

Playgrounds for All Abilities

By DCNR

PENNSYLVANIA - Ahh, summer, when the need to help kids release some energy and play with others can mean a trip to a nearby playground.

Recently, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources officials have helped communities celebrate refreshed playgrounds that are intended to make sure all kids can play and have fun.

New Concepts for Playgrounds

There are a number of things to consider as communities look to replace old play equipment or install playgrounds in new parks.

Accessible playground design provides physical accessibility to children with disabilities. Accessibility is a good starting point. Inclusivity is a more comprehensive goal for playground design.

An inclusive playground is an open and safe space carefully designed to promote play among children of differing abilities, ages, and communities. It gives children with and without any disability the same platform to play while breaking down physical and social barriers.

Universally-designed playgrounds feature multipurpose game settings and a range of physical elements including sensory play beneficial to all children, while allowing those with disabilities to play alongside abled children.

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