

## Accessible Playground Features

*The listed Accessible Playgrounds will have a combination of the features below. The soft surface feature appears at all Accessible Playground locations.*

**Soft Rubber Surfacing:** No more woodchips, raised walls and other physical barriers in the Park District playground designs. New accessible playgrounds all contain a soft rubber surfacing system made primarily from recycled tires. Generally, the surface is a combined system of a poured-in-place rubber product with rubber tiles located in areas more likely to wear such as under swings and at the base of slides. This rubber system is contained within a concrete border and creates a wheelchair accessible play environment.



**Accessible Swing:** All soft surface accessible playgrounds contain at least one molded bucket seat with a high back to provide head, neck and back support. The look is slightly varied depending on the manufacturer.



**Drinking Fountain:** The standard drinking fountain installed at new accessible playgrounds contains three basins at three different heights. The lowest basin provides accessible clearance for a child's wheelchair at 22" from the bottom of the basin to the ground. The middle height basin provides accessible clearance for a wheelchair at 27". Push buttons on the face of the drinking fountain exist at all three basins to turn the water on. In addition, the drinking fountain is always installed on an accessible, paved surface with required floor clearance.



**Bench Pad:** A longer bench pad provides space for a wheelchair user to sit next to the bench.



**Picnic Tables:** If picnic tables are a feature within an accessible playground, the table style allows enough clearance between fixed benches for a wheelchair user to easily maneuver up to the table.



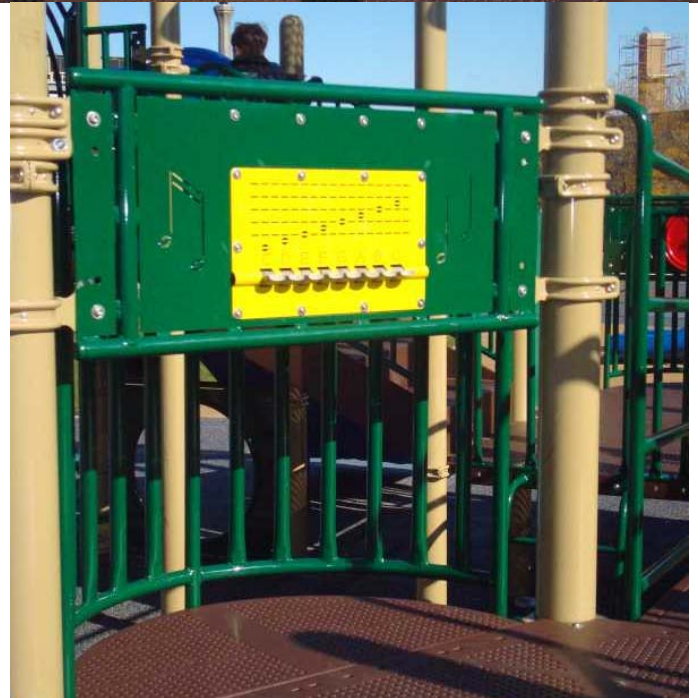
**Playground Equipment Transfer Platform:** A platform is available for a child to transfer from a wheelchair onto the playground equipment. Typically, at least one of these transfer methods is included on both the age 2 to 5 and 5 to 12-year-old playground equipment. A child able to independently maneuver up the stairs or along a plastic ramp system will be elevated to a raised deck and experience other play components such as crawl tubes, activity panels and slides.



**Accessible Ramp:** A concrete ramp supported by either concrete walls or interlocking landscape blocks allows children in wheelchairs to move from ground level up to the access point of the elevated playground equipment. At the top landing of the ramp, detectable warning tiles are installed to aid children who are blind or visually impaired as they approach the stairs. Once on the playground equipment deck, a child in a wheelchair can interact with other children and move between connecting ramps to access the play features. In addition to a transform platform, the ramp is also typically installed on the playground equipment designed for 5 to 12-year-old children.



**½ Size Activity Panels with Balcony:** On the elevated equipment level, a child in a wheelchair can use a forward approach to reach and play with the ½ size activity panels because there is additional forward footrest clearance underneath the ½ panels.



**Ground Features on Playground Equipment:** The accessible playgrounds offer many ground play activities that activate the space and provide enjoyment to children of all abilities. These may include a storefront with seating located underneath an elevated deck, musical instruments, interactive activity panels, stepping pods, a balance beam or crawl tubes.



*Mt. Greenwood Park is home to one of the largest Special Recreation programs within the Chicago Park District. The following features can be found at Mt. Greenwood Park's accessible playground:*

**Stainless Steel Slide:** Standard playgrounds generally contain slides made of molded plastic, while the playground at Mt. Greenwood Park contains a stainless steel slide. This slide does not produce the electrostatic generated from sliding down a plastic slide which could cause cochlear implants to malfunction and/or cause inner ear pain for children with implants. This problem doesn't exist with a stainless steel slide.



**Sway Fun:** This feature is a wheelchair-accessible glider that has ample room for two wheelchairs, plus two large benches for plenty of other passengers. It provides a gentle swaying motion and is recommended for ages 2 to 12. It also contains a play table with several hand holds.

