

Why is this an Inclusive Playground?



Most efforts at inclusive playgrounds have been aimed at accommodating wheelchair users. Efforts to accommodate children on the autism spectrum, who may find playgrounds over stimulating or who may have difficulty interacting with other children, have been less common. The Town of Orange Park has accommodated both!

"Inclusive Playground" is defined as a universally designed playground created to be accessible to all children. There are three primary components to a higher level of inclusive play:

1. physical accessibility;
2. age and developmental appropriateness; and
3. sensory-stimulating activity.

To understand why we have classified this as an "Inclusive Playground" you must understand where we started...



Not ADA compliant

No ADA transition stations were present on the old structure. Example: stairs, rails, decks, etc. Most people with a physical disability would not be able to access the play structure.

No ground level activities were present.

A sand surface is not accessible for wheelchairs, crutches, canes, etc.

Due to safety concerns the old wheelchair swing has been taken out. We are looking into safer options as a replacement.



We now have multiple ground level sensory-stimulating activities!

Children with Autism or Sensory Processing Disorders find challenges with socialization, communication, play and imagination. Sensory play activities attract children and encourage exploration and discovery, and provide a "just-right" experience for those seeking sensory stimulation.

Fibar Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) is not "mulch" or "wood chips." It is made from "virgin" never used wood. Fibar EWF meets all the requirements of ASTM F1292 for safety, F2075 for purity, and F1951 for wheelchair access.



The part of the playground that mostly stands out from other playgrounds is the rubberized surface addition. Children and adults of all abilities can now access the play area without difficulty.

We are now fully ADA compliant. We also have transfer stations, rails, steps, and decks.



The cocoon is designed for children with autism.