Parks & Playgrounds for all

A perspective on inclusive and nature play for all kids

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Changing trends in park design….play for all

- Park designs are moving away from “typical” palette of features
- Studies on the “science of play” and importance of connecting to nature
- Focus on the health and well-being of visitors

What is “Inclusive Play?”

Address the needs of people to participate in successful play, whatever that means for them, regardless of abilities

Playcore ME-2 program……

What is “Inclusive Play?”

Move beyond what meets code (DOJ 2010 standards, City/County Code, ADA Transition plan, etc.)

Do what is right

Consider all users.....

- Children
- Parents / Grandparents
- Care givers
- Individuals vs. groups
- Neighborhood / community

Who are children with disabilities?

Out of **1,000** children between the ages of 3 and 21, approximately **85** will have these disabilities:

1	physical
1.5	sensory
2	multiple disabilities
6.5	chronic health impairment
8.5	social/emotional
18.5	communication
47	cognitive

7 Principles to inclusive designs:

Everyone gets equitable access to features that allow them to play independently...think beyond adding ramps.

Diverse features for every need

- Active
- Quiet
- Interactive
- Peaceful
- Fun
- Social…..and on!

Diverse features for every need

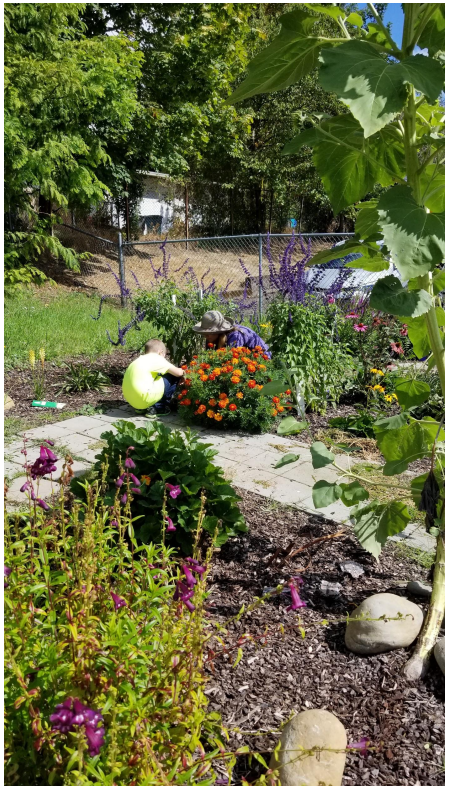
- Imagination play
- Hands-on, engaging play
- Loose parts

Design needs to be thoughtful....

- To the site
- To the budget
- To what level of maintenance is available
- Neighborhood/community
- Users
- Public vs. Private

Changing the mindset of how parks look....

- Create spaces to explore and discover
- Leave some areas more naturalized, habitat
- Use natural elements
- Add lots more shade!
- Multi-use spaces and places



Who is designing inclusive/nature play….

- Lots of non-profits, trained professionals, etc.
- LOTS of thoughts about what is “right” or “wrong”, depending on one’s perspective
- We all have lessons to learn and apply!

Lots of examples around the country….

HARPER'S PLAYGROUND

Portland based

MAGICAL BRIDGE® FOUNDATION

ALL ABILITIES | ALL AGES | ALL WELCOME

Palo Alto, CA

Shane's Inspiration Inclusion Matters℠

Los Angeles, CA

Unlimited Play

St. Peters, Missouri

children & nature NETWORK

Let Kids Play!

Because every child deserves to play

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

What are keys to successful playgrounds?

- No barriers
- Smooth paths
- Diverse features
- Hands-on / Interactive
- Places to gather
- Access to nature
- Shade
- Fun and engaging
- Places to explore
- Things to discover
- Features that challenge
- Sensory elements
- Art
- Quiet spots
- Short distances
- ……and so much more