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## Wouldn't it be better to keep it Fantastico?

Heidi Zipay

Nov 3, 2018

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**I** was saddened to read the news of the tear-down of Playground Fantastico, a truly fantastic playground that thousands of kids have grown up with, including mine.

Playground Fantastico was absolutely a playground for the imagination. I remember this park as a place of adventure, exploration, and play for my kids. You always brought extra clothes because of the sand and water that flowed down the replica of the Napa River.

There were so many towers and bridges and places to chase, run and hide. There were castles and kingdoms to stake claim to. Tunnels to crawl through. The big concrete lizard. The wooden car replica. People came from all over the Bay Area to this unique space.

Sadly, though, the new park proposal looks like the same boring plastic jungle you can find in any town anywhere. There's a token clubhouse, plastic slides, and a little "cozy dome" to go into. How ordinary.

While I understand that the playground was showing some age, the replacement does not have to be the same cookie cutter type playground that has taken over our parks and schools. I don't see anything about saving the flowing Napa River replica or much of the adventure trails and tunnels through castles. Where's the car to drive or the sand to dig in?

Parents - be outraged at this loss. Do the survey and tell the city to build something wonderful!  
**([surveymonkey.com/r/fantastico-english](https://surveymonkey.com/r/fantastico-english))**

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Napa, do a better job. Look at the nature-based playgrounds that are now considered essential to children's development. Look to the 39-year-old Adventure Playground in Berkeley, the Big Slide park in Benicia. Do something unique and compelling like you did with Playground Fantastico 16 years ago. The planned renovation is a very expensive Playground Boring. Wouldn't it be better to keep it Fantastico?

**Heidi Zipay**

**American Canyon**

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