

Socially Inclusive Park Partnership

Inclusive, Accessible, Inter-generational Play Space

Inclusive and inter-generational play spaces are a gathering place for families. They take into account the physical equipment, AND incorporate the emotional, social, tactile, sensory and psychological benefits of play, for all ages and abilities.

Inclusive spaces expand on accessible parks which are designed for people with mobility and balance challenges.



Features of an Inclusive Park

- A sturdy surface for those using mobility aids (wheelchairs, crutches) or have balance issues
- Curb free entries with a direct path to the playground and open spaces
- Path with a firm surface that is at least 1525mm wide with a slope that is less than a 5% grade
- Equipment and textures providing tactile stimulation in zones for active and quiet play
- Specialized equipment and/or spaces for inclusive, inter-generational play i.e. family swing
- Clearance for mobility devices at benches, drinking fountains, and tables
- Toys, gate latches, garbage cans at least 380-1200mm above the ground
- A place for a wheelchair, on a firm surface beside a bench or the ability to wheel under a table
- An array of play equipment at the ground level for children of all abilities
- Accessible parking and barrier-free washrooms in close proximity to the park
- A fenced or enclosed area with age appropriate zones
- Destination park for people of all ages and abilities

Supporting Partners

SIPP is a coalition passionate about ensuring people of all ages and abilities can gather and play freely together.



Partner Contact Info

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The time is now.



The City of Nanaimo is making an investment Maffeo Sutton Park. This multi-year process includes the upgrade of equipment, surfaces and access to the playground. The Socially Inclusive Park Partnership (SIPP) envisions a destination park for families, children, visitors and residents that embraces people of all ages and abilities. This connects to three of the City of Nanaimo's strategic pillars including; economic health, social equity and cultural vitality.

Proposed upgrades extend well beyond, just kids. Inclusive spaces benefit the entire community. Mobility challenged adults can swing and engage in active play with their children, rather than watching from the sidelines. Grandparents feel confident with stable ground surfaces and adults with developmental delays can play too.

Inviting someone into your home is a good step toward making them feel welcome, but how welcome will they feel if they have to be in a different room than everyone else? An inclusive playground drives engagement between children of different abilities. Access gets someone in. Inclusion drives engagement, connects people and builds community.

A Signature Park for Nanaimo



Full family engagement



A destination for visitors



Socially inclusive and inter-generational



Decreases isolation for seniors and families with special needs

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