



Inclusive Design Report

Labor Day typically marks the end of summer, but this year, in Myrtle Beach, Labor Day marked the beginning of something amazing! On a breezy morning, hundreds of people gathered to be part of the official opening of Savannah's Playground. This inclusive playground takes playing in Myrtle Beach to a whole new level. This enabling playground is located in the Myrtle Beach Grand Park which provides visitors with walking trails, ball fields and the Crabtree Gymnasium. The park is surrounded by a large neighborhood which supports the many activities available at the park.

The playground itself provides visitors of all ages and abilities with activities that will keep them busy for hours. For the early learners, there is a whole area of assorted structures that will provide them with a whole mix of climbing and sliding activities where they can build their muscles, social and cognitive skills. This area includes ample seating and shade to support families with young children.

Around this area, families will find a huge collection of swings of assorted types. The collection allows children of all abilities the opportunity to experience this favorite childhood activity. The sheer number of swings ensure that wait times to get on a swing will be minimal compared to the regular playground experience. Group swings like the Oodle Swing provide children with the chance to swing together with their friends.

Nestled in a group of trees a bit off the beaten path, children will find a Sensory Play Center. The different panels within the Sensory Play Center allow children to play with their sense of touch, sight and hearing. The curves within the wall create small nodes of play that support group play for two or three children at a time. This results in a quieter play area which will support children with Autism.

Just down from the Sensory Play Center, children will find the only electronic play component, the Pulse Table Tennis game. The lights and sounds from the game will attract children of all abilities to try the hand at some electronic ping pong. As children play together, the game challenges their motor coordination, reflexes and reasoning as they try to out play their opponent. The quicker children play, the quicker the game becomes, thus challenging even the best athletes who come to the playground.

At the other end of the playground, nestled in another group of trees, children will find another sensory play area, a music area. Here children of all ages can spend hours exploring the large collection of musical chimes and drums. The tones and harmonies created on this collection are soothing to the soul and will call forth the musician in every visitor who comes to the playground.



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Just before this musical area, visitors will have the chance to fly on the ZipKrooz collection. This group of three ZipKroozes with assorted seating options ensures that children of all abilities are able to fly down the track to their friends on the other end. Children of all ages will enjoy flying through space as they listen to the music created by their friends in the neighboring musical area.

Once visitors have sampled all these surround play features, they can dive into playing on the main playground structure. This huge ramped structure provides visitors with a route of play that takes them 12 feet off the ground. Along the way to the top, they have a wide variety of play panels to explore. These occupy their mind in play, building reasoning and problem solving skills by engaging their senses. They can take a pit stop at the Sway Fun and go gliding with their friends. They can also leave the structure through the abundance of sliding experiences found at assorted levels of the structure. To get back onto the structure quickly, children have a variety of climbers to access that will build their motor coordination and muscle strength. This makes certain that children can quickly get back up to their favorite slide to race back down to earth.

Around the main play structure children, will find a collection of group play opportunities. These include a We-Saw, OmniSpin Spinner, Roller Table and Topsy Turny Spinner. Each of these Inclusive Play components provide children with a fun way to play with their friends and experience motion in different ways. There is ample room between all the playground elements and the main structure to allow the children to just run and play! One of the hidden features in the main structure is a series of water misters that provide children with a quick mist of water to cool off while they play.

To say the least, Savannah's Playground provided the hundreds of players with a great place to play on this Labor Day Saturday morning. In the days, weeks, and years to come it will continue to provide many opportunities for play for any child regardless of their medical diagnosis. Every child will find their "just right" fit on this playground as it is designed to support their physical, sensory and cognitive needs while it provides them with a world of fun to acquire new skills in all these areas. It provides each visitor with a great space to work on their socialization and self-esteem as they walk, run, roll, slide, climb, swing and spin together at Savannah's Playground!

Respectfully Submitted,

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