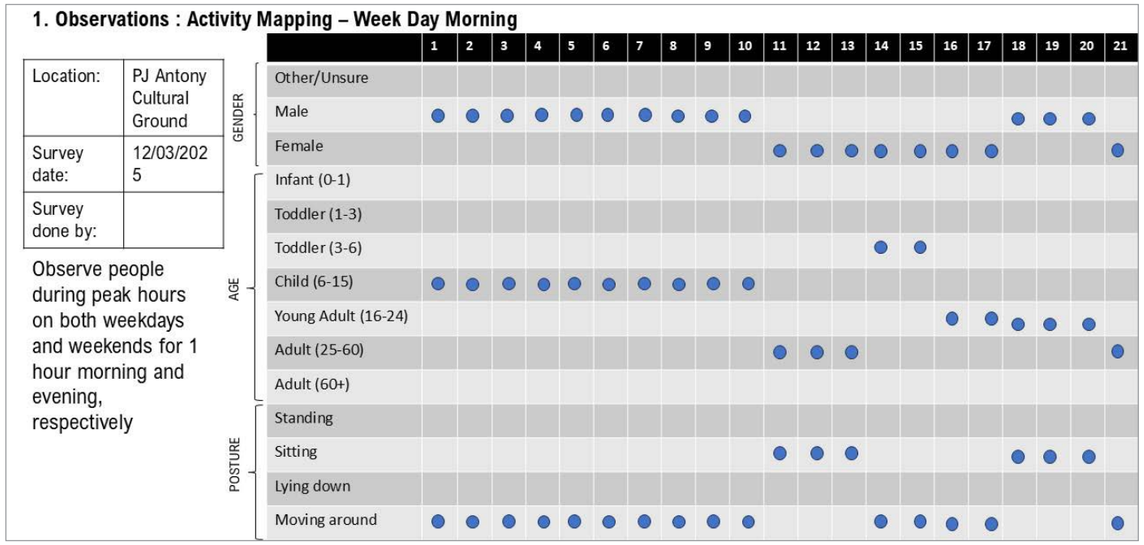
10:05 AM to 10:15 AM

	10 min	Total
Pregnant Women		
Children (0-2)		
Children (3-5)	1	1
Children (> 5)		
Caregiver - Female		
Caregiver - Male		
Caregiver - Elderly		
Others - Male		4
Others - Female		5

Illustrative example of People Moving Count; *Source: WRI India*



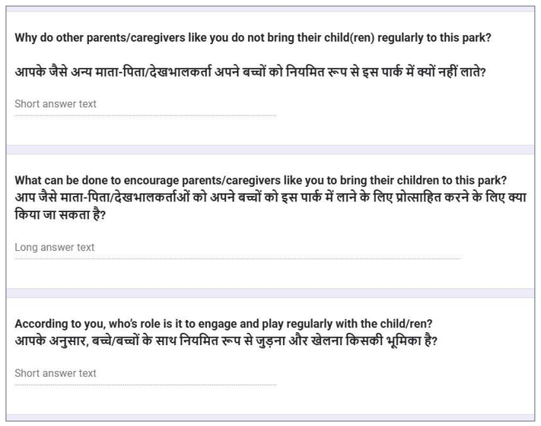
Illustrative example of Activity Mapping; *Source: WRI India*



Illustrative example of Activity Mapping; *Source: WRI India*

c. **Intercept surveys:** these surveys provide direct, on-the-spot feedback from users, offering insights into their needs, preferences, and experiences. It provides supporting evidence for observations made through alternative survey methods like activity mapping and people moving count. By engaging with people at the site, we can gather qualitative and quantitative data on usage patterns, satisfaction levels, and specific concerns.

d. **In- depth interviews:** individual interviews are useful for gathering personal experiences and having detailed discussions on specific topics. This approach should be used at different stages of a project, ranging from its initiation to execution, and helps create a sense of ownership among participants.



Illustrative example of Intercept Survey; *Source: WRI India*



Personal Interview with a user of Gulmohar Park, Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*

e. **Focus group discussion:** this tool helps gather feedback from a group on specific issues, providing insights and suggestions for improving facilities for young children and caregivers. This method should be used throughout the project, from planning to implementation, and helps build a sense of community ownership.



Focus group discussion with residents of Brij Mohan Nagar neighbourhood in Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*



Focus group discussion with city officials of Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*

3.8
Key solution domains

Following the data analysis, key solution domains identified as areas for intervention where the city can develop play spaces are as follows:

1. **Make streets safe & walkable:** prioritize child-friendly streets with safe pedestrian walkways.
2. **Reimagine public open spaces for play & recreation:** transform underutilized spaces into dynamic play and recreation zones.
3. **Improve access to early childhood facilities:** enhance connectivity to anganwadis, preschools, and healthcare centers.
4. **Adapt public spaces with early childhood amenities:** incorporate features such as nursing booths, shaded seating, toilets, and drinking water for young children and their caregivers.



Source: Coimbatore Smart City Ltd.

1 ***Make streets safe & walkable***



Source: Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.

2 ***Reimagine public open spaces for play & recreation***



Source: Jabalpur Smart City Ltd.

3 ***Improve access to early childhood development facilities***



Source: Rourkela Smart City Ltd.

4 ***Adapt public spaces with early childhood amenities***

These solution domains provide a comprehensive framework for creating safe, inclusive, and well-connected play environments that support the holistic growth of young children while enhancing the quality of urban living.

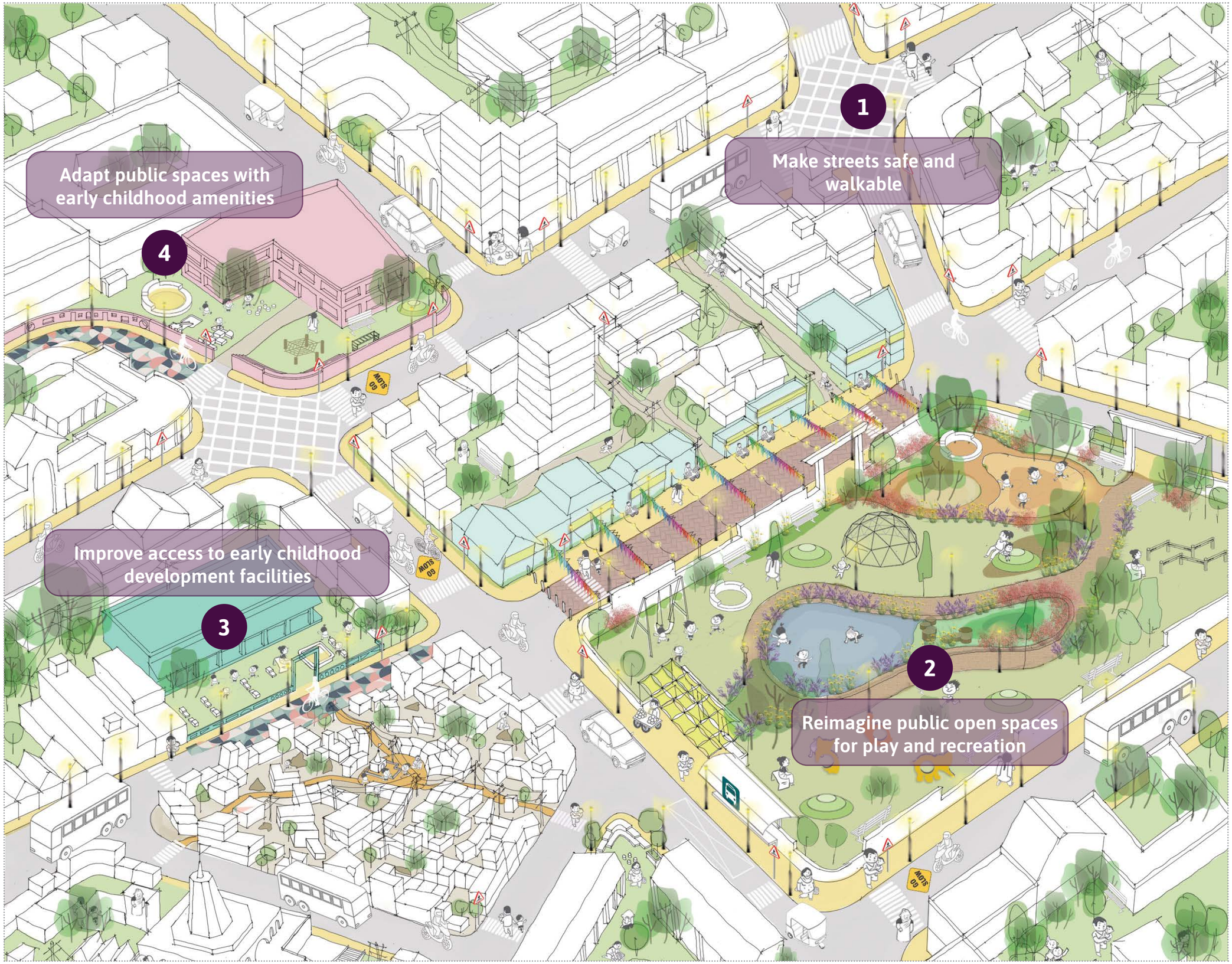


Illustration of young children and caregiver-friendly neighbourhood showcasing child-friendly streets, public spaces and ECD facilities; *Source: WRI India*



Source: Kohima Smart City Development Ltd.

3.8.1

Make streets safe and walkable

Ensuring streets are safe and pedestrian-friendly is essential for young children and their caregivers. This involves designing child-friendly pathways with proper signage, reduced vehicle speeds, and designated pedestrian crossings. Wider sidewalks, shaded walkways, and traffic-calming measures can encourage walking and create a safer environment for children to explore and commute.

Design elements

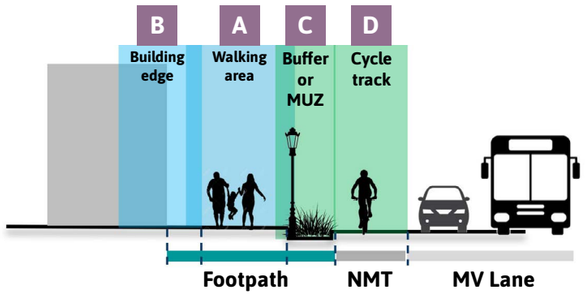
1. Footpath
2. Traffic calming measures
3. Pedestrian crossings
4. Visibility on streets
5. Junctions

1. Footpath

Footpaths are vital for pedestrian movement and vibrant street life, supporting social interactions and businesses. To create streets suited for young children and caregivers, footpaths must form a continuous, accessible network connected by safe pedestrian crossings. They should be safe, green, playful, inclusive, comfortable, and equipped with amenities for people of all ages and abilities.



Source: https://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/pune-s-footpaths-get-a-welcome-makeover/story-PYTc3snNJrvZXsvqOBFCaN.html



Footpath zones:

Provide footpath such that it has 4 distinguished zones:

A **Walking area-** Provide clear walking space.

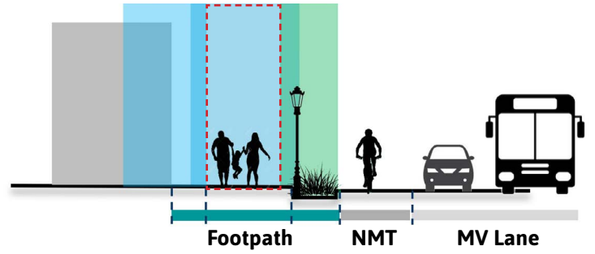
B **Building edge –** Provide adequate space between building and walking area. The building edge and buffer area can be treated in various ways based on local context and needs.

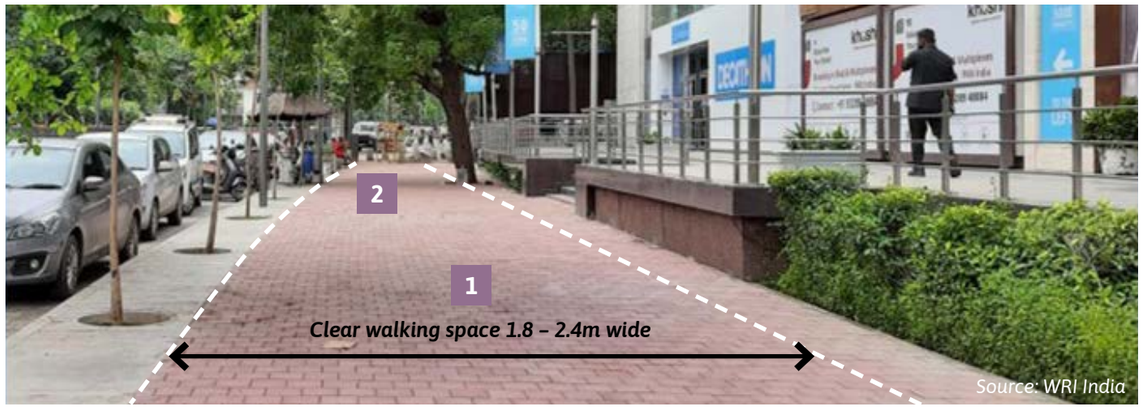
C **Buffer or Multi-utility zone (MUZ) –** Ensure adequate buffer/MUZ space between walking area and vehicular carriageway.

D **Cycle Track –** Ensure clear **1.5m– 2.5m** width for one-way track & between **2m-4m** width for two-way tracks

For more details, refer to pg 166 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

1.1 Walking area





Source: WRI India



Young children and caregivers are always minimum 2 people!

1 Provide **continuous wide clear walking space** to ensure safe walking

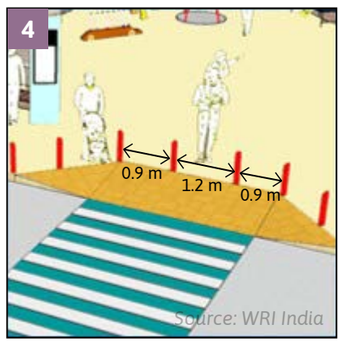
2 Ensure **a clear walking space** with **no obstructive elements on the footpath** such as poles, utility boxes to enhance driver's visibility

3 Provide **tactile paving strip** of suitable anti-skid material **along walkway** for universal accessibility

4 In case of **level differences in the footpath, provide ramps with gradual slope** for convenient walking



Source: WRI India



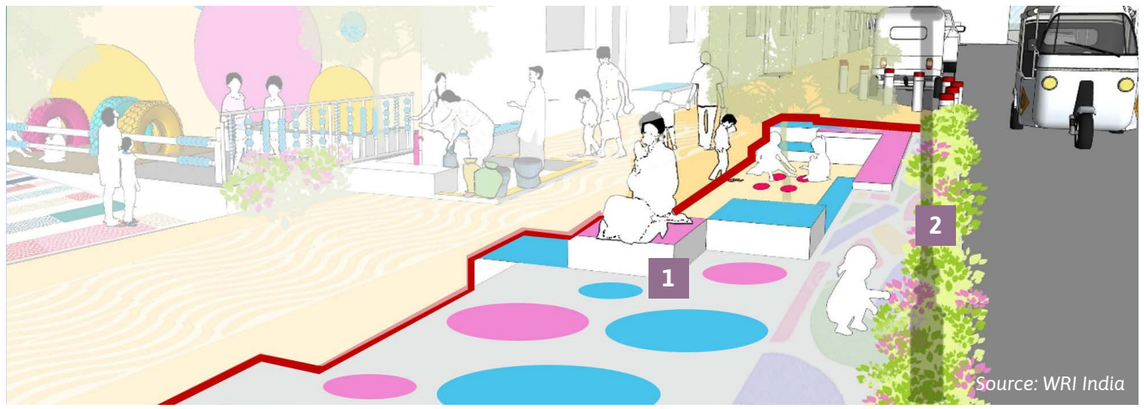
Source: WRI India

For more details, refer to pg 166 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

1.2 Rest and pause points

Pedestrian movement in the **footpath should be supported with rest and pause points at regular intervals (every 50-100m),** especially **along key young children and caregiver-oriented destinations** (such as near ECD services, parks and public spaces, commercial areas, transit stops).

Rest and pause points may be integrated with the buffer / MUZ. These spaces should be **supported with shade (through trees or canopies or pergolas), lighting, dustbins, dedicated vendor spaces** to ensure eyes on the street.



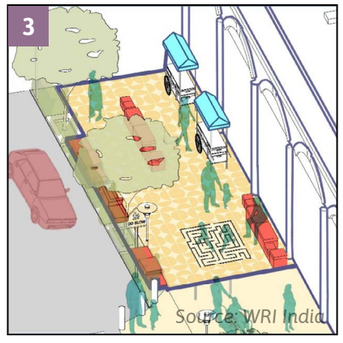
Source: WRI India

1 Provide **shaded clustered seating in the pause point** to ensure eyes on the street.

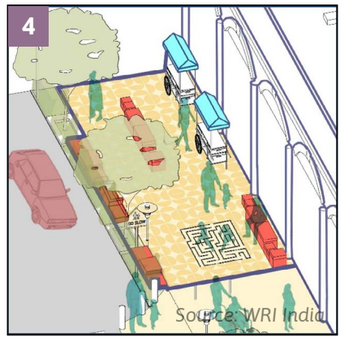
2 Provide **interactive elements such as sidewalk games, interactive wall surfaces, sensory elements such as flowering plants** in the pause points.

3 Ensure **dedicated vendor zones in the pause points** to activate the space and ensure eyes on the street.

4 Provide **amenities such as drinking water kiosks at child & adult height, dustbins, adequate lighting**, to ensure comfort in the pause points.



Source: WRI India



Source: WRI India

For more details, refer to pg 167 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

Seating

1 Provide multi-height seating options along the footpath, as clustered seating (in pause points) to enable both adults and young children to sit comfortably



Source: https://www.contemporist.com/11-parklets-you-wish-your-city-had/



Young children have low height – the average height of a 3-year-old child is 95cm

2 Provide low-height **seating for toddlers.**

3 Provide a **wider flat top for seats, to ensure safety for babies.**

4 Integrate **seating with other elements such as low-height bollards with flat tops, wooden cut logs, etc.**



Source: WRI India



Source:https://www.furnitubes.com/street-furniture/seats-benches/



Source:https://landezine.com/gradient-square-by-kanvinn-landscape-architecture/

For more details, refer to pg 167 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

1.3 Stimulating experiences at 1m along footpath

Streets should offer **stimulating experiences for young children, with sensory and play elements at 1m height along footpaths. Features such as touch, smell, and visual interactions** can be integrated into rest points to engage and attract children.



Source: WRI India



Source: https://pasisdesigns.org/pune.asp



Source: https://www.ceew.in/blogs/share-lane-making-delhi-safer-cycles-and-pedestrians

1. Provide **pop-up play elements such swings, seesaw, etc.** for play.
2. Provide **floor and wall-painted games and colourful patterns as informal wayfinding as sidewalk games** to engage children.
3. Provide **variety of flowering plants at the green buffer to stimulate sensory experiences.**
4. Provide **interactive railings such as abacus railing at 95cm** for play and protection.
5. Provide **colorful urban furniture such as low-height seating, benches.**

For more details, refer to pg 168 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

1.4 Lighting

1. Provide high **unadorned streetlights** that light the road surfaces, at **regular intervals.**
2. Provide **lower, attractive armatures of adequate lux level** to light footpaths and pavements.



Source: WRI India

3. Provide **low-level lighting where the paving is uneven,** or where there are steps to illuminate these obstacles better.
4. **Place lighting elements such that no shadow zones or dark spots** should be left along the footpath.
5. Place **lighting elements relative to the position of trees and other plants,** to avoid branches obstructing any light
6. **Avoid significant changes in lighting levels** along a street



Source:https://pt.aliexpress.com/item/1005001598045269.html



Source:https://www.gmrenlights.com/en/footpaths-lighting/#gref

For more details, refer to pg 168 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

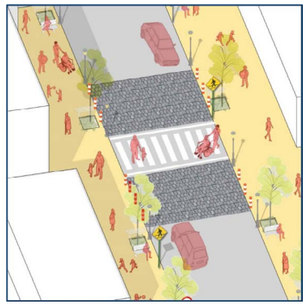
2. Traffic calming measures

1 Provide **traffic calming measures before pedestrian crossings, especially near young children and caregiver-oriented destinations** to slow down vehicles prior to the crossing.



Source: WRI India

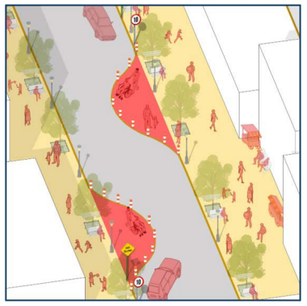
i. Cobble stone paving



ii. Rumble strip



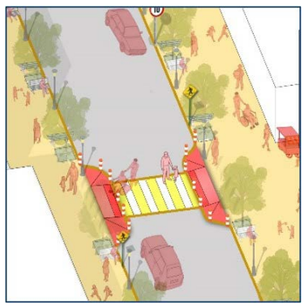
iii. Chicanes



iv. Table-top crossing



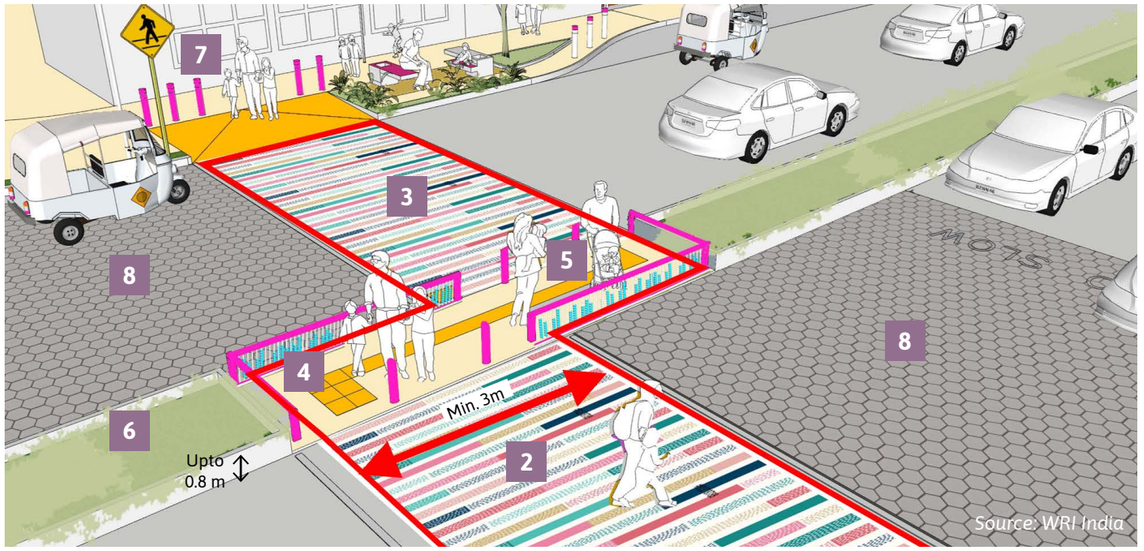
v. Bulb-outs



For more details, refer to pg 169 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

3. Pedestrian crossings

1 **Provide traffic calming measures before pedestrian crossings, especially near young children and caregiver-oriented destinations to slow down vehicles prior to the crossing.**



Source: WRI India



Young children have high risk of impact while crossing the street, due to their slow walking speed and low height

2 Ensure **min. 3m wide pedestrian crossing** highlighted with colourful patterns **(Tabletop or staggered crossing in case of high vehicular speeds).**

3 Provide **staggered crossing to increase effective refuge space on median,** allowing more ITC to wait and cross safely.

4 Provide **wide refuge spaces in the median break at crossing locations** to allow ITCs to safely wait and cross the street.

5 Ensure **refuge spaces in median break to be at the same level as crossing** to safely pause while crossing.

6 Ensure **height of plants in the median upto 0.8m** for clear visibility of ITCs in waiting.

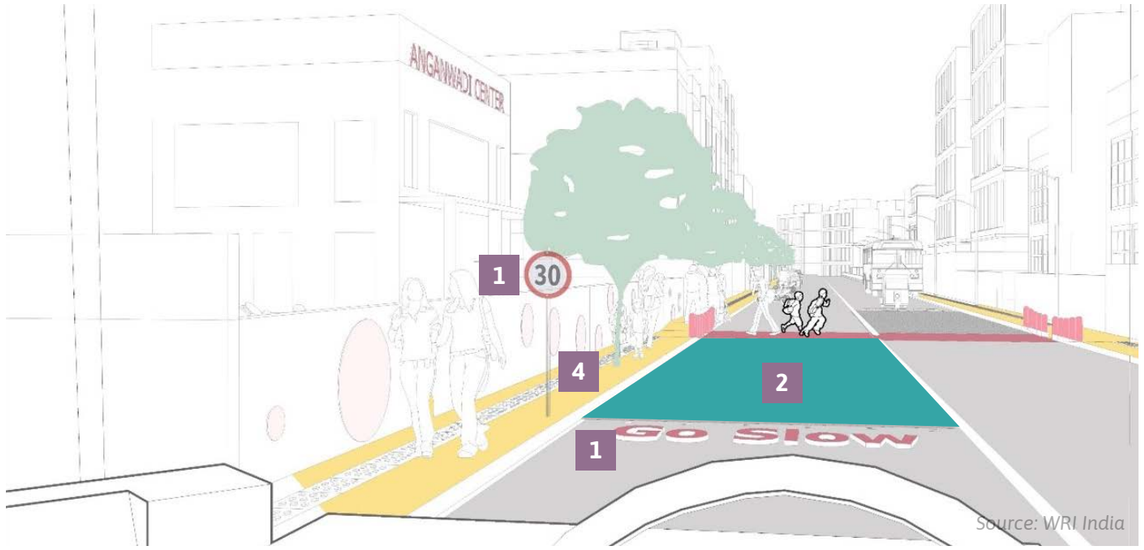
7 For **at-grade crossing provide ramps on either sides** connecting to footpath, with **bollards for protection.**

8 Provide **traffic calming (such as cobble stone, paver blocks, or rumble strip) before crossing** to slow down vehicles much prior.

For more details, refer to pg 170 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

4. Visibility on streets

Visibility for drivers



Source: WRI India

1 Provide **legible signage to alert drivers much prior to approaching pedestrian crossing.**

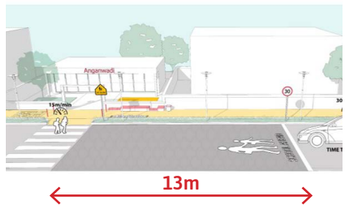
2 Provide **traffic calming 13m before pedestrian crossing** to reduce vehicular speed and enhance visibility.

3 Ensure **min. 13m distance between pedestrian crossing and STOP Line** to alert drivers to slow down before approaching pedestrian crossing.

4 Ensure **no obstructive elements on the footpath such as poles, utility boxes** to **enhance driver's visibility of ITC @1m height.**

5 **Place on-street parking bay, bus stops away from the pedestrian crossing** to ensure drivers can see ITCs waiting to cross

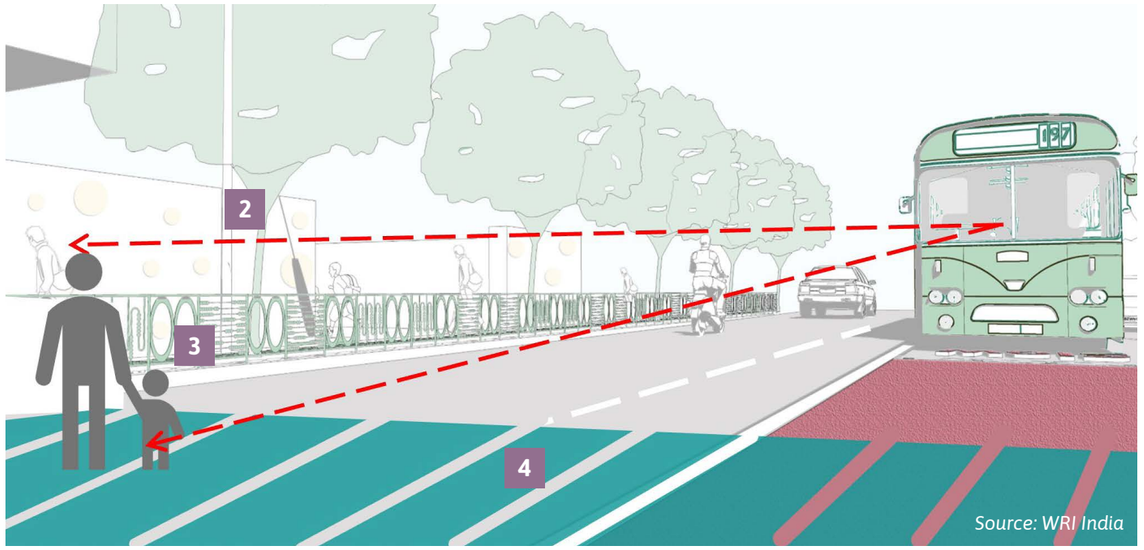
3



Source: WRI India

For more details, refer to pg 171 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

Visibility for pedestrians



Source: WRI India



Young children have high risk of impact while crossing the street, due to their slow walking speed and low height

1 Provide **porous/ see through boundaries of building edges** for clear visibility for ITCs.

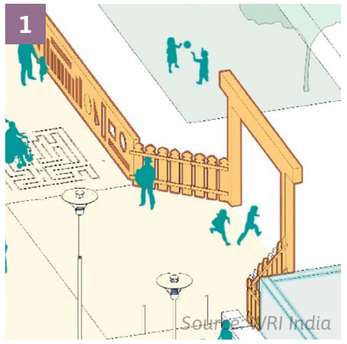
2 Ensure **no obstructive elements on the footpath such as poles,** utility **boxes** to **enhance driver's visibility of ITC @1m height.**

3 Provide **interactive railing such as Abacus railing at 95cm as buffer** between vehicular and pedestrian movement.

4 Provide **demarcated pedestrian crossing** with **13m STOP line distance to provide adequate reaction time** with clear visibility.

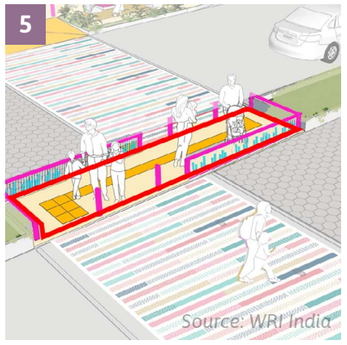
5 Provide **safe refuge spaces at median break with clear visibility** to ensure safety for ITCs while crossing.

1



Source: WRI India

5



Source: WRI India

For more details, refer to pg 171 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

5. Junctions

Intersections are key nodes connecting streets and the pedestrian realm, requiring safe, pedestrian-friendly designs for smooth movement. Assessing existing junctions through traffic, pedestrian, and parking counts, along with site surveys, helps identify issues and intervention areas. Improvements can be tested with tactical interventions before final implementation.



Source: https://media.licdn.com/dms/image/C5622AQH5QAhtLHnocg/feedshare-shrink_800/0/1651833037202?e=1681948800&v=beta&t=ckrEdvMUQAocJU4SauLvRrqeKavT3V1m_fOjkn2UkZc



Young children have high risk of impact while crossing the street, due to their slow walking speed and low height

1 **Absorb undefined areas** around the junction **into pedestrian refuge spaces.**

2 Compact junction to **ensure shortest crossing distance for pedestrians.**

3 **Reduce speed of vehicles leading to crossing,** prevent unpermitted vehicular movement through design.

4 Provide **clear and adequate pedestrian infrastructure,** including **crossings, waiting areas, ramps and walkways.**

5 **Ensure visibility for vehicles** to be able **to see ITCs at crossing and vice versa.**

6 **Orient traffic lanes correctly** and **maintain lane balance** at the junction.

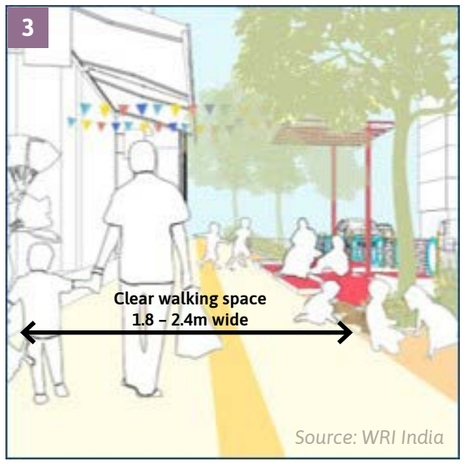
For more details, refer to pg 172 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

1 Ensure compact junction area for slower turning at junction and maintaining lane discipline.

2 Include residual area at turnings into footpath to create sufficient queuing spaces at crossings.



Source: https://www.linkedin.com/in/abhijit-kondhalkar-a15293136/recent-activity/shares/



Source: WRI India



Source: WRI India

3 Provide **continuous wide clear walking space on footpath** to ensure safe walking.

4 Use **'gray spaces' to extend footpath area** for safe walking and developing pause points.

For more details, refer to pg 172 of the Street Design Guidelines in the Annexure.



Source: Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation

3.8.2

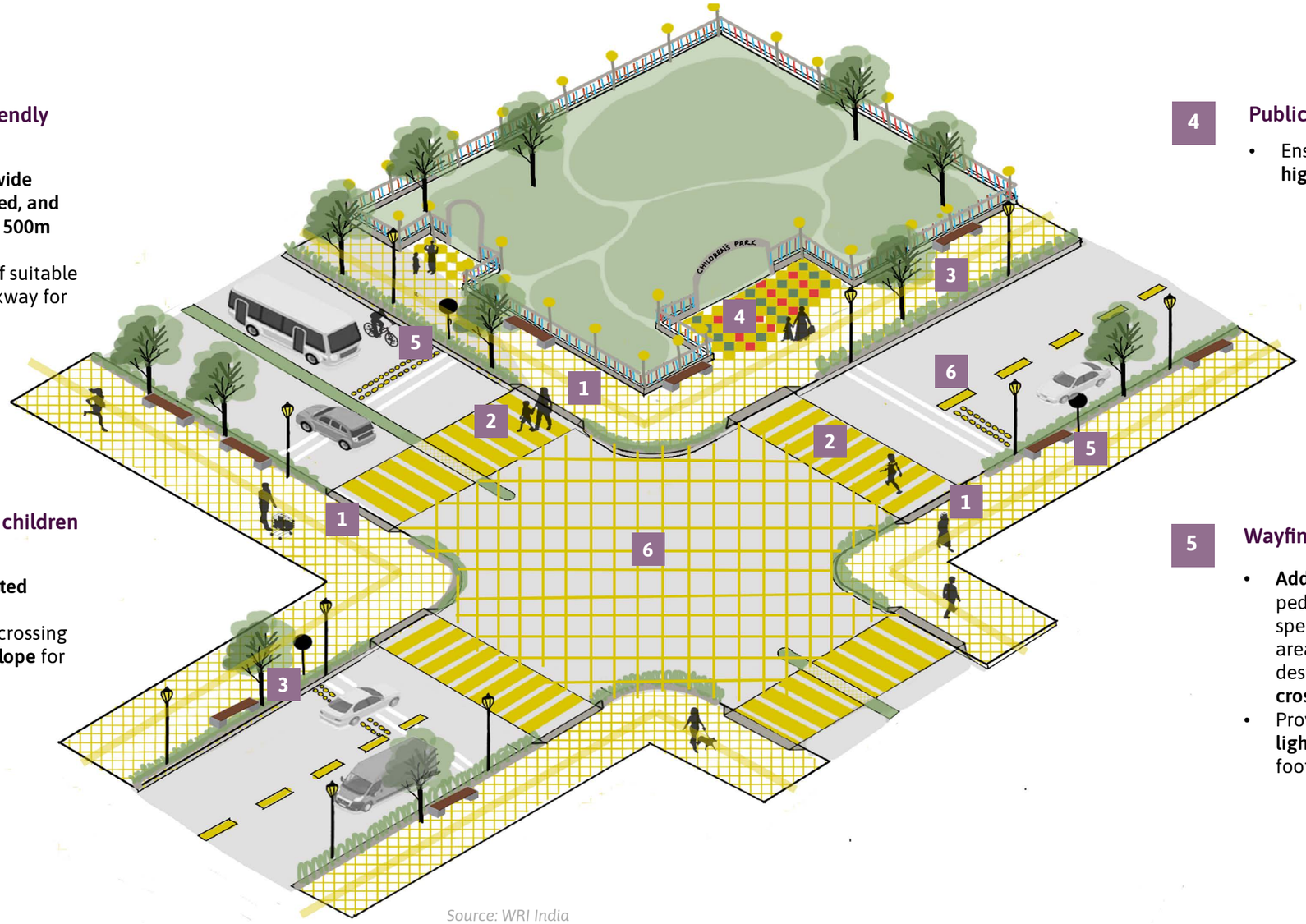
Reimagine public spaces for Play and recreation

Public spaces such as parks, plazas, riverfronts, and marketplaces can be transformed into vibrant play and recreation zones by making them inclusive for all ages and integrating interactive play equipment, green landscapes, sensory zones, and comfortable seating.

Design elements

1. Improving access around 500m radius of public space
2. Circulation within public spaces
3. Creating age-appropriate play opportunities in public spaces
4. Amenities within public spaces
5. Young children-friendly landscapes
6. Reimagine public spaces within informal settlements

1. Improving access around 500m radius of public spaces



Source: WRI India

1 **Young children and family- friendly walkways**

- Ensure **continuous network wide unobstructed, at grade, shaded, and protected walkway around a 500m radius** of park/ playground.
- Provide **tactile paving strip** of suitable anti-skid material along walkway for universal accessibility.

2 **Pedestrian crossing for young children and families**

- Provide **min. 3m wide dedicated pedestrian crossings.**
- Connect the footpath to the crossing using **ramps with adequate slope** for safe access to parks.

3 **Safety buffer between street carriageway and pedestrian walkways**

- Provide **green buffer or interactive railings** along footpath for safety and clear visibility.

4 **Public space entry**

- Ensure **wide and legible, highlighted** entrance of park.

5 **Wayfinding and safety**

- **Add signage** indicating speed limits, pedestrian crossings, slow vehicular speeds, bus stops, designated parking areas, important landmarks, and destinations 2**0m before pedestrian crossings** along footpaths.
- Provide **low, attractive pedestrian lighting at regular intervals** to light footpaths and pavements.

6 **Traffic calming measures in adjoining streets**

- Provide slow traffic zones in front of entry and exit points of public space by painting or providing different treatment with textures on the carriageway.

For more details, refer to pg 174 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

2. Circulation within public spaces

1

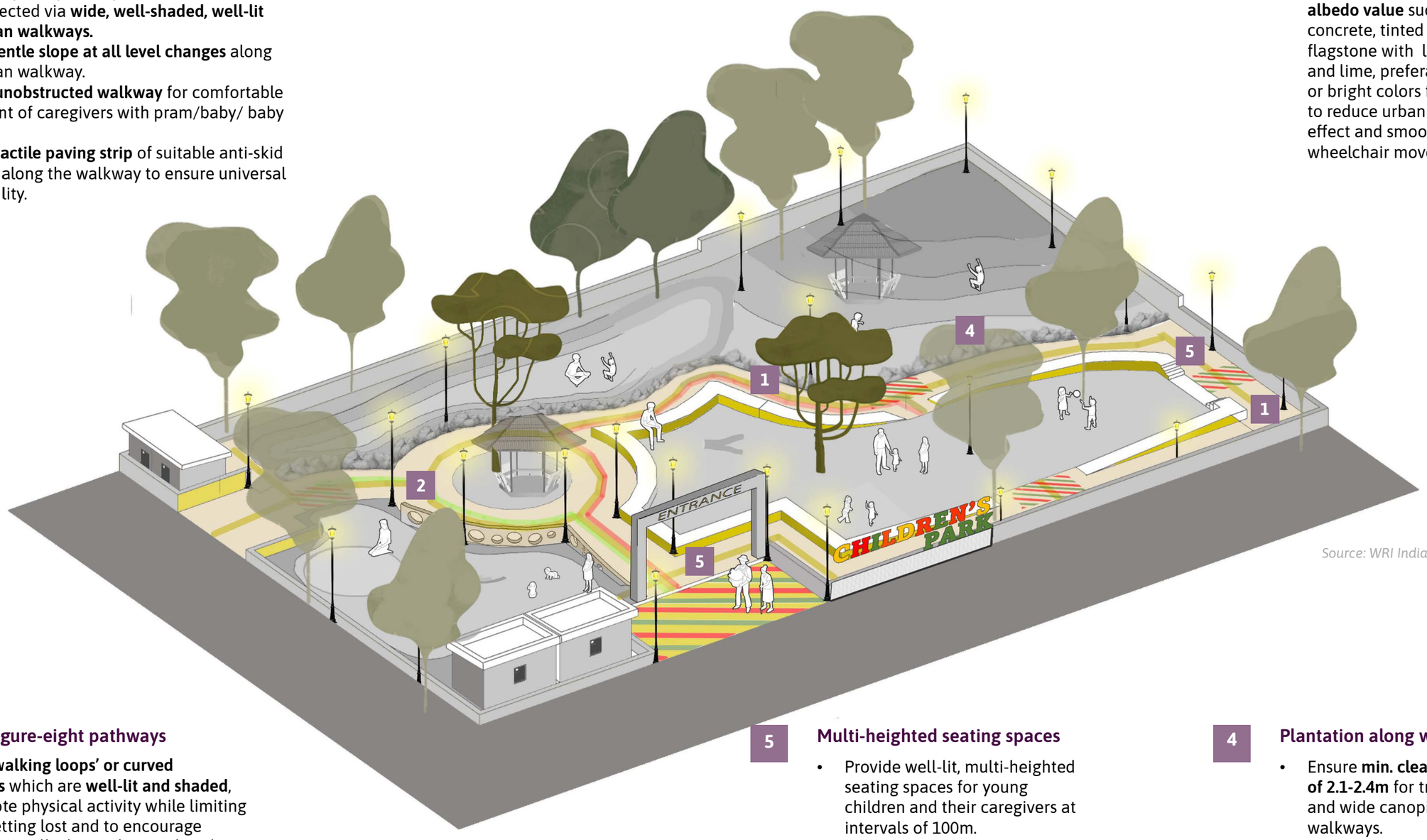
Young children and family-friendly walkways

- Ensure play and pause spaces, facilities & amenities are connected via **wide, well-shaded, well-lit pedestrian walkways.**
- Ensure **gentle slope at all level changes** along pedestrian walkway.
- Provide **unobstructed walkway** for comfortable movement of caregivers with pram/baby/ baby carrier.
- Provide **tactile paving strip** of suitable anti-skid material along the walkway to ensure universal accessibility.

3

Material selection

- Use **materials with high albedo value** such as reflective concrete, tinted concrete, flagstone with local stones, and lime, preferably in white or bright colors for walkways to reduce urban heat island effect and smooth stroller/ wheelchair movement.



Source: WRI India

2

Curved or figure-eight pathways

- Design **'walking loops' or curved pathways** which are **well-lit and shaded**, to promote physical activity while limiting risk of getting lost and to encourage children to walk along edges and explore spaces.

5

Multi-heighted seating spaces

- Provide well-lit, multi-heighted seating spaces for young children and their caregivers at intervals of 100m.
- Add engaging patterns/ play elements near pause spaces to highlight seating areas.

4

Plantation along walkways

- Ensure **min. clearance height of 2.1-2.4m** for trees with thick and wide canopies along walkways.
- **Avoid** planting **rain trees** to prevent accidents.

For more details, refer to pg 174 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

3. Creating age -appropriate play opportunities in public spaces

Play spaces for children aged 0–5 should support their growth by meeting their changing developmental needs. As they rapidly develop motor skills, the spaces should be flexible and encourage creativity through sensory, nature-based, and imaginative play that supports exploration and problem-solving. Each age group, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, needs specific play elements suited to their stage of development.

3.1 Play space for age group 0-1 yr



Source: WRI India

1 **Dedicated play area for 0 -1 yr old allowing activities such as crawling, walking on knees, rolling and balancing**

- Provide **natural and soft textured surfaces** such as soft groomed grass areas, sand pits and shallow water pools to allow **crawling, rolling and exploration.**
- Provide play space enclosed by l**ow-heighted stockade** for enhanced safety.
- Include small **gentle green mounds** up to aid body balance that develops between 10 to12 months.
- Provide small heighted support structures such as **standing/climbing frames or handrails** for babies of 9 months and older to clasp on and stand upright.
- Provide **comfortable and well-lit** adult and child seating to ensure close contact with play space.

2 **Sensory trails**

- Include small sensory trails for cognitive development including **fragrant, soft grass, colored pebbles, stones of different sizes, gravel, sand, wooden chips and mosaic tiles.**

3 **Interactive water play**

- Include water features such as **shallow pools or splash pads** to allow water play for infants helping in develop gross motor skills.

For more details, refer to pg 175-176 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

3.2 Play space for age group 1-3 yr



Source: WRI India

1 Sensory play elements

- Provide loose parts such as **stones, pebbles, wood, pipes, tires, construction material,** etc. to allow creative play in the space.
- Design play spaces with **sandpits, loose wooden logs, and climbing walls** to explore risk and adventure play opportunities as children start to walk by themselves between 1 to 2 years.
- Include shallow water pools.
- Include **ornamental shrubs** to stimulate nature interaction.

2 Play to support physical development

- Provide **short obstacle course** for developing body balance.
- Provide **low heighted climbers/ jungle gym** to encourage physical development.
- Ensure all climbing structures are under the height of **0.8m** with appropriate fall surface treatment around it.

3 Seating for caregivers

- Include **comfortable, well-lit** adult and child seating to ensure close contact with play space.

For more details, refer to pg 177 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

3.3 Play space for age group 3-5 yr



Source: WRI India

1 Sensory play elements

- Incorporate landscape features that incorporate play, such as **little clearings, bridge over the stream, stepping stones, and loose rocks in pond.**

2 Dedicated play area for 3-5 yr old

- Provide play opportunities such as **pretend play, adventure play (bridge, mounds, tunnel), balance beam.**
- Provide water bodies such as shallow pools.
- Provide dedicated tricycle/cycle trails preferably in a figure of **eight or a continuous loop.**
- Provide **gentle play mounds** for child play.
- Include low-height walls for balancing activity.
- Provide play equipment such as simple machines including pulleys, baskets attached to ropes, etc. for development of gross motor skills.

3 Seating for caregivers

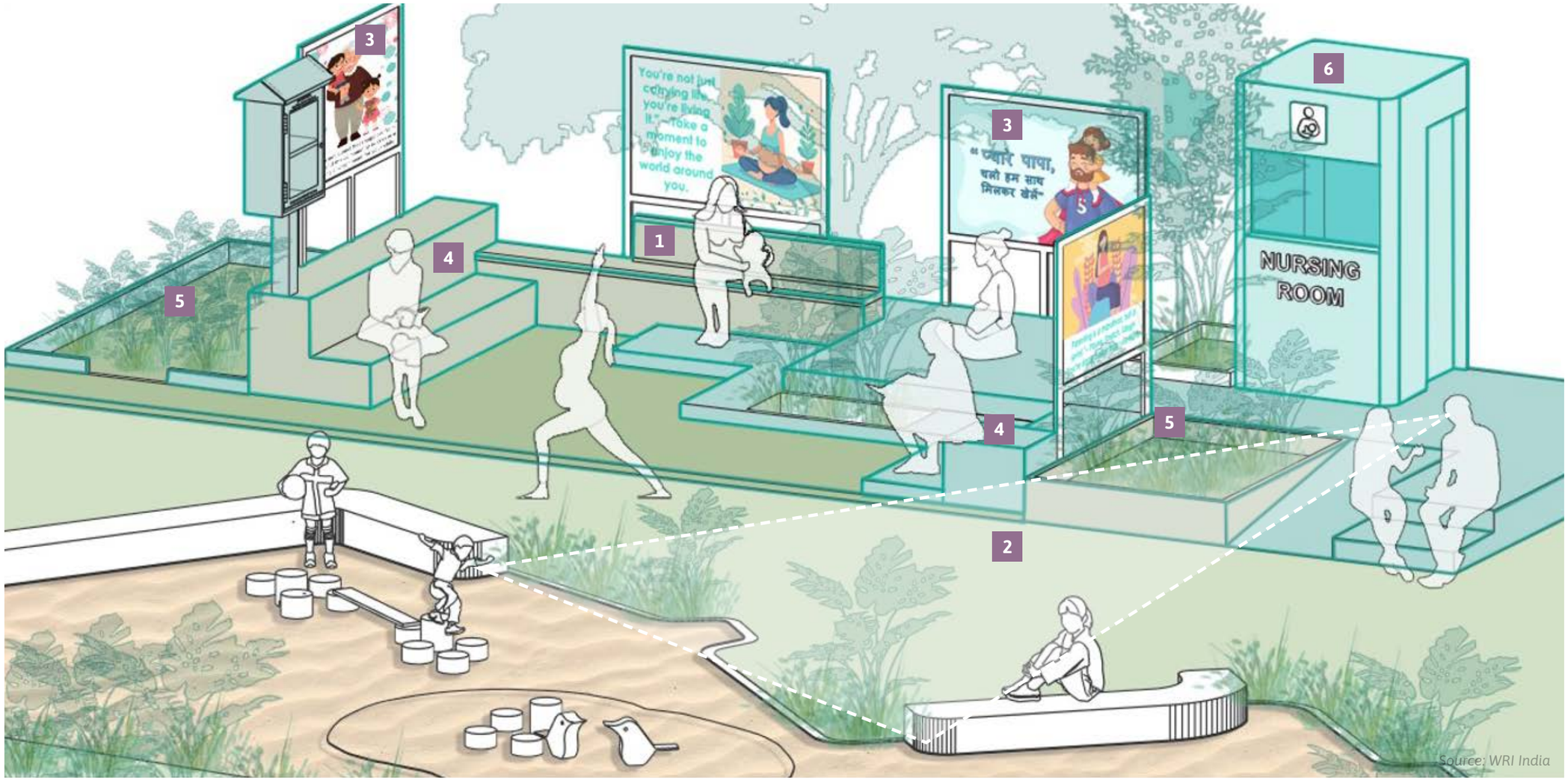
- Include comfortable, well-lit adult and child seating to ensure close contact with play space.

For more details, refer to pg 178 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

4. Amenities within public spaces

Caregiver corner

Caregivers play an essential role in nurturing and supporting children, yet their own well-being often takes a backseat. A well-designed **Caregiver corner** should serve as a welcoming space for respite, social connection, and personal reflection.



1. Provide **shaded, well-supported seating with backrests in small, flexible clusters** rather than linear rows to encourage peer interaction. Consider using U-shaped or semi-circular seating arrangements.
2. Ensure **visibility of nearby children's play spaces** so caregivers can supervise while engaging in conversation.
3. Provide **visually calming space with warm, affirming messages, and short self-care tips,** for guided relaxation—reinforcing well-being, and reminding caregivers that caring for themselves is just as important as caring for their children.
4. Provide small **reading corners** with parenting and self-care books.
5. Create sensory and engaging environment by adding **herb plantations and nature trail** around the seating.
6. Provide **caregiver-oriented amenities such as nursing booth, diaper changing station, and drinking water facility** in proximity.

Caregiver corner: Social messaging



You're not just carrying life, you're living it." – Take a moment to enjoy the world around you. You deserve this pause.

Source: WRI India





Source: WRI India

1. Provide **messages about healthy caregiving practices** such as breastfeeding habits, the importance of outdoor play for young children etc. on information boards or boundary walls along footpath leading to or within premises of parks and other public spaces.
2. Provide a **visually calming space with warm, affirming messages, short self-care tips,** for guided relaxation—reinforcing well-being, and reminding caregivers that caring for themselves is just as important as caring for their children.

4. Amenities within public spaces

1 Nursing booth

Provide **clean, well-lit, and ventilated feeding booths** for nursing mothers with diaper changing tables.



Source: Rourkela Smart City Ltd.

2 Garbage disposal bins

- Provide accessible garbage disposal bins and **child-heighted waste bins** at regular intervals and near seating spaces.
- The bins could have attractive forms resembling animals, birds, etc.



Source: https://www.reliance-foundry.com/blog/waste-management-in-parks

3 Drinking water and toilet facilities

- Provide clean **drinking water facilities at both adult and child heights** for easy access.
- Provide clean toilets with separate cubicles equipped with **toilet fixtures at child height;** for young children.



Source: https://www.archdaily.com/302966/public-toilets-in-the-tete-dor-park-jacky-suchail-architects/

4 Lighting design

- Provide low, attractive, and warm pedestrian lighting to light walkways at regular intervals.
- Provide warm **bollard lighting** to illuminate the ground surface without causing light pollution.



Source:https://pt.aliexpress.com/item/1005001598045269.html

5 Rainwater harvesting

- Provide rainwater harvesting pits based on natural terrain of the site to use collected water for water play and watering plants.



Source:https://bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com/bangalore/lalbagh-gets-124-more-rainwater-harvesting-pits

6 Wayfinding

- Provide **well-lit signage** showing entry-exit points; site map with facilities at entrance/exit.
- All orientation signage, key map, and information plaques must include text in **braille or relief.**
- Use **bright and repetitive color palette** for all signage (identity, directional and informative).
- Provide **innovative, playful, and stimulative informational signage** at low height including interesting facts about trees or native plants and insects.



Source: WRI India

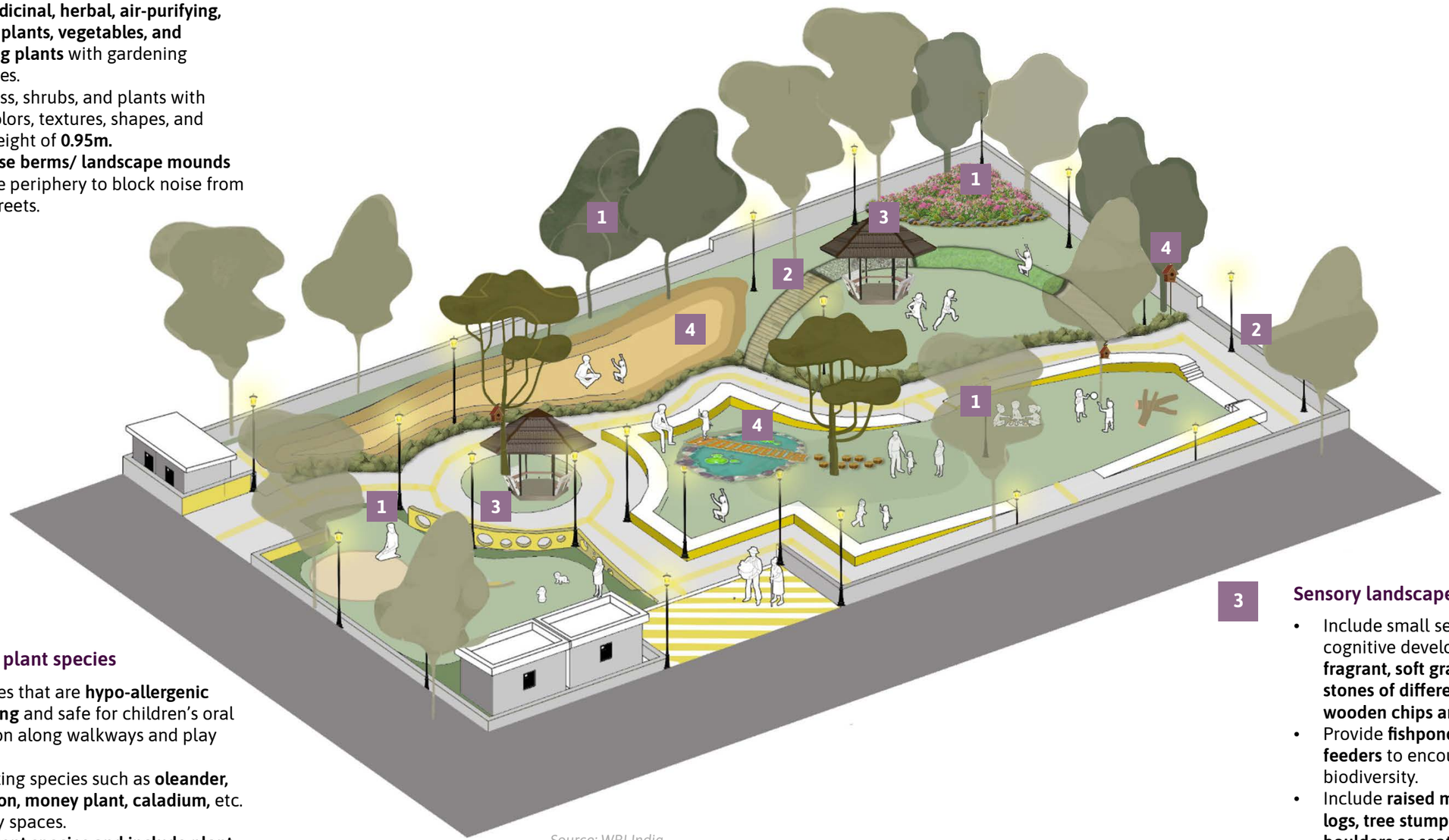
For more details, refer to pg 179 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

5. Young children-friendly landscapes

1

Tree & ground cover

- Ensure **100% shade** around all play areas; shade trees with **thick foliage** for climatic protection and for comfort at all times of the day.
- Include **medicinal, herbal, air-purifying, indigenous plants, vegetables, and fruit-bearing plants** with gardening opportunities.
- Provide grass, shrubs, and plants with different colors, textures, shapes, and smells at height of **0.95m.**
- Include **noise berms/ landscape mounds** towards site periphery to block noise from adjacent streets.



Source: WRI India

2

Child-friendly plant species

- Plant species that are **hypo-allergenic and flowering** and safe for children's oral consumption along walkways and play spaces
- Avoid planting species such as **oleander, philodendron, money plant, caladium,** etc. around play spaces.
- **Label different species and include plant uses** to educate and raise awareness.

3

Sheltered spaces for climate protection

- Provide man-made sheltered structures such as **pergolas, huts, nooks, bamboo tents etc.** for climatic protection and for comfort at all times of the day.

3

Sensory landscape

- Include small sensory trails for cognitive development including **fragrant, soft grass, colored pebbles, stones of different sizes, gravel, sand, wooden chips and mosaic tiles.**
- Provide **fishponds and bird houses/ feeders** to encourage interaction with biodiversity.
- Include **raised mounds, wooden logs, tree stumps and small rounded boulders** as seating and play components.

For more details, refer to pg 180 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

6. Reimagine public spaces within informal settlements

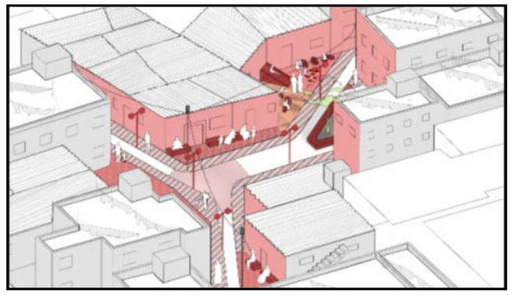
Given space and resource constraints, repurposing abandoned spaces or enhancing existing ones with young child-friendly, and caregiver-oriented solutions can significantly impact daily life in informal settlements. Public spaces in informal settlements can be enhanced by adding resting spots in alleyways, interactive play features for young children in religious and market areas, and comfortable seating for caregivers.

The illustrations below highlight potential opportunities for transforming public spaces in informal settlements.

Enhancing existing alleyways

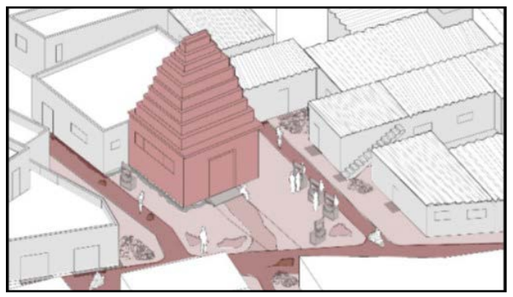


Before – Dark lanes, exposed utilities, and dumped waste

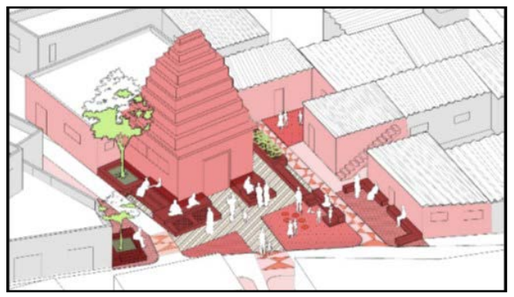


After – Legible, safe, and interactive streets

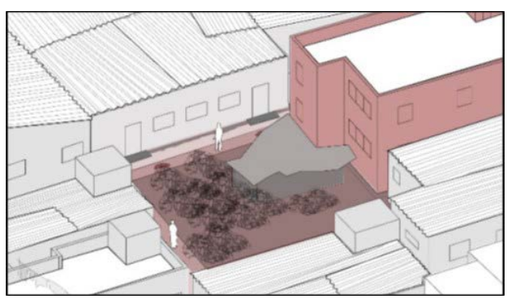
Enhancing existing public spaces



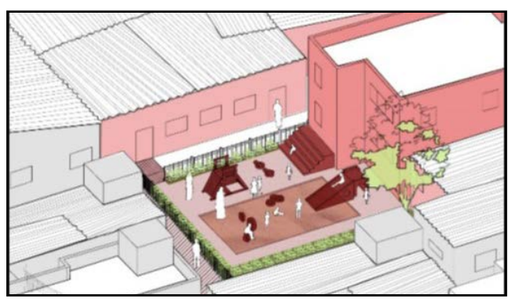
Before – Dark lanes, exposed utilities, and dumped waste



After – Comfortable resting spaces and clean surroundings



Before – Garbage dump, unused land outside community center



After – Playground and outdoor learning center adjoining community center

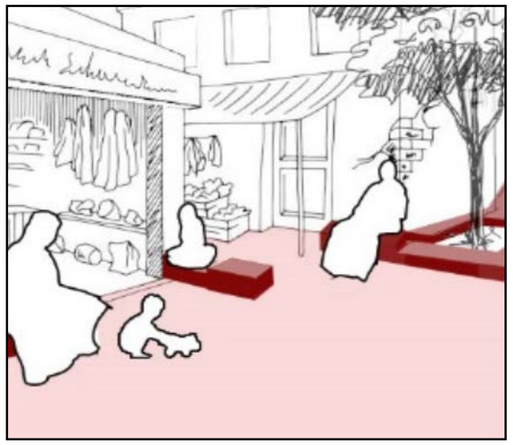
Source: WRI India

Dump yards and encroached parking areas can be reclaimed as play pockets, while chowks and common areas can be enhanced with proper shaded seating, creating comfortable spaces for caregivers.

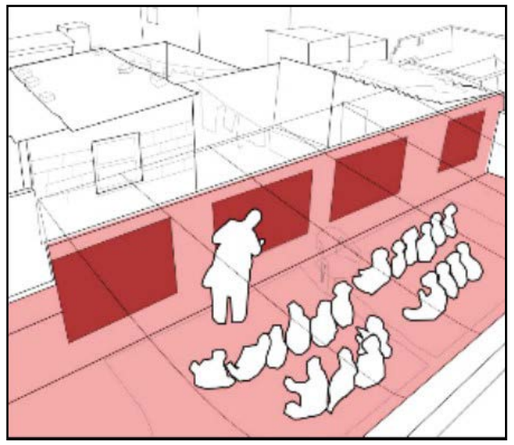
Improving lighting and wayfinding in dark, narrow lanes will enhance safety, particularly for women.

Essential amenities such as feeding cubicles and restrooms can be added near existing facilities, while pop-up ECD services, such as mobile clinics, can ensure access to health, education, and play.

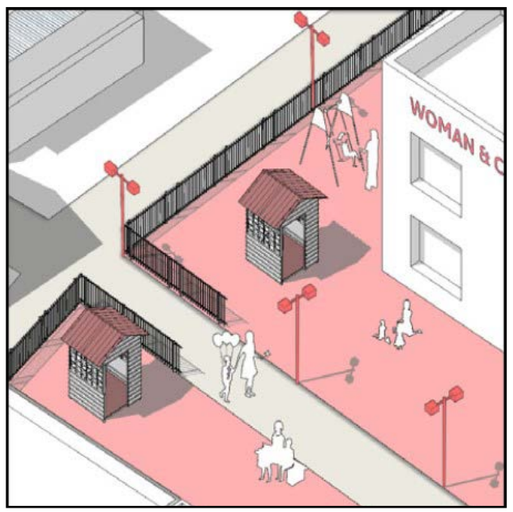
Enhancing existing public spaces



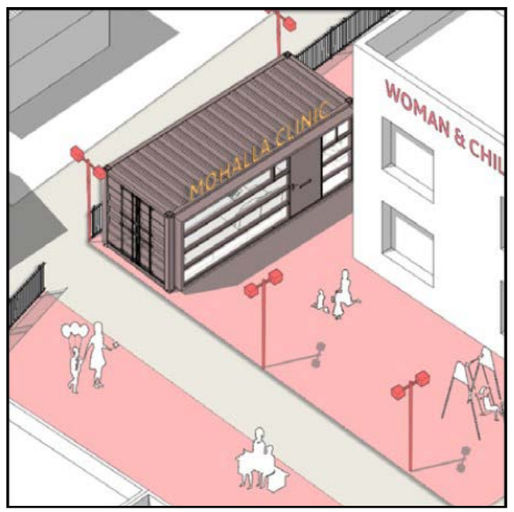
Multi-heighted cluster seating



Multi-functional spaces such as AWCs in community halls and indoor play space in women skill centers



Amenities, such as nursing booths & toilets around existing facilities



Amenities, such as nursing booths & toilets around existing facilities

Source: WRI India



Source: Indore Smart City Development Limited

3.8.3

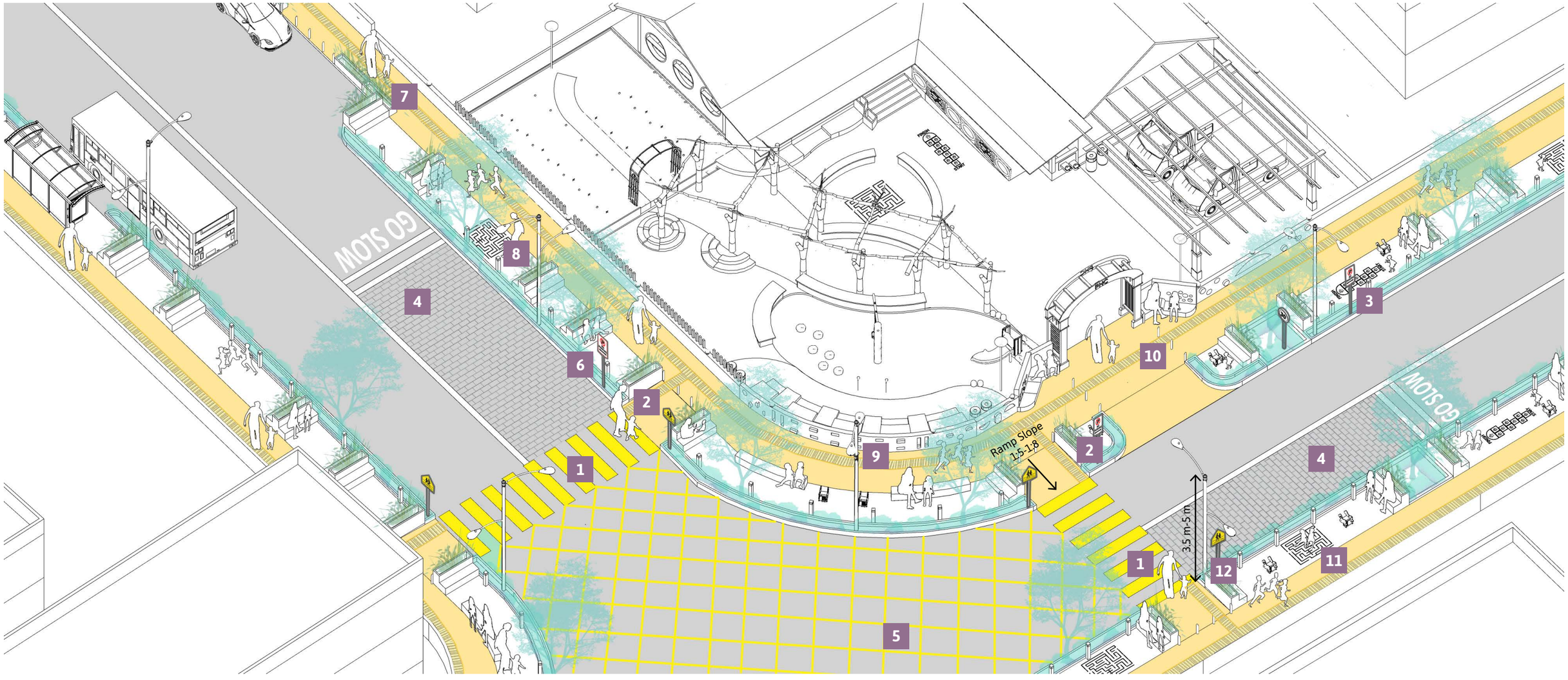
Improve access to early childhood development facilities

Accessibility to facilities such as anganwadis, preschools, daycare centers, and primary health centers is crucial for supporting early childhood development. Ensuring safe access to ECD centers within 500m enhances convenience for young children and caregivers. Thoughtful site planning with shaded pathways and seating, outdoor play areas for engagement, and caregiver-friendly amenities create inclusive spaces. Building as a Learning Aid (BaLA) transforms infrastructure into interactive learning tools, enriching early education.

Design elements

1. Improving access around 500m radius of ECD centers
2. Site planning
3. Play opportunities for young children
4. Young children and caregiver-oriented amenities
5. Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)

1. Improving access around 500m radius of ECD centers



Source: WRI India

1.1 Pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures

1. Provide **min. 3m wide dedicated pedestrian crossings** near ECD center.
2. Connect footpath to the crossing using **ramps with adequate slopes.**
3. Ensure permissible **vehicular speed limit of max.30kmph** around ECD center.
4. Provide **traffic calming measures** such as rumble strips/ speed bumps/ cobblestones/ safety studs or any other suitable material, 13m before pedestrian crossings on all surrounding streets.
5. Create **slow traffic zones in front of entry and exit points of ECD centers** by painting or providing different treatments with textures on the footpath.
6. Ensure **no on-street parking zones within 50m radius of ECD center** for safety and clear visibility.

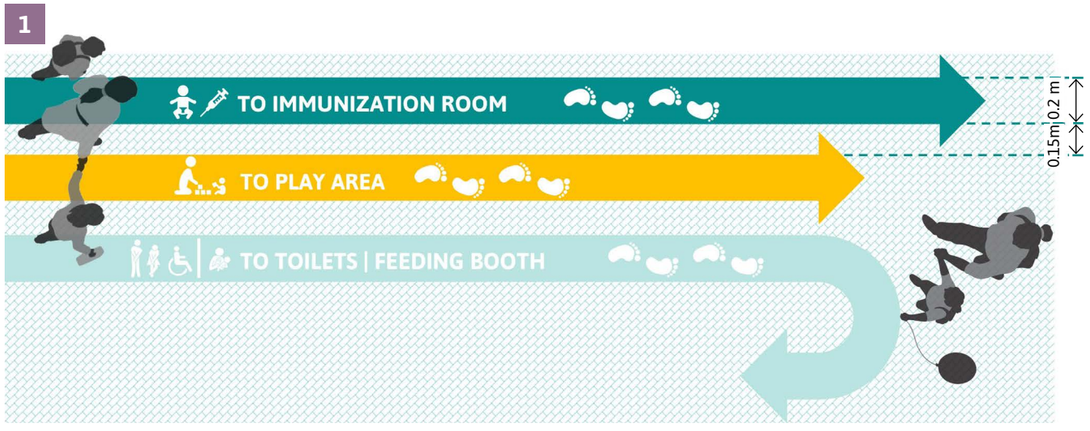
1.2 Young children and family-friendly footpaths

7. Provide continuous **network of wide well-shaded, at-grade footpath.**
8. Provide **pause spaces with multi-heighted seating** along footpath within 300m radius of ECD center.
9. Provide **colorful patterns on the boundary walls** adjacent to footpaths.
10. Provide **tactile paving strip of suitable anti-skid material** for universal accessibility.
11. Provide **floor-based games** such as hopscotch, snake & ladders, etc. on multi-utility zone (MUZ) of the footpath.
12. Provide **pedestrian lighting** for well-lit walking space.

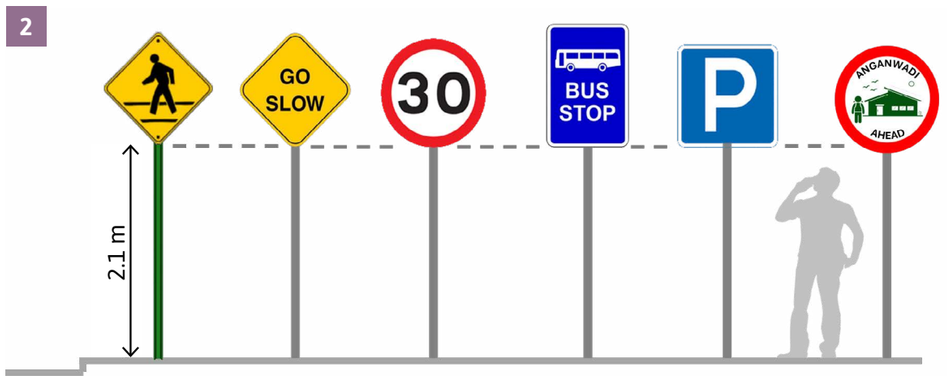
For more details, refer to pg 186 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

1.3 Wayfinding

1 Provide **signage indicating young children and caregiver-oriented amenities** such as toilets, breastfeeding booth, consultation room, immunization room, play spaces, etc. near waiting area.



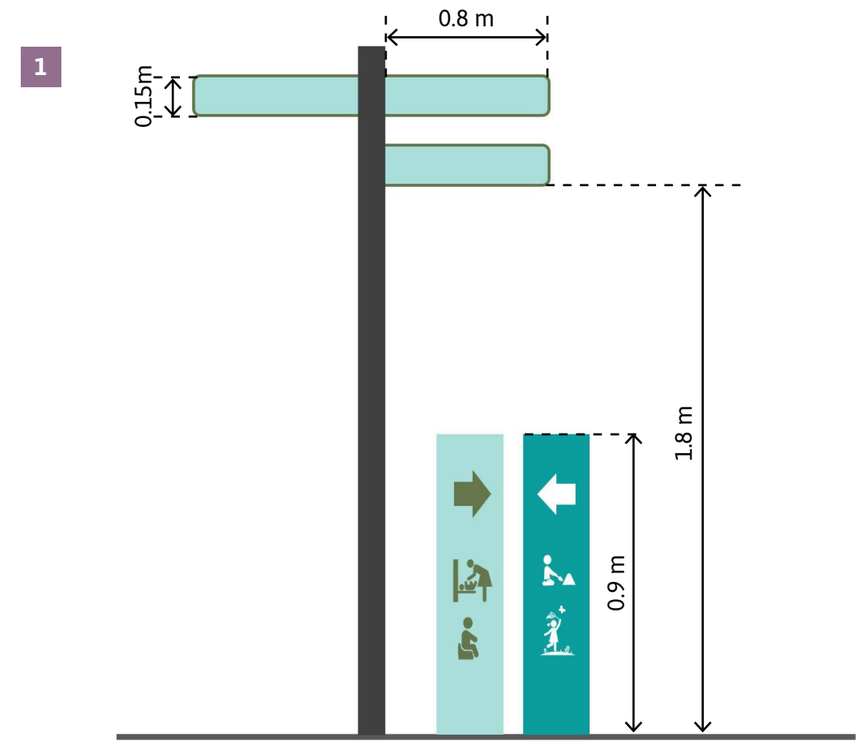
2 Provide signage indicating speed limits, pedestrian crossings, bus stops, designated parking areas, important landmarks (school ahead), and destinations (children at play) 20m before pedestrian crossings in multi-utility zone (MUZ) or green buffer.

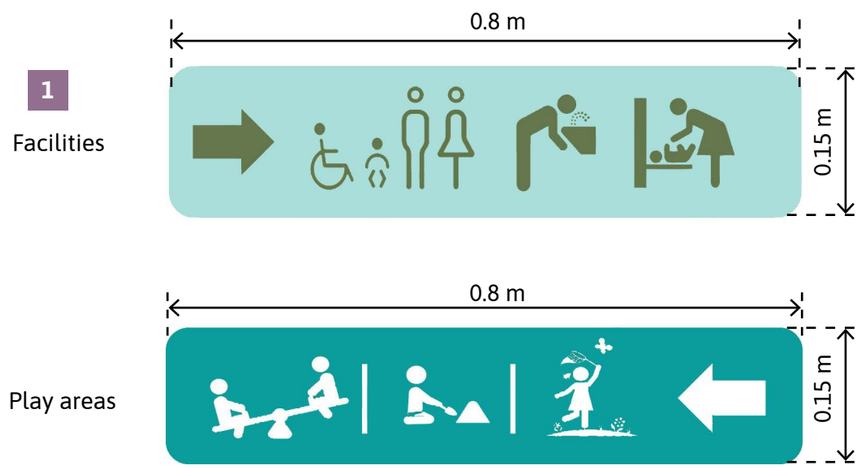




Source: WRI India

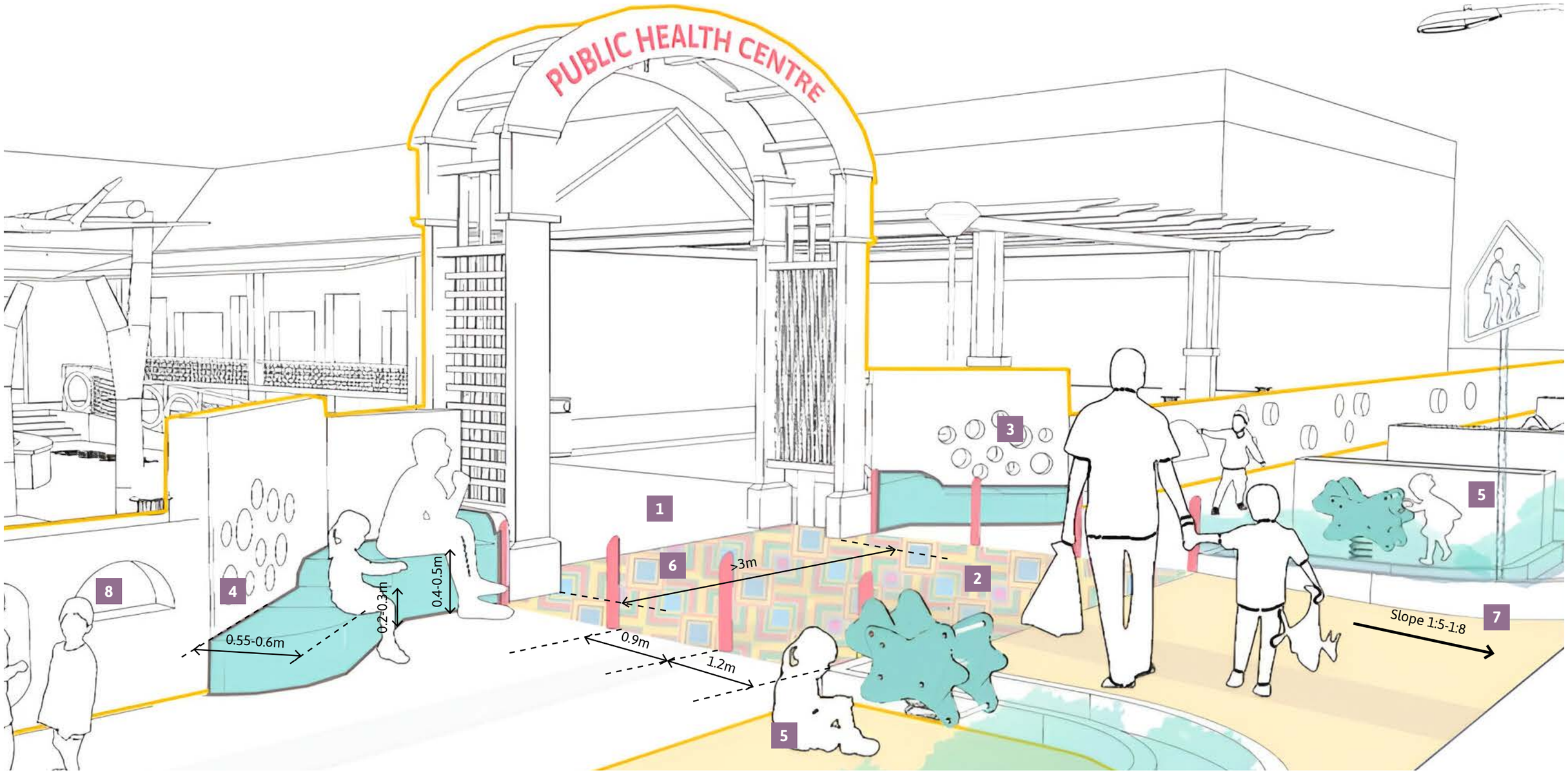
1 Provide **signage indicating young children and caregiver-oriented amenities** such as toilets, breastfeeding booth, consultation room, immunization room, play spaces, etc. near waiting area.





For more details, refer to pg 182 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

1.4 ECD center entry



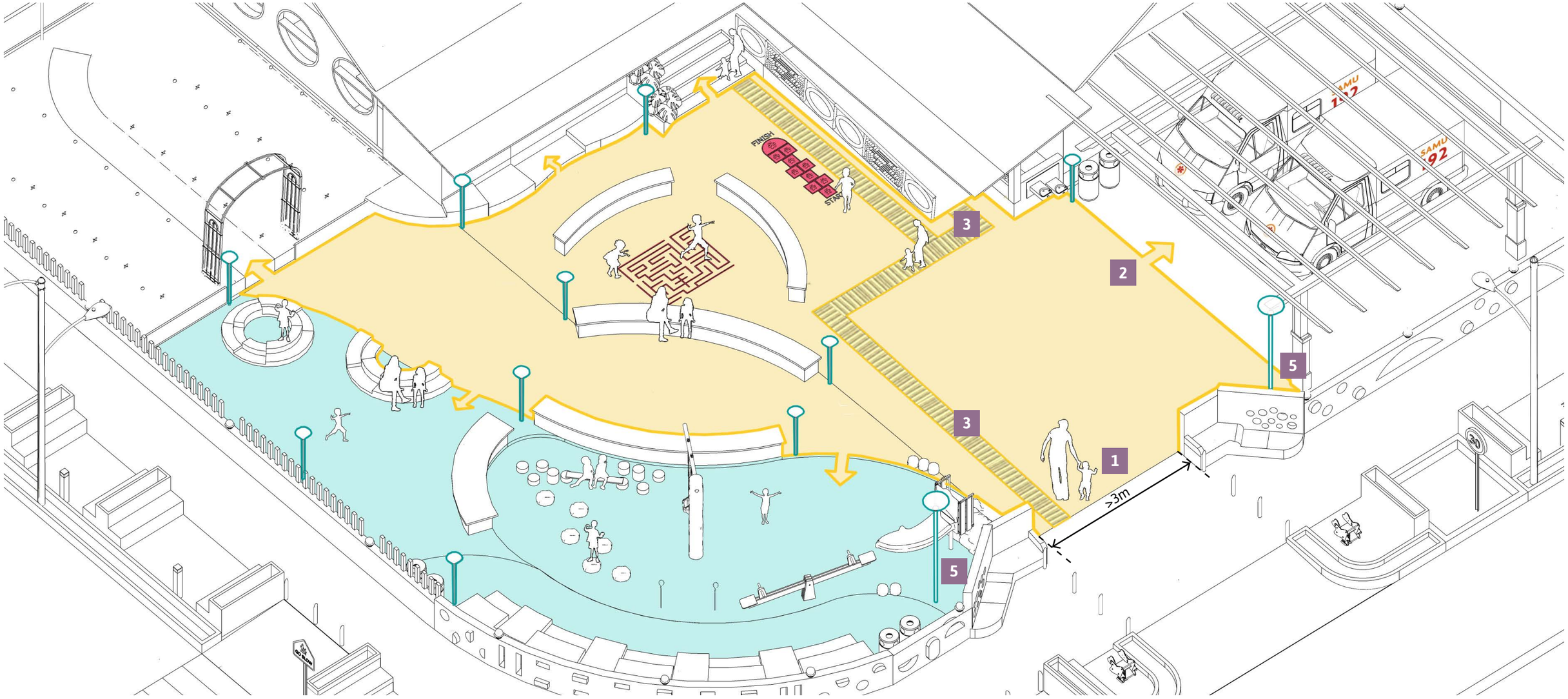
Source: WRI India

1. Ensure **atleast 3m wide** entrance.
2. **Highlight ECD entrance with engaging patterns** on the footpath.
3. Provide **multi-heighted seating** with proper backrest and rounded edges at entry.
4. Ensure provision of both **child-height seating and adult-height seating.**
5. Provide **play pockets with interactive elements @95cm height** near waiting spaces in front of entry.
6. Provide **safety bollards** along footpath in front of main entry.
7. Provide **ramp with adequate slopes** at plot entry for safe access.
8. Provide **permeable compound walls** for ensuring visual connection of premises from the street and vice-versa

For more details, refer to pg 183 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

2. Site planning

2.1 Young children and family-friendly walkways

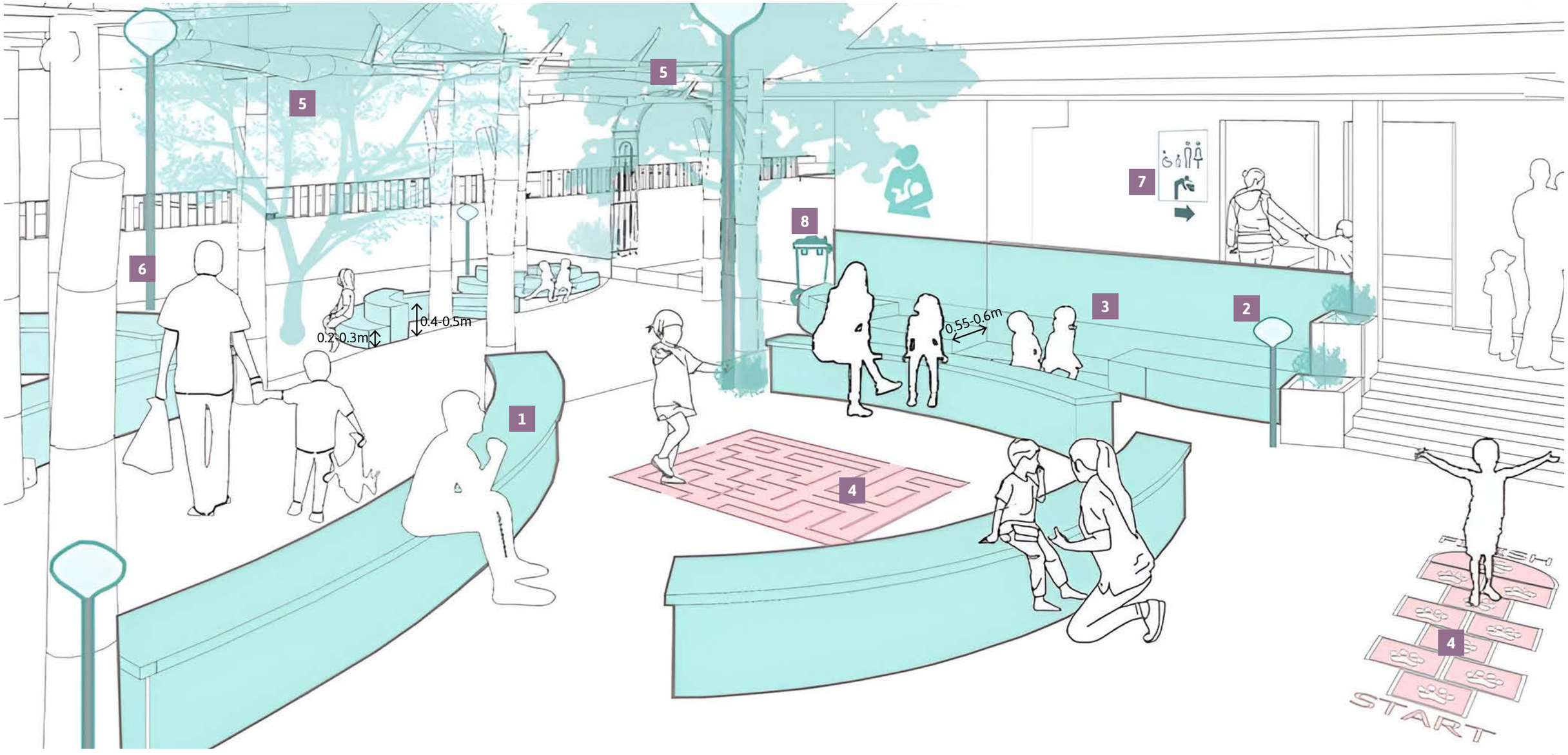


Source: WRI India

1. Provide **min. 2-3m wide** unobstructed walkway within premises.
2. Ensure that all s**ub-spaces within premises are connected** via walkways.
3. Provide **tactile paving strip** of suitable anti-skid material for universal accessibility.
4. Provide **colorful and engaging elements and features** such as hopscotch, murals, etc. on walkways.
5. Ensure **adequate pedestrian lighting** at regular intervals.

For more details, refer to pg 183 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

2.2 Waiting/seating area



Source: WRI India

1. Ensure **waiting area is closer to all young children and caregiver-oriented amenities** (play area, classrooms etc.).
2. Provide **multi-heighted seating** with proper backrest and rounded edges at frequent intervals.
3. Provide both **child-height seating and adult-height seating.**
4. Incorporate **pocket play opportunities** (seesaw, swing, spring riders, sandpit etc) **beside seating spaces** for engaging young children.
5. Provide **shading in outdoor waiting areas** using large canopy trees or use materials such as tensile fabric, recycled cloth, or colorful polycarbonate sheets with GI steel pipe frames.
6. Ensure **adequate lighting** in waiting area.
7. Provide **signage indicating toilets, examination room**, etc. near waiting area.
8. Ensure **waste disposal bin** placed near waiting area.

For more details, refer to pg 183 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

2.3 Social messaging



Source: WRI India



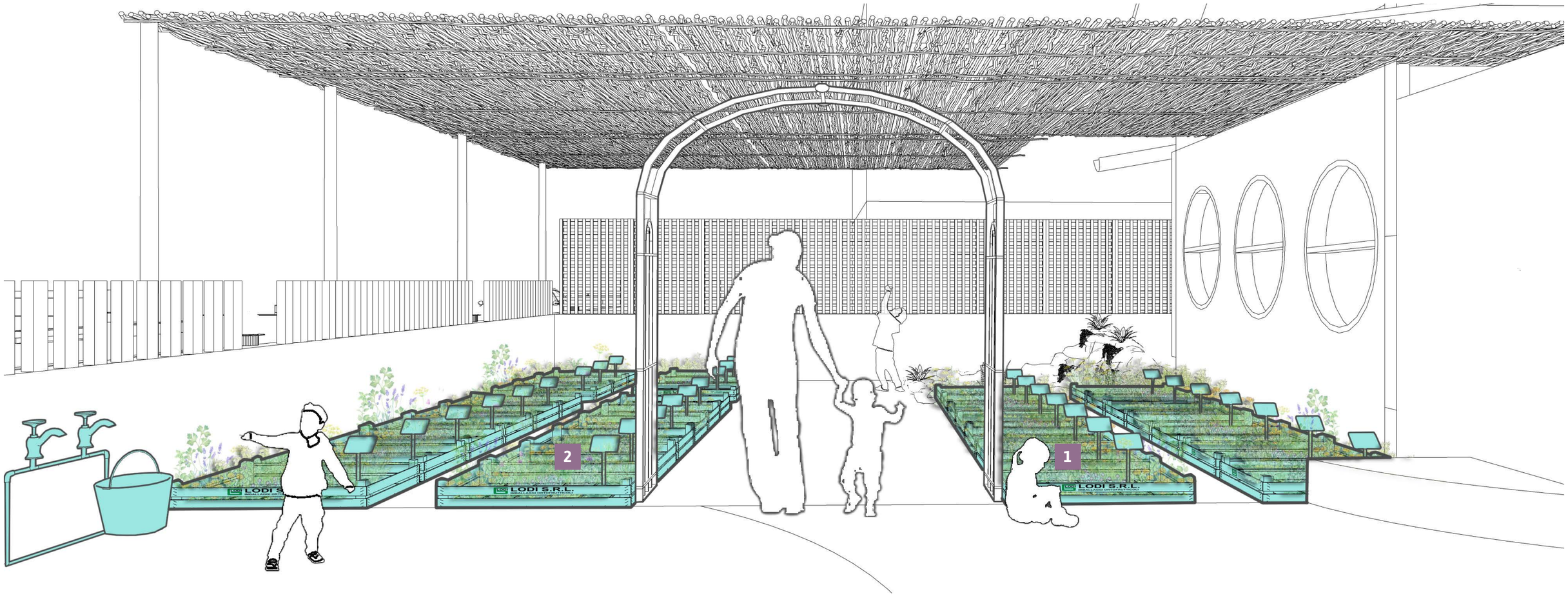


Source: WRI India

1. Provide **messages about healthy caregiving practices** such as breastfeeding habits, the importance of outdoor play for young children etc. on information boards boundary walls along footpath leading to or within premises of anganwadi or PHC/NRC.
2. Provide a **visually calming space with warm, affirming messages, short self-care tips,** for guided relaxation—reinforcing well-being, and reminding caregivers that caring for themselves is just as important as caring for their children.

For more details, refer to pg 186 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

2.4 Young children and family-friendly landscape



Source: WRI India

1. Plant **local herbs, vegetables, and fruit to provide gardening opportunities** for young children and caregivers.

Herb garden with locally available medicinal plants of low height


Phylanthus amarus

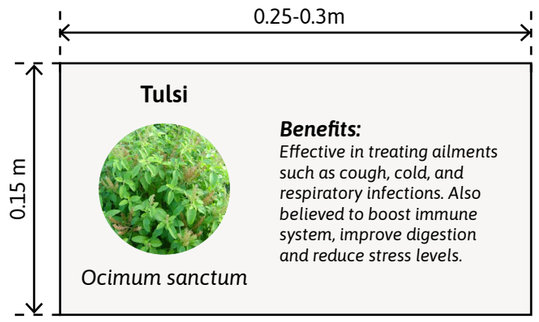

Ocimum Sanctum

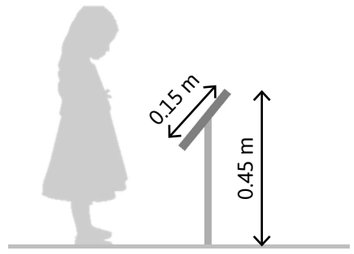

Centella asiatica


Inula racemosa

2. Provide **low-height signage in herb/kitchen garden with information** about plant species and its benefits.

2

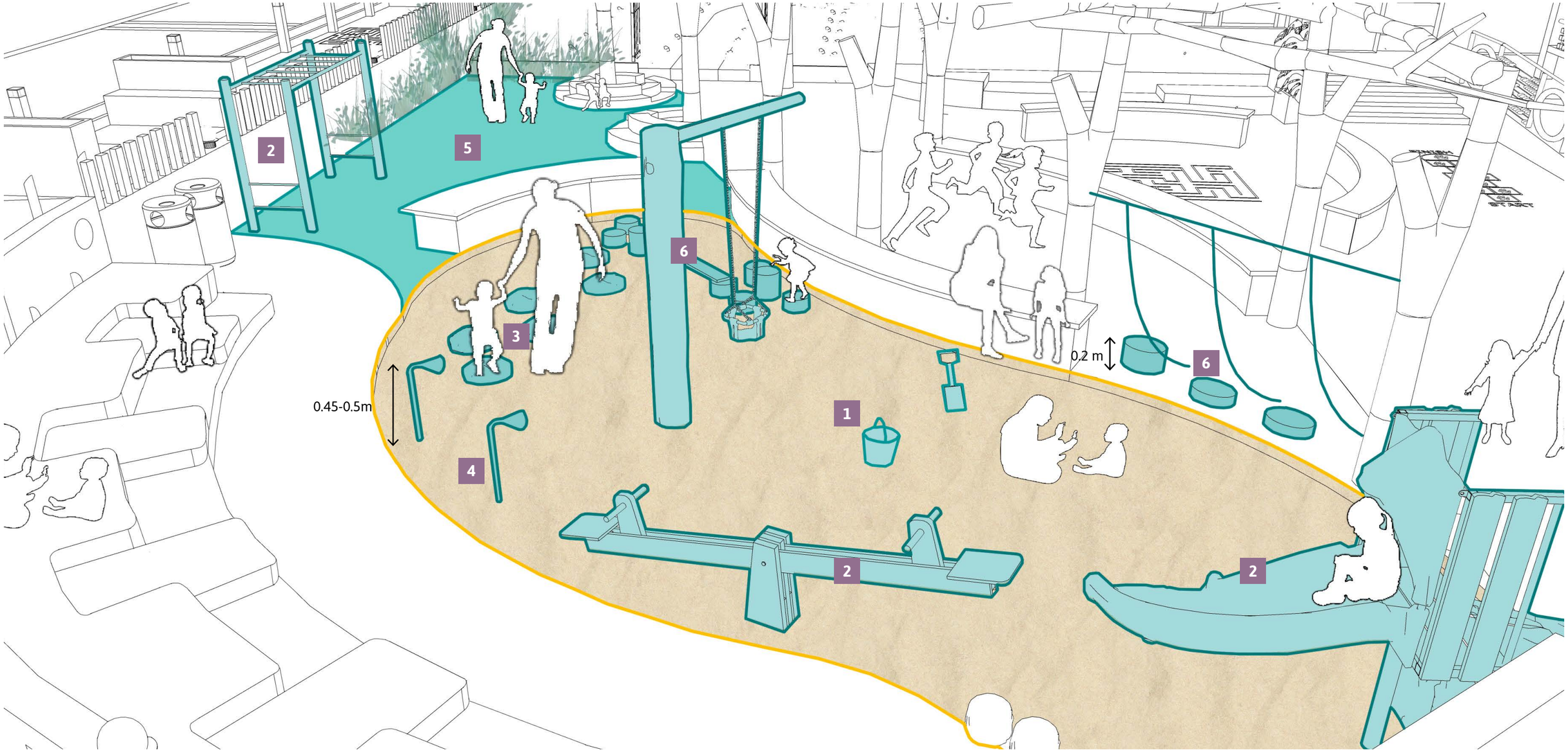




Information signage

For more details, refer to pg 184 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

3. Play opportunities for young children



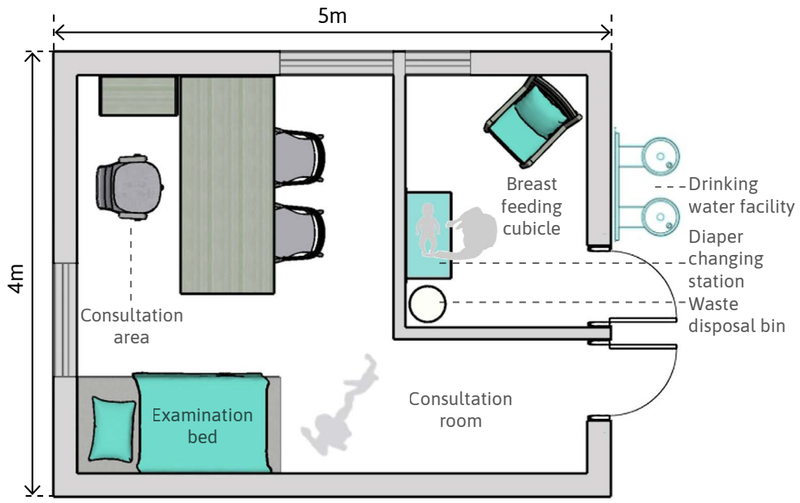
Source: WRI India

1. Provide **pits with sand/mud/clay** for imaginative play.
2. Provide **age-appropriate play equipment** such as toddler swings, spring riders, low-height climbers/jungle gym, slides.
3. Provide **landscape features that afford imaginative and unstructured play,** such as little clearings/stepping stones/ loose rocks in pond etc.
4. Provide **sound-based play elements** such as xylophones or pipe phones for sensory stimulation.
5. Provide **open green play spaces** using locally available and child-friendly variety of grass (Mexican/ Bermuda/ Korean/ Soft Buffalo) for nature play.
6. Incorporate obstacle course of wooden stumps/ balancing beam with soft fall area to **encourage risk play.**

For more details, refer to pg 184 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

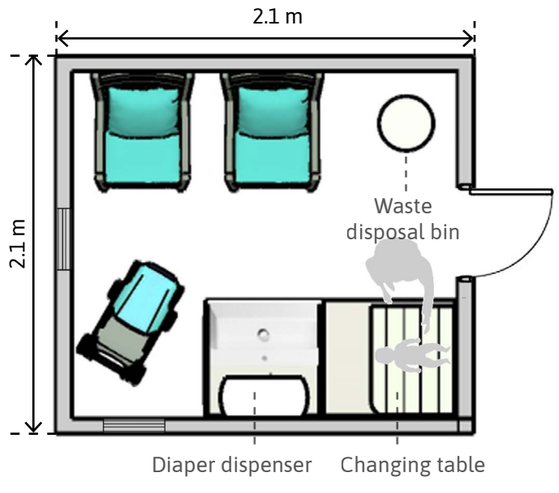
4. Young children and caregiver-oriented amenities

4.1 Examination/consultation room

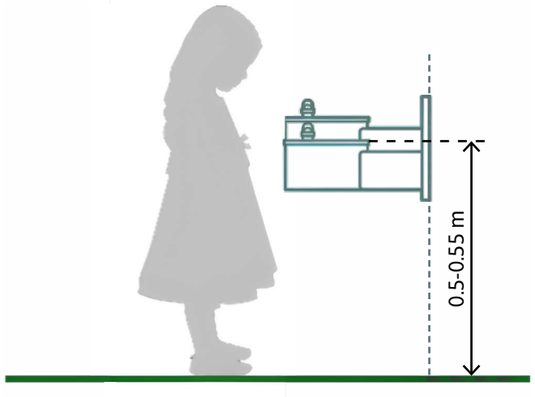


Source: WRI India

4.2 Nursing booth



4.3 Drinking water facility at child height

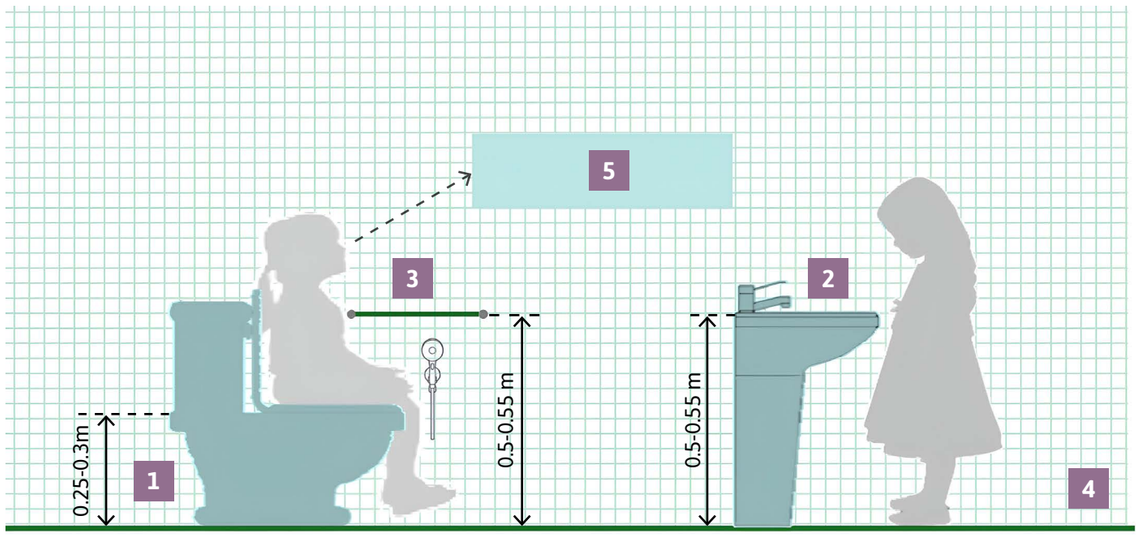


Source: WRI India

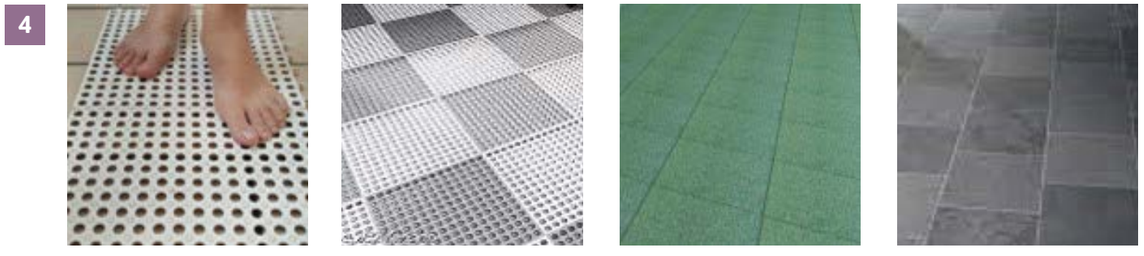
1. Ensure **examination/consultation room** to include diaper changing station, bed, table, chair, storage space, and information chart on neonatal care.
2. Provide **child -friendly drinking water fountain** at low-height.
3. Ensure **well-lit, ventilated nursing booth** to include 2 nursing chairs, diaper changing station, sink, diaper dispenser and waste disposal bin.

For more details, refer to pg 185 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

4.4 Child-friendly toilets



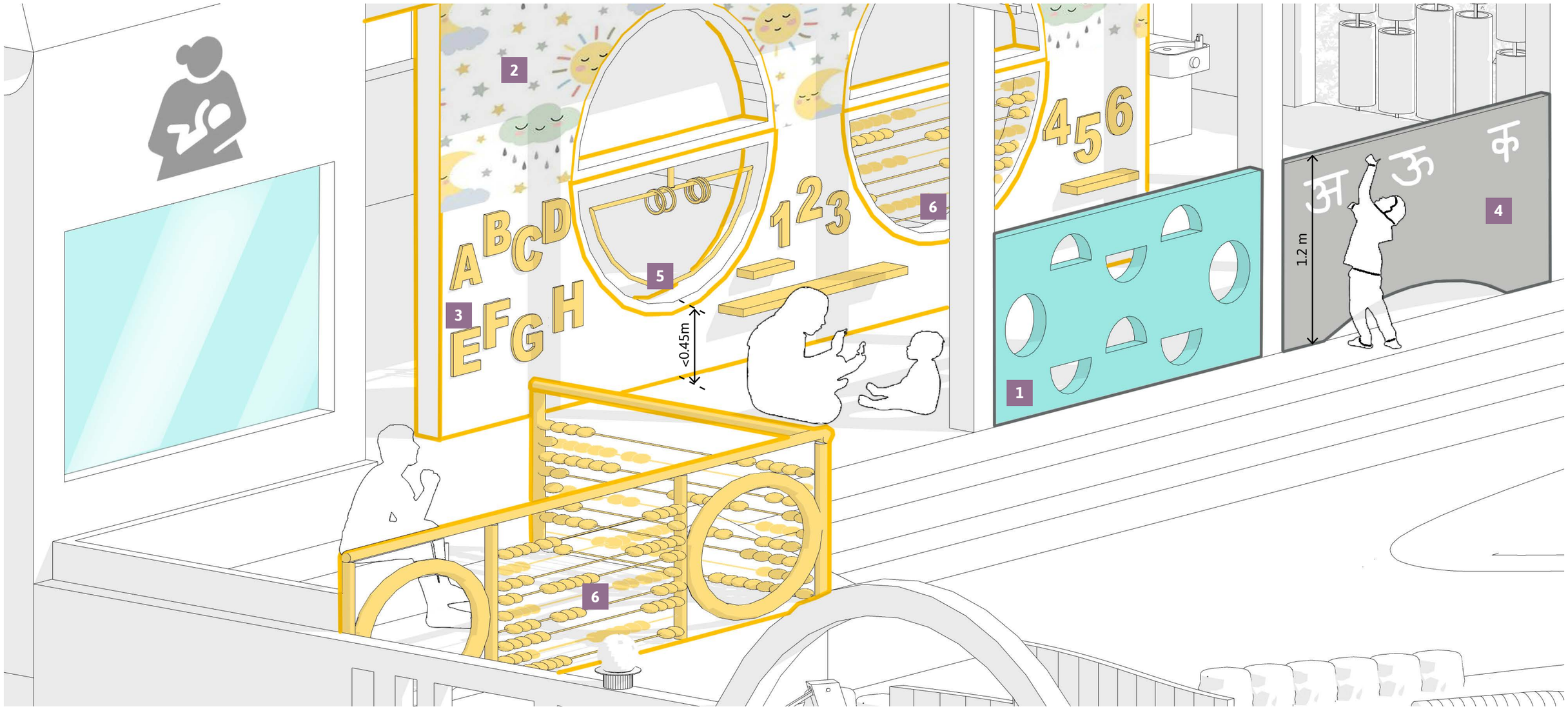
Source: WRI India



1. Ensure clean toilets equipped with **toilet fixtures at child height.**
2. Ensure provision of **child-height hand basin.**
3. Provide **wall-mounted grab bar near WC** for support and **toilet hand showers at low-height** for easy access from toilet seat.
4. Ensure **anti-skid tiles** for flooring.
5. Provide **picture guide for children** to operate the toilet fixtures and personal hygiene.

For more details, refer to pg 185 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

5. Building as Learning Aid (BaLA)



Source: WRI India

1. Ensure **punctures to create play niches/ jali** with different patterns on verandah walls forming light and shadow patterns on the floor
2. Incorporate painted numbers, alphabets, murals of animals, birds, plants, day and night that can aid in storytelling; **Sensory walls** with mosaic tiles or any recycled material can be used for cognitive development.
3. Provide **grooved writing (local language or English) on the wall** for enhanced tactical experience.
4. Incorporate chalkboard paint (black) to **provide drawing space on walls** for toddlers.
5. Maintain **low-height windowsill level** to sit and use sill level for various activities.
6. Provide **interactive railing** to engage children.

For more details, refer to pg 185 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.



Source: Rourkela Smart City Limited

3.8.4

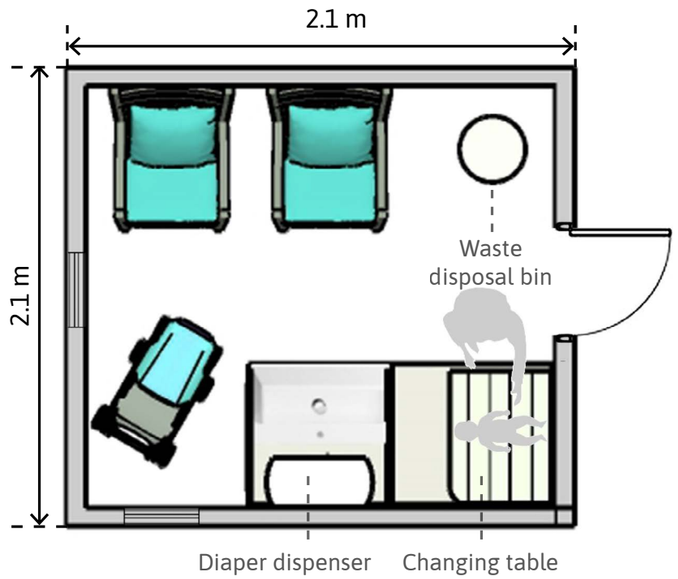
Adapt public spaces with Early childhood amenities

Adapting public spaces with early childhood amenities creates inclusive, family-friendly environments that support young children and caregivers. Essentials such as nursing booths with diaper-changing stations, washrooms, and drinking water outlets ensure convenience, while supportive elements such as comfortable waiting areas, outdoor seating, and age-appropriate play zones enhance engagement.

Design elements

1. Nursing booth
2. Drinking water facility at child-height
3. Child-heighted wastebin
4. Child-friendly toilets
5. Multi-heighted seating
6. Way-finding
7. Lighting

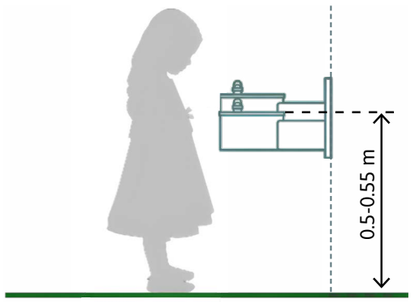
1. Nursing booth



Source: WRI India

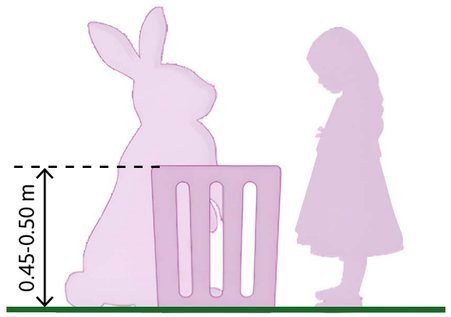
1. Ensure **well-lit, ventilated nursing booth** to include 2 nursing chairs, a diaper changing station, sink, diaper dispenser and waste disposal bin.

2. Drinking water facility at child height



Source: WRI India

3. Child-heighted waste bin

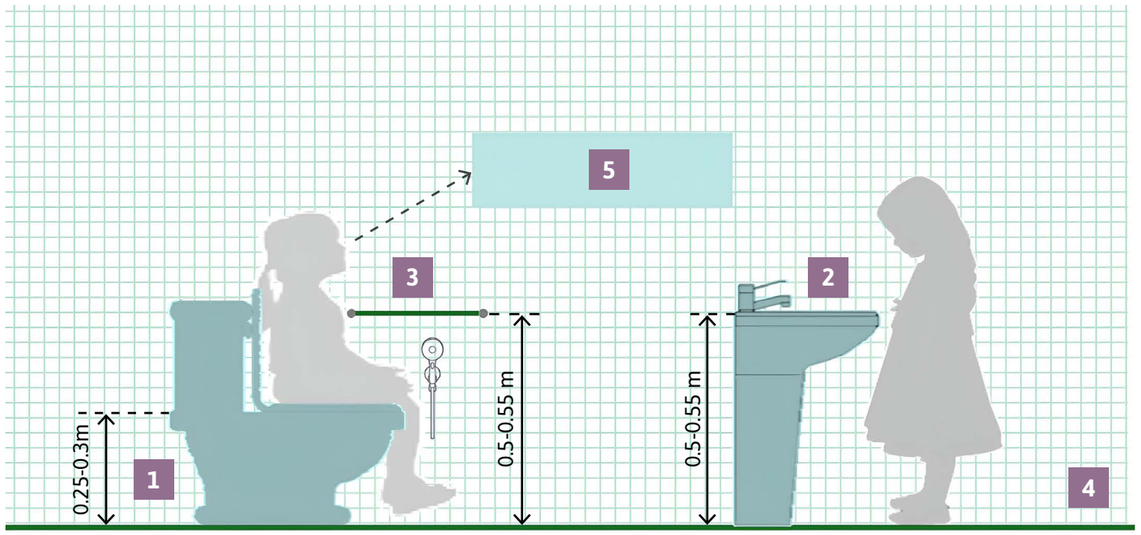


Source: WRI India

2. Provide **child-friendly drinking water fountain.**
3. Provide **child-heighted waste/garbage bin.**

For more details, refer to pg 179 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

4. Child-friendly toilets



Source: WRI India

4



Anti-skid
ceramic tiles



Interlocking
anti-slip rubber mat



Matte finish
vitrified tiles



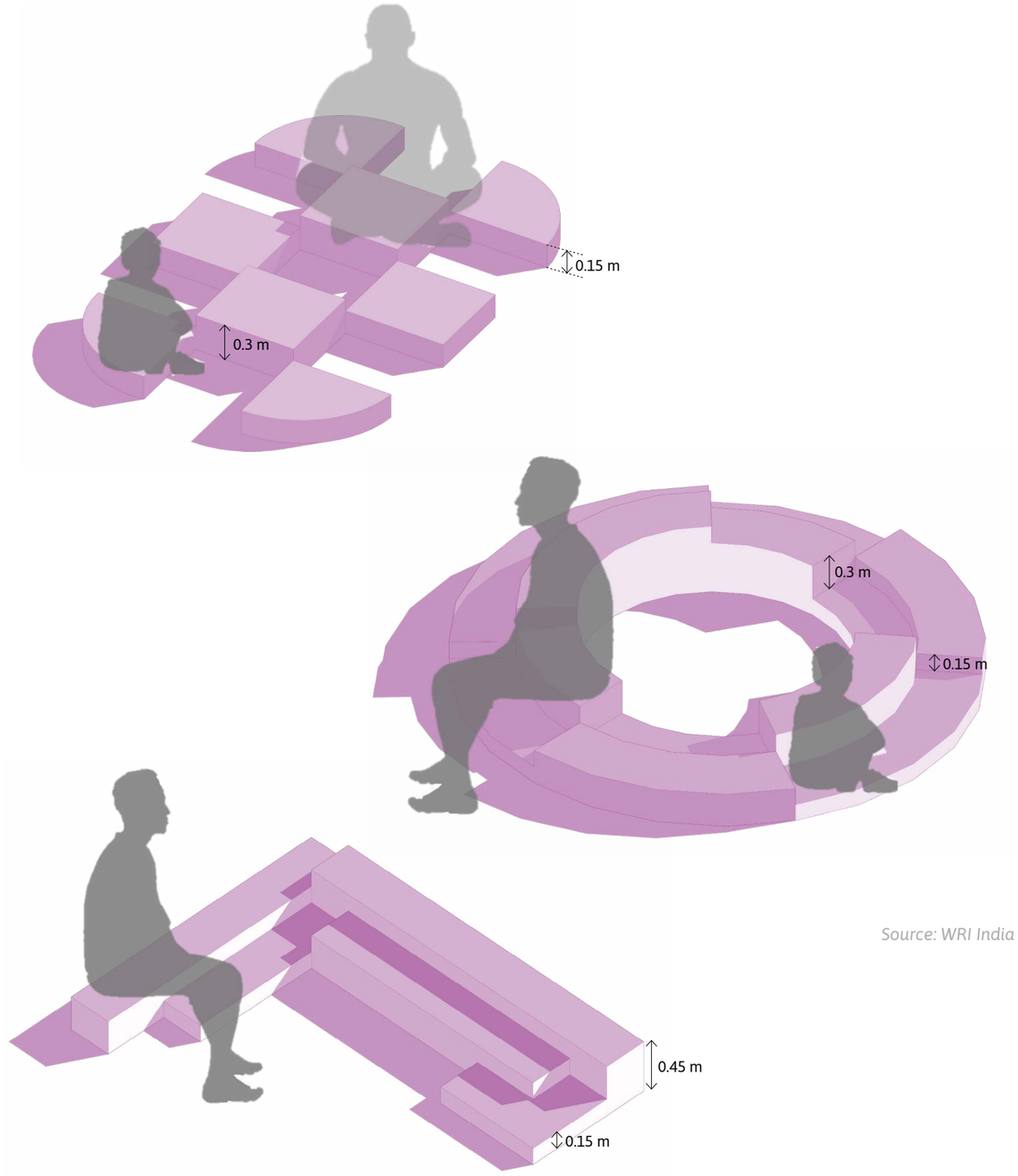
Slate tiles

1. Ensure clean toilets equipped with **toilet fixtures at child height.**
2. Ensure provision of **child-height hand basin.**
3. Provide **wall-mounted grab bar near WC** for support and **toilet hand showers at low-height** for easy access from toilet seat.
4. Ensure **anti-skid tiles** for flooring.
5. Provide **picture guide for children** to operate the toilet fixtures and personal hygiene.

For more details, refer to pg 185 of the Early Childhood Development Center Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

5. Multi-heighted seating

Multi-heighted seating spaces for young children and their caregivers

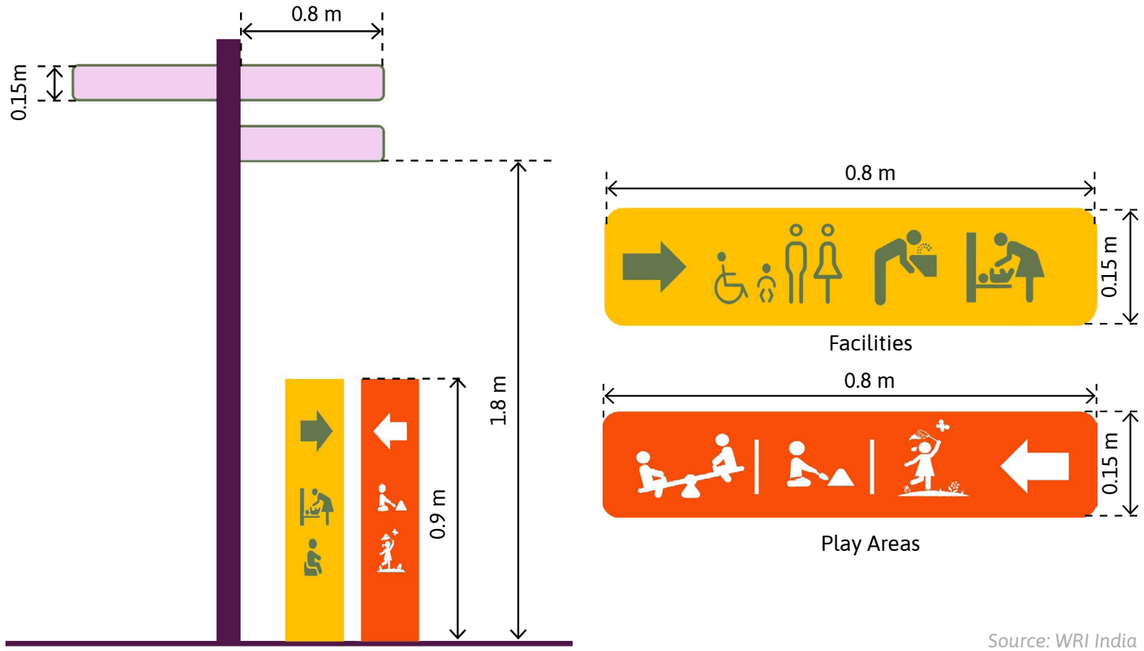


Source: WRI India

For more details, refer to pg 176 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

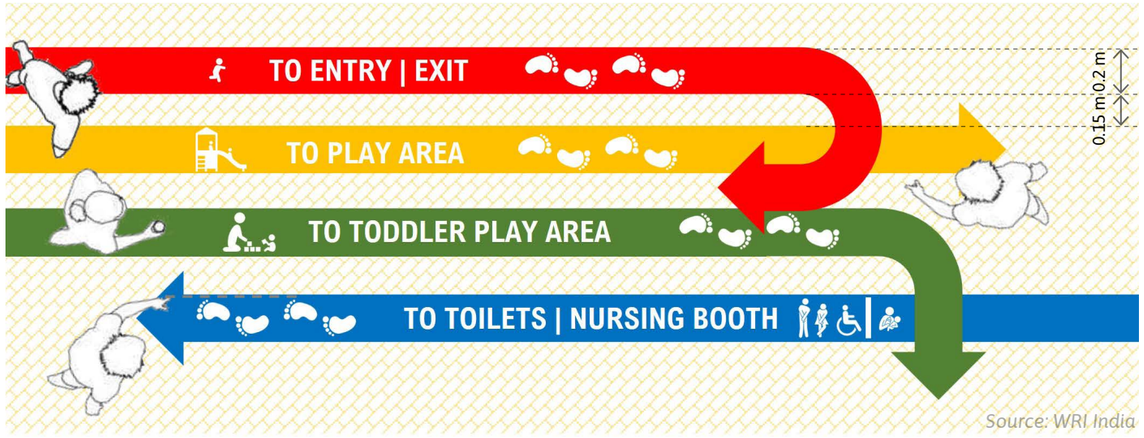
6. Wayfinding

6.1 Directional signage: pole signage



Source: WRI India

6.2 Directional signage: floor-based signage



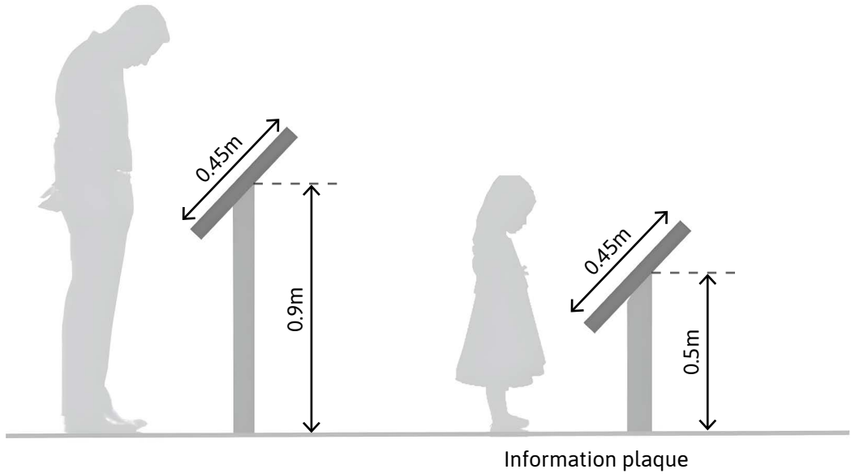
Source: WRI India

For more details, refer to pg 180 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

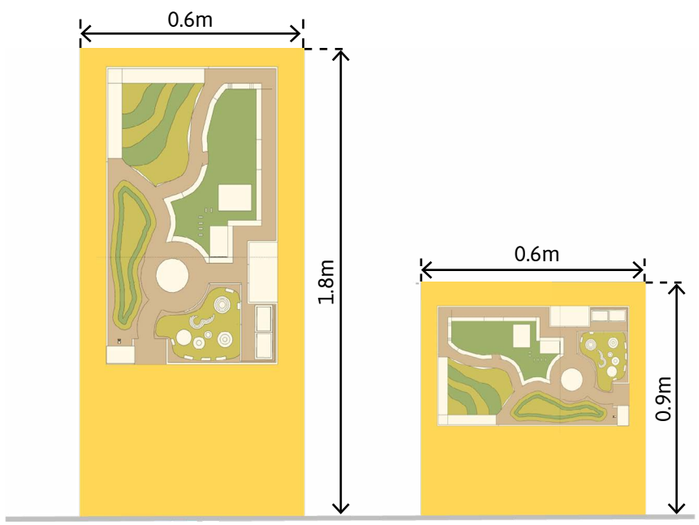
6.3 Identification signage

Well-lit informational signage at **adult and child heights**; information must also **include text in braille or relief.**





Information plaque



Source: WRI India

7. Lighting



Source: WRI India

1. Provide **high unadorned lights** to light the road surfaces.

2. Provide **lower, attractive armatures** to light footpaths and pavements.

3. Provide **low-level lighting where the paving is uneven,** or where there are steps to illuminate these obstacles better.

4. **Ensure lighting elements are placed such that no shadow zones or dark spots should be left** along the footpath.

5. Ensure **lighting elements are placed relative to the position of trees and other plants,** to avoid branches obstructing any light.



Source:https://pt.aliexpress.com/item/1005001598045269.html



Source:https://www.gmrenlights.com/en/footpaths-lighting/#gref

For more details, refer to pg 179 of the Parks and Public Space Design Guidelines in the Annexure.

Chapter 4

Setting the culture around play in Jabalpur

Chapter 4 focuses on cultivating a culture of outdoor play in Jabalpur by outlining three key strategies: organizing community events to transform public spaces into play zones, identifying and empowering local champions to advocate for outdoor play, and building partnerships among city agencies, NGOs, and local groups to sustain long-term play initiatives.

By engaging the community and fostering collaboration, Jabalpur can create a city where outdoor play is a regular, valued part of daily life, driving the demand for more recreational spaces for children and caregivers.

4.1

Setting the culture around play

To encourage a culture of outdoor play in Jabalpur, a well-rounded approach is needed to involve the community and highlight the benefits of outdoor play for children and their caregivers.

The following strategies can help develop this culture:

1. **Organize community events:** host outdoor activities and events for children, such as the play day event at civic center park in Jabalpur which included story-telling, interactive play, and games. Making these events a regular feature can transform public spaces into lively play zones, fostering physical health, community bonding, and shared enjoyment of public spaces.

2. **Identify community champions:** identify and engage passionate individuals and organizations such as educators, healthcare professionals, parents, influencers, NGOs, and local government representatives to leverage their support to build and sustain the momentum for play. Champions drive community demand, ensuring the project's long-term sustainability.

3. **Build diverse partnerships:** collaborate with city agencies, NGOs, resident groups, and other stakeholders to leverage collective resources, expertise, and networks, while also fostering shared responsibility for maintaining public spaces.

By adopting these strategies, Jabalpur can transform into a city where outdoor play becomes a regular part of life, not just an occasional activity. This, in turn, will create a stronger demand for more recreational spaces across the city.



Strategies for developing play culture; *Source: WRI India*

4.1.1

Strategy 1: Organize periodic play-oriented community events

Community events involving RWAs, NGOs, schools, and municipal agencies can raise awareness about the value of outdoor play for children and promote a play-friendly culture. Engaging residents, public agencies, and private companies in these efforts can inspire citizen-led initiatives, fostering a sense of ownership and driving lasting change.



Source: WRI India

Activities for children and their caregivers such as nature walks, painting, sports activities, sand play, mud play, puppet shows, yoga sessions, storytelling, dance/music performances, pottery sessions, and caregiver learning sessions can be organized during occasions such as Urban95 Kids Festival, Children's Day, Mother's Day, or Sports Day. These activities and events should be held at regular intervals to ensure consistent engagement and long-term impact.

Additionally, incorporate activities aimed at caregiver well-being, such as peer-led discussions, or yoga sessions. Include workshops or interactive displays that educate caregivers on responsive caregiving practices, offering insights into child development and positive parenting strategies.



Children participating in guided yoga sessions



Children engaged in unstructured nature play at the Play Nest.



Children discovering the outdoors through a guided nature walk

4.1.2
Strategy 2: identify champions to propagate play value

Identifying community champions, such as caregivers, educators, and local leaders, is key to promoting outdoor play. Tools such as focus group discussions, social media and IEC campaigns, and stakeholder interviews can help identify and engage them.

Champions play a key role in driving on-ground demand from the community by actively endorsing and advocating for play. Their efforts help raise awareness, encourage community participation, and build momentum for sustained investment in child-friendly spaces, ensuring project's long-term sustainability. These individuals can lead grassroots efforts by providing resources and support, such as collaborating with RWAs for park maintenance and involving community members in planning.

Their leadership ensures project success and encourages wider community participation, creating a network of passionate community members dedicated to making outdoor play a part of life in Jabalpur.



Warangal: Ward Corporator engaging local community including children

Kohima: Engagement with ward members to develop pocket parks





Kochi: Ward Councillor leading FGD with residents discussing proposed project design



Indore: Focused group discussion with anganwadi teachers



Jabalpur: Focused group discussion involving people from informal settlements



Rourkela: Local champion leading a capacity-building session for Slum Development Association members to identify spaces for play areas and submit requests for it to the city agency

4.1.3

Strategy 3: build partnerships to cultivate the play culture

Partnerships are essential for fostering a play culture in Jabalpur. Collaboration between Jabalpur Smart City Ltd, the Jabalpur Municipal Corporation, NGOs, and local associations can bring together resources and expertise to create and sustain inclusive play spaces across the city. These efforts ensure that play areas cater to diverse communities and demographics. By working together, these groups can establish vibrant, accessible spaces for children and caregivers, while encouraging shared responsibility for their upkeep.



Potential partnership to establish and foster play culture in Jabalpur; *Source: WRI India*

Chapter 5

Implementing Jabalpur Khel Plan

Chapter 5 outlines the steps for operationalizing the Jabalpur Khel Plan, focusing on creating a dedicated "Khel Cell" to lead the initiative. It commences with assessing existing play spaces and identifying gaps, followed by pilot projects in prioritized areas. A strong institutional setup is proposed, involving key stakeholders such as city leaders, municipal departments, technical experts and community organizations.

The financial mechanism includes funding from local agencies, alignment with existing urban programs, and partnerships with businesses and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives to ensure sustainability. Post-implementation, the Jabalpur Municipal Corporation will oversee maintenance, supported by local organizations and businesses.

5.1

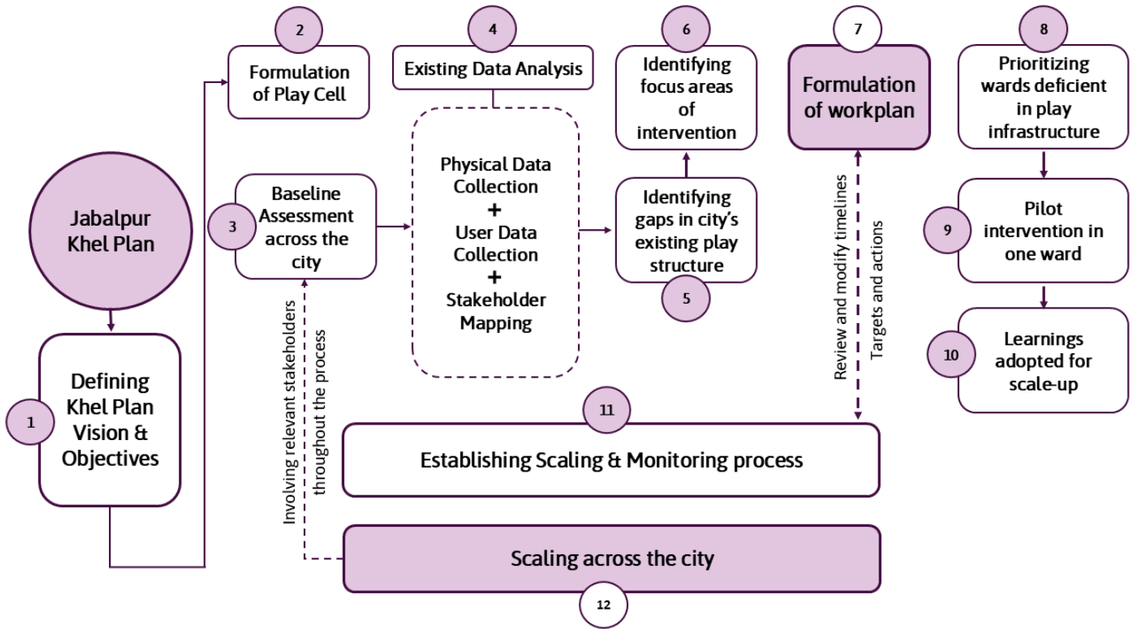
Implementing the Jabalpur Khel Plan

The process for implementing the Jabalpur Khel Plan starts with creating a dedicated "Khel Cell." This team will provide expertise, co-develop solutions, and manage the policy and project implementation to benefit young children and their caregivers (figure on next page).

Next, an assessment of existing spaces and facilities that are frequented by young children and caregivers such as open areas, schools, health facilities etc., will be conducted to ensure the interventions align with the vision and goals of the Khel Plan. Physical data collection, user surveys, and stakeholder mapping will also be carried out using participatory tools.

This analysis will highlight gaps in current play facilities, identify areas needing improvement, and help create a tentative timeline for implementing the plan. Pilot projects will be launched in prioritized wards, and the lessons learned from these will guide the expansion of similar initiatives across Jabalpur. Processes for evaluating and monitoring the implemented projects will also be established during this phase.

The diagram below provides a clear summary of the steps involved in creating a safe, inclusive, accessible, and playful Jabalpur.



Strategies for developing play culture; *Source: WRI India*

5.2

Institutional setup

Setting up a proper institutional structure is essential for the smooth execution of the program and effective collaboration among different stakeholders.
This structure is divided into five groups based on the roles of the stakeholders involved:

1. **K-H-E-L Program Cell**
2. **Members**
3. **Municipal Departments & Government Agencies**
4. **Independent Consultants**
5. **Community-Based Organizations**



Proposed institutional setup; *Source: WRI India*

Roles and Responsibilities:

According to the proposed institutional setup, the Executive Committee will oversee overall coordination, decision-making, and fund mobilization for the Program. They will establish the KHEL Program Cell, which will supply technical knowledge and resources for program implementation. This cell will coordinate with officials from various civic agencies to ensure the program's successful execution.

Additionally, relevant consultants and community-based organizations will be identified for knowledge-sharing and implementation support in the selected areas of the city.

KHEL Program Cell- Heads:
- Approve projects and provide strategic guidance to ensure alignment with the vision of the Jabalpur Khel Plan.
- Allocate funds annually through municipal budget allocation and leveraging convergence of ongoing programs and schemes, mobilize funds and resources needed for project implementation
- Coordinate between municipal departments, independent consultants, and community-based organizations.
- Review and provide technical expertise for proposed interventions.
- Monitor project progress and submit detailed monthly progress reports to the Executive Committee.
- Monitor, review and update set targets in the Khel Plan annually, considering city expansion and changes in the city's population.
- Share knowledge products to support awareness and capacity building of municipal departments and govt. agencies, aligned towards achieving the targets under Khel Plan.
- Periodic communication sharing impact stories, good practices and insights from on ground projects

Members:

Municipal Departments & Government Agencies:
- Oversee the on-ground implementation of projects.
- Allocate resources and mobilize teams for specific project needs.
- Provide spatial and socio-economic data to support project planning and execution.

Independent Experts:
- Review and provide detailed technical inputs on proposed interventions.
- Conduct capacity-building workshops and engagement activities to enhance the technical skills of government stakeholders.

Community-based Organizations:
- Foster collaboration between city agencies and local communities to co-create accessible play spaces in neighbourhoods.
- Facilitate community engagement and involvement at every stage of the project.
- Empower local champions, such as ward representatives, to advocate for child-friendly initiatives.
- Assist in the monitoring and maintenance of completed projects.
- Organize play events to encourage community participation and foster a culture of outdoor play.

5.3
Finance mechanism

A robust financial system is necessary to successfully implement the Khel Plan. The initial funding for planning and preparation of the Khel Plan could be shared by the Jabalpur Smart City Ltd. (JSCL) and the Jabalpur Municipal Corporation (JMC). This funding will cover key activities, including forming an executive committee, setting up a program cell, collecting and analyzing data, creating project plans, and selecting target areas for implementation.

The city agencies can adopt the following strategies to ensure the successful on-ground implementation of the Jabalpur Khel Plan:

1. Convergence with existing programs and schemes: align the Khel Plan with ongoing urban development programs such as AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) and NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) to leverage resources and maximize impact.

2. Allocate municipal budget: dedicate a specific percentage of Jabalpur Municipal Corporation's budget to support the Khel Plan's initiatives and ensure financial sustainability.

3. Collaborate with other city agencies: work with other city agencies such as Jabalpur Development Authority (JDA) to develop design guidelines for child-friendly play spaces. These guidelines can be integrated into the agency's existing framework, ensuring their future projects include Khel Plan components in their operational budgets. For example, when issuing tenders for new developments, the JDA can mandate contractors to include child-friendly play features in parks or gardens.

4. Engage local businesses and CSR support: partner with local businesses for material procurement and explore corporate social responsibility (CSR) funding from private companies to secure additional financial and logistical support for the plan.

Post-implementation of projects, JMC can take responsibility for covering the primary operations and maintenance (O & M) costs. To ensure the long-term quality and upkeep of the projects, the city could also collaborate with private organizations, local businesses, and resident welfare associations (RWAs). These partnerships will help share the responsibility and resources needed for maintaining the play spaces effectively.

Annexure

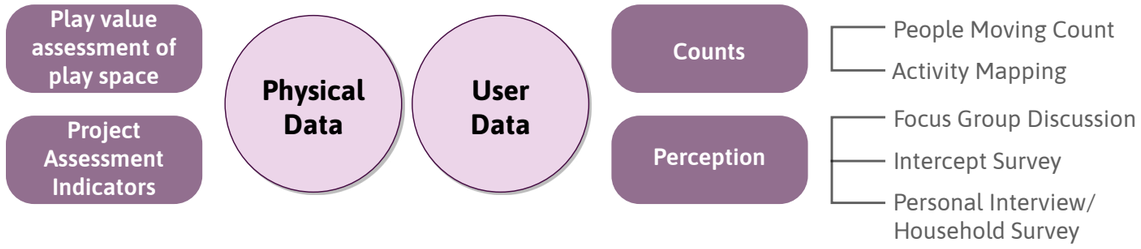
Chapter 6

6.1
Baseline assessment tools

A macro-level site assessment, whether for an existing or proposed project, by collecting physical and user-centric data helps to define the project's scope of intervention. Conducting these assessments of spaces focusing on children and their caregivers can reveal gaps and improvement opportunities in every project. Additionally, this approach will assist cities in developing site-specific designs through stakeholder consultations and apply insights from these engagements to make informed decisions when expanding similar initiatives across the city.

Furthermore, post-implementation of projects, these assessment tools could be used to measure impact and compare the results with pre-intervention data to formulate an effective evaluation and monitoring plan.

To conduct a site-level assessment consider the below on-ground data collection tools:

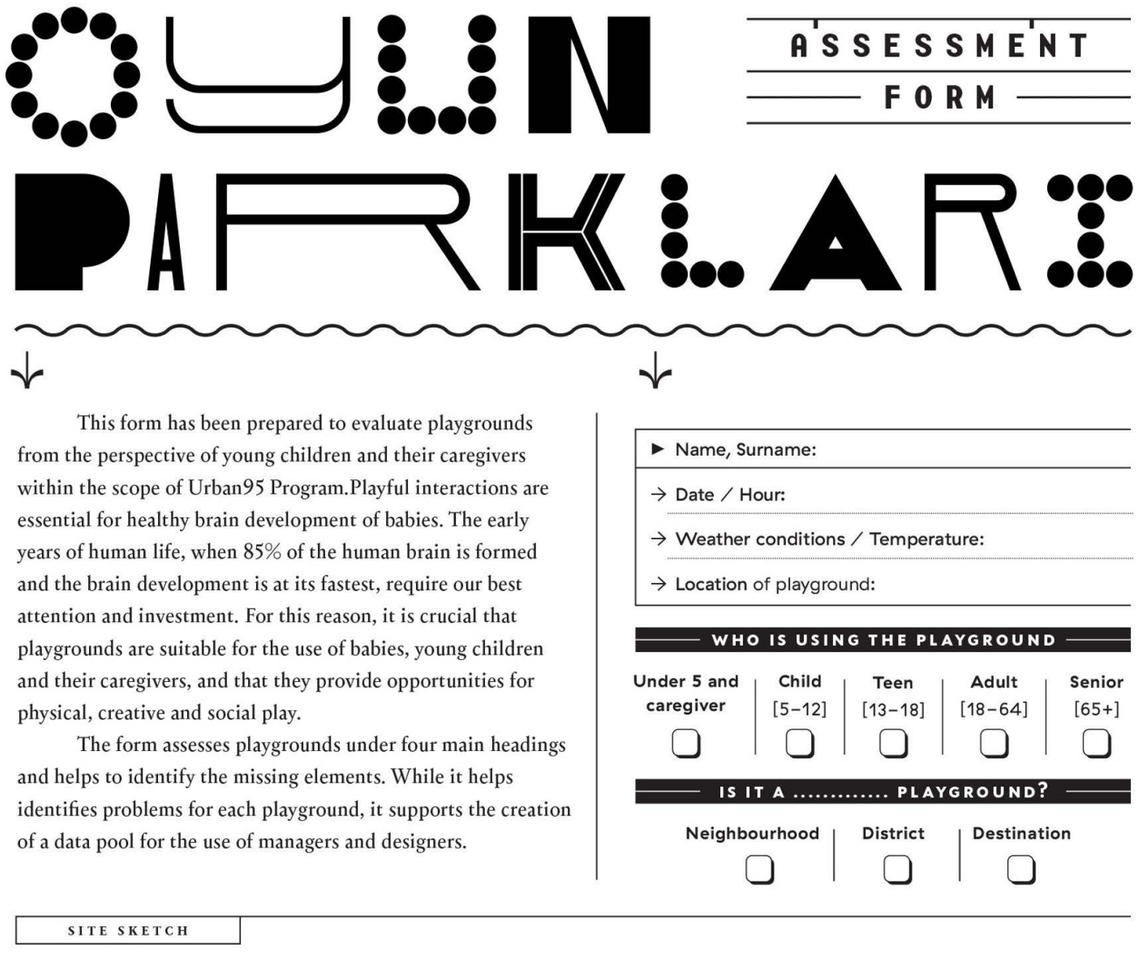


Data collection tools; *Source: WRI India*

6.1.1
Play value assessment of play space

The term "play value" describes the value an environment, object, or equipment delivers to an individual's playing experience. A high play value suggests that children can engage in various forms of play, fostering the development of their ideas and actions.

The play value of a space can be assessed using the below questionnaire format.



OUIN ASSESSMENT FORM

PARKLART

This form has been prepared to evaluate playgrounds from the perspective of young children and their caregivers within the scope of Urban95 Program.Playful interactions are essential for healthy brain development of babies. The early years of human life, when 85% of the human brain is formed and the brain development is at its fastest, require our best attention and investment. For this reason, it is crucial that playgrounds are suitable for the use of babies, young children and their caregivers, and that they provide opportunities for physical, creative and social play.

The form assesses playgrounds under four main headings and helps to identify the missing elements. While it helps identifies problems for each playground, it supports the creation of a data pool for the use of managers and designers.

▶ Name, Surname:

→ Date / Hour:

→ Weather conditions / Temperature:

→ Location of playground:

WHO IS USING THE PLAYGROUND

Under 5 and caregiver	Child [5–12]	Teen [13–18]	Adult [18–64]	Senior [65+]
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

IS IT A ..... PLAYGROUND?

Neighbourhood	District	Destination
☐	☐	☐

SITE SKETCH

1 — LOCATION

IS THE PLAYGROUND INVITING?
[shops around entrance? kids playing? neat and clean?]
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

IS IT BIG ENOUGH FOR INTENDED USE?
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

IS IT WELL USED?
[different age groups and people?Joggers, young children, mothers, fathers, caretakers, senior citizens?
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

IS IT GREEN AND OPEN ENOUGH?
[75% of park area - green?]
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

IS IT ON-LOOKING BY HOUSING/ OFFICES/SCHOOL?
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

IS IT PROTECTED AGAINST BY THOSE BELOW?
NOISE → ☐ 1 WIND → ☐ 1
TRAFFIC → ☐ 1 GLARE → ☐ 1
DUST → ☐ 1

WHAT TYPES OF ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE POSSIBLE?
SCHOOL → ☐ 1
DAY-CARE → ☐ 1
SHOP → ☐ 1
RELIGIOUS PLACES → ☐ 1
STREETBAZAAR → ☐ 1
GREEN AREA → ☐ 1
COMMUNITY CENTER → ☐ 1
HEALT CARE CENTER → ☐ 1
CAFE → ☐ 1
BUS/METRO STATION → ☐ 1

NOTES

SCORE:(_____) [Max:40]

0-15 points ☐ Poor
16-30 points ☐ Fair
31-40 points ☐ Good

2 — ACCESSIBILITY

IS LOCATION EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND CONVENIENT ?
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

DIFFERENT TYPES OF MODES OF TRANSPORT AVAILABLE?
◯ WALKING ◯ BIKE OR CAR ◯ BUS
◯ CYCLING ◯ AUTO ◯ METRO OR TRAIN

ARE PATHS AVAILABLE FOR STROLLERS AND DISABLED ?
[Footpath and pathway sloped?]
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

ARE ENTRANCE AND LAYOUT ACCESSIBLE TO STROLLERS AND DISABLED?
PEDEST. CROSSING → ☐ 1
SAFE SIDEWALK → ☐ 1
TRAFFIC LIGHTS → ☐ 1
SAFE BIKE ROUTE → ☐ 1
SLOW MOVING TRAFFIC → ☐ 1

NOTES

SCORE:(_____) [Max:25]

0-10 points ☐ Poor
11-20 points ☐ Fair
21-30 points ☐ Good

3 — FEATURES

IS THE OVERALL CONDITION WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN?
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

IS THE PLAY AREA PROTECTED FROM ROAD AND TRAFFIC?
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

IS THERE THE ABILITY TO PARK STROLLERS AND BICYCLES?
YES → 5 ◯ NO → 0 ◯

ARE THERE ANY TOILETS AND INFANT CARE ROOMS?
YES → 5 ◯
NO → 0 ◯

IS THE PLAY AREA CLEAN? TICK IF THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT AVAILABLE
DOG MESS → ☐ 1
BROKEN BOTTLES → ☐ 1
PACKAGING WASTE → ☐ 1
CIGARETTE ENDS → ☐ 1
NEEDLES → ☐ 1

WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO KEEP THE PLAYGROUND CLEAN?
LITTER BIN → ☐ 1
FOUNTAIN → ☐ 1
RECYCLE BIN → ☐ 1
SIGNAGE FOR TRASHES → ☐ 1
SIGNAGE FOR DOG MESS → ☐ 1

WHAT IS AVAILABLE TO KEEP THE PLAYGROUND SAFE?
LIGHTING → ☐ 1
GATES → ☐ 1
FENCES → ☐ 1
SECURITY → ☐ 1
BARRIER BETWEEN CAR TRAFFIC AND PARKING → ☐ 1

ARE THERE ANY SEATING ELEMENTS NEAR THE PLAY AREA?
BENCH → ☐ 1
PERGOLA → ☐ 1
SHADED SEATING → ☐ 1
FLEXIBLE SEATING → ☐ 1
SPECIALLY DESIGNED SEATING → ☐ 1

WHAT TYPE OF NATURAL ELEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE?
GRASS / SHRUBS → ☐ 1
TREE → ☐ 1
ROCK/BOULDER /GRAVEL → ☐ 1
SAND → ☐ 1
GARDEN → ☐ 1
WATER → ☐ 1
BIRD / OTHER CREATURES → ☐ 1

WHAT TYPE OF SHADING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE?
TREE → ☐ 1
TENT → ☐ 1
PERGOLA → ☐ 1

NOTES

SCORE:(_____) [Max:50]

0-15 points ☐ Poor
16-30 points ☐ Fair
31-50 points ☐ Good

4 — PLAY VALUE

DIVERSITY IN TEXTURE, COLOR AND MATERIAL	EXCITING AND ADVENTUROUS PLAY EXPERIENCE	PLAYWORKER OR PLAY VOLUNTEER IN THE PLAYGROUND
YES → 5 ○ NO → 0 ○	YES → 5 ○ NO → 0 ○	YES → 5 ○ NO → 0 ○

WHAT TYPES OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES ARE POSSIBLE?

CRAWLING → ☐ 1	BALANCING → ☐ 1	SKATING → ☐ 1
WALKING / STANDING → ☐ 1	RUNNING/BALL PLAYING → ☐ 1	BIKING → ☐ 1
JUMPING → ☐ 1	HANGING → ☐ 1	SWINGING → ☐ 1
CLIMBING → ☐ 1		

WHICH CREATIVE PLAY OPPORTUNATIES ARE AVAILABLE?

WATER PLAY → ☐ 1	SAND / SOIL / CLAY → ☐ 1	FREE SPACE (WITHOUT EQUIPMENT) → ☐ 1
LOOSE PARTS → ☐ 1	DIGGING / BUILDING → ☐ 1	LEAF /FRUIT BUSHES → ☐ 1
SOUND / RHYTM INSTRUMENTS → ☐ 1	SMALL SPACES (OPEN / CLOSED) → ☐ 1	SPACE AND MATERIALS FOR PRTEND PLAY → ☐ 1
TABLES FOR PAINTIG / DRAWING → ☐ 1		

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL PLAY	OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENSORY DEVELOPMENT	UNIQUE FEATURES OF THE PLAYGROUND
SPACE FOR SITTING HIDING/ CHATTING → ☐ 1	SAND / SOIL / CLAY → ☐ 1	NATURAL → ☐ 1
SAND POOL → ☐ 1	WATER PLAY → ☐ 1	DIVERSITY IN TOPOGHRAPY → ☐ 1
PLAYHOUSE → ☐ 1	DRAWING/PAINTING SURFACES → ☐ 1	OUT OF CATALOG /SPECIAL DESIGNED ELEMENTS → ☐ 1
SPACE AND MATERIALS FOR PRTEND PLAY → ☐ 1	DECIDUOUS TREES EDIBLE PLANTS → ☐ 1	WIDE RANGE OF PLAY OPPORTUNITIES → ☐ 1
INVITING SPACES FOR MIXED AGE GROUPS → ☐ 1		CAREGIVER'S PLAY PARTICIPATION → ☐ 1

NOTES

SCORE:(_____ **)** [Max:50]

0-15 points ☐ Poor

16-30 points ☐ Fair

31-50 points ☐ Good

TOTAL SCORE

(_____)

0-60 points ☐ Poor

61-120 points ☐ Fair

121-170 points ☐ Good

6.1.2
Project Assessment Indicators

This assessment framework includes indicators and sub-indicators designed to focus on various aspects of early childhood development, particularly in designing spaces for young children and caregivers. Derived from the ITCN Framework, it covers objectives such as safe, green, accessible, play, and inclusive, fostering thriving neighbourhoods for young children.

The data collection aims to:
a) establish benchmarks and gather relevant data on child-friendly aspects;
b) aid city authorities in evaluating facility responsiveness and formulating strategies;
c) monitor the impact of interventions on young children and caregivers' routines.

Link to Project Assessment Indicator form: Project Assessment Indicators_NNC.xlsx

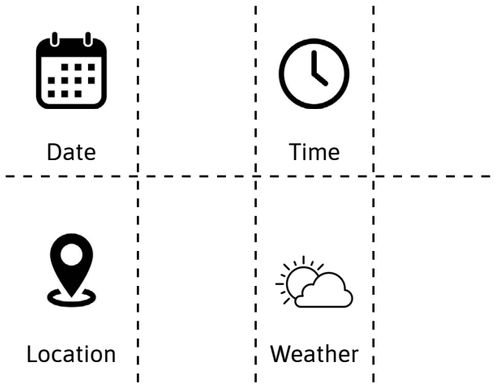
6.1.3
People moving count

What?
- Helps to account for the number of people moving through a site at a given time, day, week, and year
- Helps to gather information about individuals' attributes both before and after an intervention

When?
- During different times of a weekday and weekends to understand the usage pattern of space.

How?
- Conduct the count for a duration of 10 minutes during the peak hour or repeat the survey at various times throughout the day to determine the busiest time in the area. The surveyor should position themselves in an unobstructed location with a clear line of sight to observe the passing pedestrians.

	10 min	Total
Baby (0-1)		
Toddler (1-3)		
Child up to 5 years of age		
Elder Children		
Caregiver-Female		
Caregiver-Male		
Elderly		
Others		



Ref: Toolkit - For measuring urban experiences of young children - Van Leer Foundation

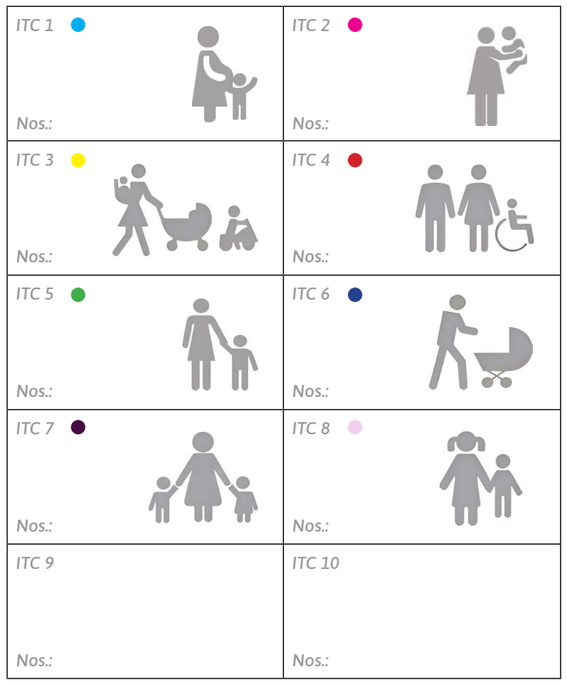
6.1.4
Activity mapping

What?
- Helps in the examination of how public space is utilized by individuals, capturing the diverse range of activities occurring within it.
- Helps in identifying successful aspects and areas that may need further improvement in the public space.

When?
- Activity mapping should coincide with the People Moving Count, capturing a diverse range of activities. Conduct this investigation at different times and days to document various activities. Perform this analysis before and after on-site interventions to observe changes in activity patterns.

How?
- Identify and record all young children and caregiver pairs visiting the public space during different times of the day and on different days of the week.

** Note- It's essential to analyze this data in conjunction with the results of People Moving Count to gain a deeper understanding of the observations made.*



Attach/draw the plan of the selected site in the space below

6.1.4
Activity mapping

Ensure that this survey aligns with the activity mapping template on the previous page.

Collect a minimum of 21 samples during both weekday and weekend peak hours for each public space.

Record gender, age, posture, groupings, and activities using the provided template (on the right), which can be contextualized to fit the specific characteristics of the public open space.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
GENDER	Other/ Unsure																					
	Male																					
	Female																					
AGE	Infant (0-1)																					
	Toddler (1-3)																					
	Toddler (3-6)																					
	Child (6-15)																					
	Young Adult (16-24)																					
	Adult (25-60)																					
	Adult (60+)																					
POSTURE	Standing																					
	Sitting																					
	Lying Down																					
	Moving Around																					
GROUPING	Alone																					
	Pair (Child- Child, Child= Caregiver, Adult- Adult)																					

Ref: Toolkit - For measuring urban experiences of young children - Van Leer Foundation

6.1.4
Activity mapping

How?
Walk around the chosen site of study. Observe stationary activities at various times of the day.

Ensure a **mix selection of samples** to cover all age groups of children and caregiver profiles identified in the profiling exercise.

ACTIVITIES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Waiting																					
Eating/ Drinking																					
Exercising																					
Playing formal- with equipment																					
Playing formal- with natural element																					
Playing informal- without props																					
Playing with home brought elements																					
Observing																					
Being Affectionate																					
Reading and Writing																					
Resting																					
Creating (Planting/ Painting/ Playing Music)																					
Using Electronics																					

Ref: Toolkit - For measuring urban experiences of young children - Van Leer Foundation

6.1.5
Focused group discussion

What?
A focus group discussion gathers insights on specific neighbourhood issues, offering qualitative data on enhancing child and caregiver-friendly facilities. This method is vital at all project stages, fostering community ownership from conception, and execution, to long-term maintenance.



***Focused group discussion to discuss the proposed park design at Brij Mohan Nagar, Jabalpur**; Source: WRI India*

6.1.6
User perception survey

What?
Understanding how caregivers and young children experience a space is crucial, providing evidence for observations made in previous exercises. The user perception survey aims to assess the quality of a public space by recording users' experiences and perceptions.

How?
This survey shall be conducted with at least 20-30 caregivers at the selected site of study to gather qualitative findings.

Probe Questions	Response
If the interviewee has a companion	• Infant • Toddler • Another caregiver • No companion
Gender of caregiver	
Approx. age of caregiver	
Purpose of visit	
Distance from home	
Frequency of visit	
Time of visit	
Duration of visit	
Mode of Travel	• Walking • Bicycle • Autorickshaw • Car • Bike
Is this place child-friendly?	

Note: *It's essential to analyze this data in conjunction with the results of other surveys such as Activity Mapping and People Moving Count to gain a deeper understanding of the observations made.*

6.1.7
In-depth interview/household survey

Individual interviews and/ or household surveys are invaluable for understanding personal experiences and facilitating in-depth discussions with stakeholders on various subjects. This approach should be utilized across all project phases, from initiation to execution. It serves as a crucial tool for identifying needed play spaces and evaluating existing ones in a neighbourhood.



***In-Depth Interview with the residents of Gulmohar Park**; Source: WRI India*

1. Do you have any family members under 5 years? If so, please specify the number and ages of these children.

   क्या परिवार में 5 वर्ष से कम उम्र का कोई सदस्य है? यदि हां, तो कृपया संबंधित बच्चों की संख्या एवं आयु बताएं?

2. Which park do they typically go to for play, and how long does it take to walk there from your home?

   उन्हें खेलने के लिए निकटतम पार्क कौन सा है? और और यदि पैदल चला जाये तो पार्क तक पहुँचने में कितना समय लगता है?

3. Which is the closest anganwadi, daycare, or creche they attend? How long does it take to walk to this facility from your home?

   वे कौन से निकटतम आंगनवाड़ी/डेकेयर/ क्रेश जाते हैं? और यदि पैदल चला जाये तो सुविधा तक पहुँचने में कितना समय लगता है?

4. Which is the nearest school they attend, and how long does it take to walk there from your home?

   वे कौन से निकटतम विद्यालय जाते हैं? और यदि पैदल चला जाये तो सुविधा तक पहुँचने में कितना समय लगता है?

5. Do you encounter any challenges traveling to the park, garden, anganwadi, school, or play area with your young children? If so, please describe the issues you face, such as broken or missing footpaths, garbage, inadequate lighting, antisocial activities, or unsafe traffic conditions.

   क्या आपको अपने छोटे बच्चों के साथ पार्क/बगीचे/आंगनवाड़ी/स्कूल/ खेलने की जगह तक पहुंचने के रास्ते में कोई समस्या आती है? यदि हाँ, तो आपको अपने बच्चे के साथ किन समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ता है (उदाहरण: टूटा हुआ फुटपाथ या फुटपाथ की कमी, कचरा, प्रकाश की कमी, असामाजिक गतिविधियाँ, यातायात के कारण असुरक्षित वातावरण आदि)

6. Where do your children typically play outside the house, and how much time do they spend playing there each day? Please specify the duration of play in minutes for weekdays and weekends.

   आपके बच्चे घर के बाहर कहाँ खेलते हैं और दिन में कितने समय खेलते हैं? कृपया कार्यदिवसों और सप्ताहांतों के लिए मिनटों में समय निर्दिष्ट करें

7. What types of activities do your children engage in when playing outdoors?

   आपके बच्चे बाहर किस प्रकार के/ कौनसे खेल खेलते हैं?

8. How much screen time do your young children (aged 0-5) have daily? What are the reasons for their exposure to these gadgets?

   आपके छोटे बच्चे (0-5) प्रतिदिन कितना स्क्रीन टाइम बिताते हैं? इन गैजेट्स के संपर्क में आने का क्या कारण है?

6.2

Street design guidelines

Footpath

Walking area:

1	Provide continuous 1.8m – 2.4m wide clear walking space to ensure safe walking
2	Provide a clear walking space with no obstructive elements on the footpath such as poles, utility boxes to enhance driver's visibility
3	Provide tactile paving strip of suitable anti-skid material along walkway for universal accessibility
4	In case of level differences in the footpath, provide ramps with slope 1:15-1:20 for convenient walking

Building edge:

1	Provide porous /see through, interactive compound walls especially at 95 cm
2	On dead edge walls, provide murals painted with vibrant colors, green planters and creepers, hollow blocks
3	For commercial streets, provide colonnades, building edges with steps, katta, series of planters to allow interaction
4	For ECD premises, provide interactive porous boundary wall with interactive openings
5	For parks and public spaces, provide low height porous green wall as the boundary
6	In case of long dead boundaries, place interactive elements at every 50m

Buffer:

1	Provide a green buffer with minimum width of 0.5m-1m to provide safety from vehicular traffic
2	Height of the green buffers should not be more than 0.8m so that it does not block the visibility of the toddler.
3	Bio-swales, tree trenches can be integrated within green buffer
4	Along parks and public spaces, provide a 45cm Short wall as buffer and seating edge
5	Along ECD premises, provide interactive railing such as Abacus railing at 95cm as buffer between vehicular and pedestrian movement

Multi-utility zone (MUZ):

1	Provide shaded seating and play pockets integrated within Multi-utility zone (MUZ) of width min. 2.5m
2	Provide clustered seating in the MUZ to create a safe pause point and ensure eyes on the street
3	Provide line of trees in the MUZ to ensure shaded seating and walkway
4	Provide street elements such as lighting, signage in the MUZ / buffer to avoid obstructions in the walking area

Rest and pause points

1	Provide wide and legible, highlighted entrance of park / playground (atleast 3m wide)
2	Provide shaded waiting spaces, play pockets with interactive elements @95cm height in the pause point
3	Provide clear and wide footpath space to allow safe walking
4	Provide a green buffer to protect ITCs from traffic outside the premises
5	Ensure dedicated vendor zones in the pause point to activate the space and ensure eyes on the street
6	Ensure safety and comfort with enhanced pedestrian lighting and line of trees
7	Provide traffic calming elements and signage to slow down vehicular traffic near entrance of the facilities

Seating

1	Add multi-height seating options along the footpath, as clustered seating (in pause points) to enable both adults and young children to sit comfortably
2	Provide seating for toddlers with height of 270 mm
3	Provide a wider flat top for seats 650 mm wide, to ensure safety for babies
4	Integrate seating with other elements such as low-height bollards (400-500mm height) with flat tops, wooden cut logs, etc.

6.2
Street design guidelines

Stimulating experiences at 1m along footpath

1	Provide pop-up play elements such swings, seesaw, etc. for play
2	Provide floor and wall-painted games and colorful patterns as informal wayfinding as sidewalk games to engage children
3	Provide variety of flowering plants at the green buffer to stimulate sensory experiences
4	Provide interactive railings such as abacus railing at 95cm for play and protection
5	Provide colorful urban furniture such as low-height seating, benches

Lighting

1	Provide high unadorned lights to light the road surfaces, at 20-30m c/c
2	Provide lower, attractive armatures to light footpaths and pavements, at 10-20m c/c
3	Provide low-level lighting where the paving is uneven, or where there are steps to illuminate these obstacles better
4	Place lighting elements such that no shadow zones or dark spots should be left along the footpath
5	Place lighting elements relative to the position of trees and other plants, to avoid branches obstructing any light
6	Avoid significant changes in lighting levels along a street

Signage

1	Provide signage to indicate speed limits, pedestrian crossings, slow vehicular speeds, bus stops, designated parking areas, important landmarks and destinations, in the buffer or MUZ
2	Place the signage so that it is visible at an eye-level of 95cm
3	Use bright and recognizable features such clear symbols for easy readability
4	Map and incorporate the informal routes taken by young children in the wayfinding system

Traffic calming measures

1	Traffic calming measures 13m before pedestrian crossings on all surrounding streets including:
	a) Raised Crossing
	Or rumble strips/ speed bump/ speed hump
	Or cobblestones or any other suitable material
	b) Pedestrian Signage

STOP line distance

1	Increase distance between pedestrian crossing and STOP Line to minimum 13m to ensure drivers can slow down in time with clear view of ITC crossing, to reduce the chances of collision.
2	Increase distance between pedestrian crossing and STOP line based on the driving speed, to ensure time to react and stop before crossing
3	Additional traffic calming measures such as cobble stone paving or rumble strips between pedestrian crossing and STOP line

Climate resilience on streets

1	Provide a line of trees for shade along the footpath, plantation in the median and green buffer to protect pedestrians from the vehicular carriageway and filter polluted air from vehicle exhaust
2	Use locally-sourced, porous materials for footpath, cycle tracks etc. such as permeable paver blocks
3	Provide vertical greens along high boundary walls or columns
4	Provide native plants and species for all plantations along the streets
5	Provide flower-rich bio-swales, tree trenches integrated within green buffer to improve the micro-environment and provide shade
6	Adopt recharge pits in green buffer for percolation and surface-runoff capture
7	Create network of storm water drains along the street
8	Provide shading elements such as trees, canopies, pergolas along the footpath

6.2
Street design guidelines

Pedestrian crossings

1	Provide mid-block pedestrian crossings at regular intervals (every 250-300m), and near young children and caregiver-oriented destinations
2	Provide minimum 3m wide pedestrian crossing highlighted with colorful patterns (Tabletop or staggered crossing in case of high vehicular speeds)
3	Provide staggered crossing to increase effective refuge space on median, allowing more ITC to wait and cross safely
4	Provide wide refuge spaces in the median break at crossing locations to allow ITCs to safely wait and cross the street
5	Ensure refuge spaces in median break to be at the same level as crossing to safely pause while crossing.
6	Ensure height of plants in the median up to 0.8m for clear visibility of ITCs in waiting
7	For at-grade crossing provide ramps (with slope 1:15) on either sides connecting to footpath, with bollards for protection
8	Provide traffic calming (such as cobble stone, paver blocks, or rumble strip) before crossing to slow down vehicles much prior
9	Ensure crossing is clear of obstacles that may obstruct ITC's view. No parking or low height planting to be provided next to crossings
10	Provide legible signage before pedestrian crossing to alert approaching vehicles to slow down
11	Provide bollards at the median break to protect pedestrians while crossing and to prevent vehicles taking U-turn
12	Provide kerb extension at mid-block crossing to reduce crossing length

Visibility on streets

Visibility for drivers:

1	Provide continuous 1.8m – 2.4m wide clear walking space to ensure safe walking
2	Provide traffic calming 13m before pedestrian crossing to reduce vehicular speed and enhance visibility
3	Minimum 13m distance between pedestrian crossing and STOP Line to alert drivers to slow down before approaching pedestrian crossing
4	No obstructive elements on the footpath such as poles, utility boxes to enhance driver's visibility of ITC @1m height
5	Place on-street parking bay, bus stops away from the pedestrian crossing to ensure drivers can see ITCs waiting to cross

Visibility for pedestrians:

1	Provide porous/ see through boundaries of building edges for clear visibility for ITCs
2	No obstructive elements on the footpath such as poles, utility boxes to enhance driver's visibility of ITC @1m height
3	Provide interactive railing such as Abacus railing at 95cm as buffer between vehicular and pedestrian movement
4	Provide demarcated pedestrian crossing with 13m STOP line distance to provide adequate reaction time with clear visibility
5	Provide safe refuge spaces at median break with clear visibility to ensure safety for ITCs while crossing

6.2
Street design guidelines

Junctions and intersections

1	Ensure compact junction area for slower turning at junction and maintaining lane discipline
2	Include residual area at turnings into footpath to create sufficient queuing spaces at crossings
3	Provide continuous 1.8m – 2.4m wide clear walking space on footpath to ensure safe walking
4	Use ‘Gray spaces’ to extend footpath area for safe walking and developing pause points
5	Extend medians to create refuge for at-grade pedestrian crossings, securing with bollards
6	Introduce refuge islands to redirect traffic lanes, compact junctions and cut down crossing distance
7	Provide ramps (with slope 1:15) to access refuge spaces that can accommodate strollers and wheelchairs in all directions
8	Provide at-grade pedestrian crossings with STOP lines that slow down vehicles and allow visibility of ITC crossing
9	Allocate a dedicated bus-stop and parking spaces 50m away from the junction to ease the traffic flow and enable safer crossing at junction
10	Provide dedicated bus bay without disturbing 10 thorough traffic

6.3
Park and public space Design guidelines

Improving access around 500m radius of parks and playgrounds

Young children and family-friendly walkways:

1	Provide continuous network of min. 1.8-2.4m wide unobstructed and shaded walkway around 500m radius of park/ playground
2	Install tactile paving strip of suitable anti-skid material along the walkway to ensure universal accessibility

Pedestrian crossing for young children and families:

1	Provide minimum 3m wide dedicated pedestrian crossings near park entrance
2	Provide footpath to the crossing is connected using ramps with slopes ranging from 1:12-1:15 for safe access to parks/ playgrounds

Traffic calming measures in adjoining streets:

1	Provide traffic calming measures 13m before pedestrian crossings on all surrounding streets including:
	a) Raised Crossing
	Or rumble strips/ speed bump/ speed hump
	Or cobblestones or any other suitable material
	Or safety studs
	b) Pedestrian Signage

Wayfinding and safety:

1	Use of signage to indicate speed limits, pedestrian crossings, slow vehicular speeds, bus stops, designated parking areas, important landmarks, and destinations 20m before pedestrian crossings along footpaths
2	Install low, attractive pedestrian lighting of height 3.5-5m to light footpaths and pavements at intervals of 12-15m

6.3

Park and public space Design guidelines

Improving access around 500m radius of parks and playgrounds

Wayfinding and safety:

3	Construct low-height boundary walls with a colorful, and visually porous wall area between the height of 0.6-0.9m for increased visibility and safety

Safety buffer between street carriageway and pedestrian walkways:

1	Provide green buffer (plantation height max 0.8m) or interactive railings (max height 0.95m) along footpath for safety and clear visibility

Park entry:

1	Create wide and legible, highlighted entrance of park/ playground (atleast 3m wide)

Circulation within parks and playgrounds

Young children and family-friendly walkways:

1	Connect all play and pause spaces, facilities and amenities in parks and playgrounds connected via well-shaded, well-lit and wide pedestrian walkways
2	Provide minimum 2-3m wide unobstructed walkway for comfortable movement of caregivers with pram/ baby/ baby carrier
3	Provide gentle slope ranging from 1:15-1:20 at all level changes along pedestrian walkway to allow easy stroller and wheelchair movement
4	Design walking loops or curved pathways are well-lit and shaded, to promote physical activity while limiting risk of getting lost and to encourage children to walk along edges and explore spaces
5	Consider materials such as concrete, tinted concrete, and crushed stones for building primary pathways, and flagstone with local stones for secondary pathways.
6	Install tactile paving strip of suitable anti-skid material along the walkway to ensure universal accessibility

Material selection:

1	Use materials with high albedo value such as reflective concrete, tinted concrete, flagstone with local stones, and lime, preferably in white or bright colors for walkways to reduce the urban heat island effect and smooth stroller/wheelchair movement. Consider permeable materials such as porous bricks, grass pavers, or open-joint brick laying.

Trees along walkways:

1	Ensure a minimum clearance height of 2.1-2.4m for trees with thick and wide canopies along walkways.
2	Avoid planting rain trees to prevent accidents

Multi-heighted seating spaces:

1	Provide well-lit, multi-heighted seating spaces for young children and their caregivers at intervals of 100m; highlight seating areas with colored pavements near pause spaces (refer to page 10 for design parameters of seating).

Play space characteristics for young children (0-5 yr)

Play space features:

1	Create dedicated play and walking spaces for young children away from play areas for older children, such as cricket grounds and badminton courts, to avoid accidents.
2	Include natural elements with different textures such as plants, sand, pebbles, soil, mud, water, etc., to facilitate interactions with nature.
3	Provide a sandpit with clean, washed sand of particle size 0.25-1.5mm for the play area, ensuring the removal of crushed seashells or other materials injurious to young children.
4	Create seating spaces near the sand play area, located in quiet, wind-free, and well-shaded zones.

6.3

Park and public space Design guidelines

Play space characteristics for young children (0-5 yr)

Play space features:

5	Install a loose fill impact-absorbing surface such as sand, mulch, etc., with a minimum depth of 300mm to absorb falls safely without causing injury to the child.
6	Design an active play zone with the predominant use of bright primary colors such as red, yellow, and orange.
7	Design a passive/quiet zone with prominently cool colors such as blue and green
8	Use playground surfaces such as sand, pea gravel, rubber mats, and poured-in-place rubber surfacing to lessen the chances of major injuries.
9	Use timber such as teak, bamboo, and mango to build innovative play equipment for young children.
10	Install an appropriate impact-absorbing surface such as sand, pea gravel, rubber flooring, etc., around any play equipment with a fall height greater than 600mm.
11	Extend playground surfacing at least 1.8 meters beyond play equipment.
12	Ensure rounded edges/corners of furniture and play equipment to avoid abrasion or injury
13	Install wheelchair accessible swings, merry-go-rounds, or moving bridges for universal accessibility.
14	Provide minimum landscape screening around play areas to ensure maximum visibility

Multi-heighted seating spaces:

1	Install all-weather street furniture made of natural materials that ensure comfort most times.
2	Provide comfortable and well-lit adult and child seating to ensure close contact with the play space, with waste disposal bins near seating areas.
3	Install wide benches with proper backrests (min 0.5-0.55 m wide and 0.45-0.5m high) for adults, and low-height seating (0.2-0.3 m high) for young children.
4	Design cluster seating arrangements near play areas to aid the use of sign language (i.e., the ability to sit facing each other).
5	Integrate informal seating such as low-height ledge walls, rounded boulders, and old tree stumps with regular seating facilities.
6	Design multi-functional features that encourage a variety of cultural uses and attract more families to public spaces (e.g., amphitheater, community tables, etc.).

Play space characteristics for young children (0-1 yr)

Play space features:

1	Create a separate infant play area with a natural and soft textured surface for crawling, rolling, and exploration.
2	Enclose the play space with a low-heighted stockade.
3	Provide comfortable and well-lit adult and child seating to ensure close contact with the play space.
4	Install water features such as shallow pools or splash pads for water play.
5	Create small sensory trails for cognitive development, including fragrant, soft, and colored grass, pebbles, stones of different sizes, gravel, sand, wooden chips, and mosaic tiles.
6	Create small gentle green mounds up to a height of 0.3-0.5m to aid body balance.
7	Install small-heighted support structures such as standing/climbing frames or handrails (max. height 0.6m) for babies 9 months and older to stand upright.

Play space characteristics for young children (1-3 yr)

Play space features:

1	Provide loose parts such as stones, pebbles, wood, pipes, tires, construction materials, etc., for creative play.
2	Create play spaces with sandpits, loose wooden logs, and climbing walls to explore risk and adventure play opportunities.
3	Install a water pool with a depth of 3-6 inches.
4	Plant ornamental shrubs with a maximum height of 0.95m to stimulate nature interaction.
5	Create a short obstacle course for developing body balance.
6	Install low-height climbers/jungle gyms to encourage physical development; all climbing structures must be under the height of 0.8m with appropriate fall surface treatment around them.
7	Provide comfortable and well-lit adult and child seating to ensure close contact with the play space.

6.3

Park and public space Design guidelines

Play space characteristics for young children (3-5 yr)

Play space features:

1	Create dedicated play and walking spaces away from older kids' play areas, such as cricket grounds and badminton courts, to avoid accidents.
2	Design landscape features that afford play, such as little clearings, bridges over streams, stepping stones, and loose rocks in ponds.
3	Provide play opportunities that include pretend play, adventure play (bridge, mounds, tunnel), and balance beams.
4	Create water bodies such as shallow pools or ponds with a minimum water depth of 0.8m.
5	Design dedicated tricycle/cycle trails with a length of 100m and a width of 1.8m in a figure-eight or continuous loop.
6	Create a gentle play mound up to a height of 2.5m for child play.
7	Install short walls below a height of 0.6m for balancing activities.
8	Install play equipment such as simple machines, including pulleys, baskets attached to ropes, etc., for the development of gross motor skills.
9	Provide comfortable and well-lit adult and child seating to ensure close contact within the play space

Caregiver corner

1	Provide shaded seating in small, flexible clusters rather than linear rows to encourage peer interaction. Consider using circular or semi-circular seating arrangements.
2	Use comfortable, well-supported seating with backrests to accommodate caregivers of all ages.
3	Ensure visibility of nearby children's play spaces so caregivers can supervise while engaging in conversation..
4	Provide a visually calming space with warm, affirming messages, short self-care tips, for guided relaxation—reinforcing well-being, and reminding caregivers that caring for themselves is just as important as caring for their children.
5	Provide small reading corners with parenting and self-care books.

Amenities and facilities within parks and playgrounds

Nursing booth:

1	Provide clean and well-lit feeding booths for nursing mothers with diaper changing tables (2.1m X 2.4m nursing station, designed to accommodate at least 2 nursing mothers).

Drinking water and toilet facilities:

1	Install clean drinking water facilities at both adult and child (0.5-0.55m) heights for easy access.
2	Provide clean toilets with separate cubicles equipped with toilet fixtures at child height; for young children, the maximum toilet seat height should be 0.25-0.3m and the maximum height of the hand basin should be 0.5-0.55m.

Lighting:

1	Install low, attractive, and warm pedestrian lighting of height 3.5-5m to light walkways at intervals of 12-15m.
2	Install warm bollard lighting of height 0.2-0.3m, c/c spacing 2.4m; height 0.5-0.55m, c/c spacing 4.6m; or height 0.8-0.9m, c/c spacing 9m to illuminate the ground surface without causing light pollution.

Garbage disposal bins:

1	Provide accessible garbage disposal bins and child-heighted waste bins at a height of 0.5-0.55m at regular intervals (every 100m) and near seating spaces

Wayfinding:

1	Install well-lit signage showing entry-exit points and a park map with facilities (in city-level parks) at the entrance/exit.

6.3

Park and public space Design guidelines

Amenities and facilities within parks and playgrounds

Wayfinding:

2	Include braille or relief in all orientation signage, key maps, and information plaques.
3	Use a bright and repetitive color palette for all signage (identity, directional, and informative).
4	Install innovative, playful, and stimulative informational signage at a height of 0.5-0.55m, including interesting facts about trees, native plants, and insects.

Landscape features:

1	Provide 100% shade around all play areas with shade trees featuring thick foliage for climatic protection (e.g., from sun, rain, and wind) and comfort at all times of the day.
2	Include medicinal, herbal, air-purifying, indigenous plants, vegetables, and fruit-bearing plants with gardening opportunities for young children and their caregivers.
3	Provide grass, shrubs, and plants with different colors, textures, shapes, and smells at height of 0.95m
4	Avoid planting species such as oleander, philodendron, money plant, caladium etc. around play spaces; plant species that are hypo-allergenic (sunflower, rose, passionflower, nasturtium, butterfly pea, lavender etc.) and safe for children's oral consumption
5	Label different species and include plant uses to educate and raise awareness amongst public especially children
6	Create noise berms/landscape mounds towards the park/playground periphery to block noise from adjacent streets.
7	Install fishponds and bird houses/feeders to encourage interaction with biodiversity.
8	Create small sensory trails for cognitive development, including fragrant, soft grass, colored pebbles, stones of different sizes, gravel, sand, wooden chips, and mosaic tiles.
9	Construct man-made sheltered structures such as pergolas, huts, nooks, bamboo tents, etc., for climatic protection (e.g., from sun, rain, and wind) and comfort at all times of the day.
10	Install raised mounds, wooden logs, tree stumps, and small rounded boulders as seating and play components.

6.4

Early childhood development center design guidelines

Improving access around 500m radius of ECD center

Young children and family-friendly footpaths:

1	Create a continuous network of a minimum 1.8-2m wide, well-shaded, at-grade footpath, clear of all encroachments or obstructions such as open drains, public utilities, light poles, and parking, within a 500m radius of the ECD center.
2	Ensure the height of the footpath ranges from 0.1-0.15m above the carriageway.
3	Use locally available, permeable, anti-skid materials such as stone tiles, grass pavers, cobblestone, brick, and unpolished tiles for paving the footpath.
4	Install a tactile paving strip of suitable anti-skid material along the footpath for universal accessibility.
5	Design floor-based games such as hopscotch, snake and ladders, etc., on the multi-utility zone (MUZ) of the footpath to engage children.
6	Create colorful patterns on the boundary walls adjacent to footpaths to divert the attention of children from traffic.
7	Provide adequate shading along footpaths through large canopy trees or parasols.
8	Prune trees along the footpath to avoid accidents.
9	Install interactive railings of a maximum height of 0.95m along the footpath for safety and ensuring clear visibility.
10	Install adequate pedestrian lighting of height 3.5-5m at intervals of 12-15m for a well-lit walking space.

Pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures

1	Create a minimum 3m wide dedicated pedestrian crossing near the ECD center.
2	Connect the footpath to the crossing using ramps with slopes ranging from 1:5 to 1:8 for safe access.
3	Limit the permissible vehicular speed around the ECD center to 30 km/h.
4	Implement traffic calming measures such as rumble strips, speed bumps, cobblestones, safety studs, or any other suitable material, 13m before pedestrian crossings on all surrounding streets (at 30 km/h).

6.4

Early childhood development center design guidelines

Improving access around 500m radius of ECD center

Pedestrian crossing and traffic calming measures:

5	Create slow traffic zones in front of entry and exit points of the ECD center by painting or providing different treatments with textures on the footpath.
6	Establish no on-street parking zones within a 50m radius of the ECD center to ensure clear visibility and safe walking.

Wayfinding:

1	Install signage indicating speed limits, pedestrian crossings, bus stops, designated parking areas, important landmarks (e.g., school ahead), and destinations (e.g., children at play) 20m before pedestrian crossings in the multi-utility zone (MUZ) or green buffer.

ECD entry:

1	Ensure a minimum 3m wide entrance for the ECD center.
2	Highlight the ECD entrance with engaging patterns on the footpath.
3	Install safety bollards with clear spacing of 0.9m for walking and 1.2m for wheelchair movement along the footpath in front of the main entry.
4	Install a ramp with slopes ranging from 1:5 to 1:8 at the plot entry for safe access.
5	Install a permeable compound wall with safety grills for visibility and security, deterring vandalism and anti-social activities.

Site planning

Site planning:

1	Ensure a minimum 1.8-2m wide unobstructed walkway within the premises for the comfortable movement of caregivers with prams or in wheelchairs.

Site planning:

2	Provide a gentle slope of minimum 1:15-1:20 at all level changes along the pedestrian walkway.
3	Use locally available, permeable, anti-skid materials such as stone tiles, grass pavers, cobblestone, brick, and unpolished tiles for paving walkways.
4	Add colorful and engaging elements and features such as hopscotch, murals, etc., on walkways to engage children.
5	Create sensory trails with bricks, pebbles, differently textured grass, wooden chips, mosaic chips, and gravel.

Waiting area & building entry:

1	Provide a waiting area close to all young children and caregiver-oriented amenities (breastfeeding booth, OPD, play area, classrooms, etc.).
2	Provide multi-heighted seating with proper backrests and rounded edges at frequent intervals.
3	Child-height seating should be 0.2-0.3m in height and 0.55-0.6m in width, while adult-height seating should be 0.45-0.5m in height and 0.55-0.6m in width.
4	Provide shading in outdoor waiting areas using large canopy trees or materials such as tensile fabric, recycled cloth, or colorful polycarbonate sheets with GI steel pipe frames.
5	Place waste disposal bins at convenient locations for easy access and proper waste management.
6	Provide ramped entry of slope- 1:10-12; width 1.2 m to the building for easy movement of young children and pregnant mothers
7	Provide grab bar of ht. 0.45-0.5m and dia 00.05m for young children on the ramp for universal accessibility
8	Provide gradual steps of riser-100-150mm and tread – 300mm for easy access by young children

Safety measures:

1	Ensure all open drains are covered in and around ECD center premises to avoid accidents

6.4

Early childhood development center design guidelines

Site planning

Safety measures:

2	Ensure all the utilities such as transformers/ telephone lines if any present within the premises taken underground or warded off via utility screens. Provide minimum screening height is 2.5 to 3m from the ground

Young children and family-friendly landscape:

1	Plant local herbs, medicinal plants, vegetables, and fruits, providing gardening opportunities for young children and caregivers.
2	Install low-height signage at a height of 0.45m in the herb/kitchen garden with the local name of the plant.
3	Plant ground cover, flowerbeds, and indigenous varieties of ornamental shrubs or medicinal plants of hypo-allergenic species at a height of 0.45m to engage children with nature.

Outdoor play: play opportunities for young children

Waiting area & building entry:

1	Provide play spaces at grade with the walkways
2	Ensure play equipment is compliant with safety standards, with rounded and smooth edges, and provide a gentle fall area around the equipment.
3	Provide seating spaces for caregivers near play areas to ensure supervision.
4	Create open green play spaces using locally available and child-friendly varieties of grass (Mexican, Bermuda, Korean, Soft Buffalo) for crawling.
5	Install a sandpit with loose parts such as pebbles, balls, buckets, spades, etc., for imaginative play.
6	Create gentle play mounds up to a height of 1.2m for play.
7	Install sound-based play elements such as xylophones or drums at a height of 0.45-0.5m for sensory stimulation.

Young children and caregiver- oriented amenities

Child-friendly toilets:

1	Provide clean toilets equipped with toilet fixtures at child height; for young children, ensure the maximum toilet seat height is 0.25-0.3m.
2	Install a wall-mounted grab bar at a height of 0.5-0.55m near the WC for support, and provide toilet hand showers at a low height for easy access from the toilet seat.
3	Ensure the maximum height of the hand basin is 0.5-0.55m.
4	Install anti-skid tiles for flooring.
5	Provide a picture guide for children to operate the toilet fixtures and practice personal hygiene.
6	Install doorknobs at a height of 0.5-0.55m for easy access by children.

Consultation/Sick room:

1	Design a consultation/sick room (5x4m) that includes a bed, table, chair, storage space, and an information chart on neonatal care.
2	Provide a well-lit, ventilated breastfeeding cubicle/room (2.1 x 2.1m) that includes nursing chairs/ sofas.

Building as Learning Aid

1	Create punctures or jali with different patterns on verandah walls, forming light and shadow patterns on the floor.
2	Paint numbers, alphabets, murals of animals, birds, plants, day and night on walls to aid in storytelling; create sensory walls with mosaic tiles or any recycled material for cognitive development.
3	Install interactive railing to engage children.
4	Install wall-mounted play opportunities such as an illusion wheel for cognitive development.

Social messaging

1	Provide social messages about healthy practices such as breastfeeding habits, the importance of outdoor play for young children etc. on boundary walls along footpath leading to anganwadi or PHC/NRC.
2	Provide a visually calming space with warm, affirming messages, short self-care tips, for guided relaxation—reinforcing well-being, and reminding caregivers that caring for themselves is just as important as caring for their children.



Source: WRI India

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