



# LEWISTON'S INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

“The River” at Marcotte Park

~ City of Lewiston, Maine ~

[www.lewistonmaine.gov](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov)

Sponsorship Packet



## THE VISION

The All-America City of Lewiston, Maine, has an exciting vision for a universally accessible playground! Lewiston desires a community space where everyone inclusively PLAYS together! The goal is to establish a “playground of abilities,” a Northeast destination point for children and their families! Marcotte Park is the location of the future inclusive playground, with a theme of “The River” due to the City’s commitment to the development of Riverfront Island and enhanced multi-use access to the Androscoggin River.

Lewiston schools and agencies interact with hundreds of special needs children with mobility, physical, emotional, and developmental disabilities. Lewiston, Maine’s second largest municipality, and several community stakeholders have discussed how such a playground could bring compassion, inclusiveness, and mutual understanding to new heights. The benefits of ensuring that children have access to play opportunities cross and link a number of areas - learning, health, social relationships, family, and community!

The City of Lewiston envisions a visually appealing playground that benefits children and adults, with or without disabilities. For those with disabilities, an inclusive playground offers an opportunity to learn social skills in an integrated, more natural, stimulating, and motivating environment. An inclusive playground increases the availability of age-appropriate, non-disabled role models and peer support, while allowing participation in a variety of in-school and extracurricular activities. New friendships are made, and one’s self-esteem improved. Interacting with children and adults with disabilities can enhance an able-bodied person’s understanding of those with a disability. It can teach others how to interact with, be friends to, assist, and advocate for peers with disabilities. The ultimate goals: to eliminate prejudice, encourage interaction, and enrich lives.

Ben & Erin Hayes provide a unique perspective. As parents of a young daughter, they want quality play time with her. Ben has lived with a spinal cord injury since December 2007, and finding ways to play together has been difficult. They desire a playground where children and adults with disabilities feel welcome – a centralized play area versus one where they are separated from others. Inclusiveness, they say, would affirm that others are willing to share time/space with them. Ben believes the playground would be a fresh unbiased experience where play, socialization, and education would be common ground for a new adventure!

Lewiston’s new inclusive playground will be barrier free to include barrier-free parking along the adjacent street, creating a seamless parking-to-playground transition. The ground surfaces will be smooth and level so those with physical limitations don’t have to abandon their support devices. The playground will be sensory rich, providing stimulation for children and adults, with visual and developmental challenges. It will create an attractive, meaningful space with multiple opportunities for all, regardless of their physical or sensory development, so all can play together in a diverse environment.



## WHY LEWISTON NEEDS AN INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND!

~ **Donna Driscoll, Androscoggin Head Start Disabilities Program Manager**, personally understands the need for an inclusive playground. She discovered that the design of many existing parks further isolated her disabled son from his peers. He still had no one to play with and missed out on cooperative play. Donna also knows that an accessible playground would benefit the 149 children Head Start serves via occupational, physical, and development therapy; social/emotional assistance; and speech/language.

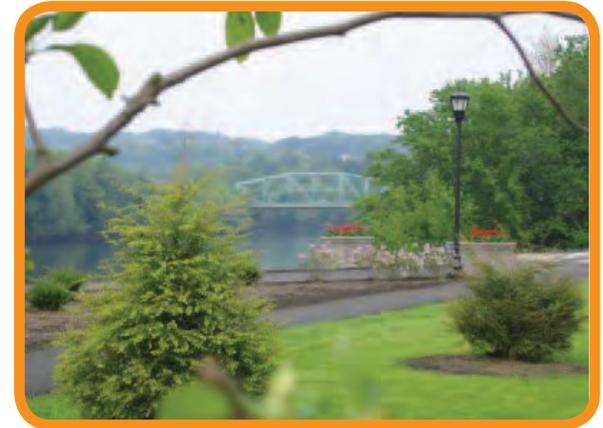
~ **Stephanie Gelinas, Executive Director of Sandcastle Clinical and Educational Services**, expresses concern that children with challenges are even isolated from their siblings when play is not integrated.

~ **Special Olympics of Maine** shares that children who use wheelchairs or other ambulatory devices are often left on the sidelines watching other children play.

~ **Holly Day, Child Development Services (CDS)/First Step Director**, shares that existing playgrounds are limited in age and developmentally appropriate offerings. CDS serves Lewiston, Auburn, and surrounding town children totaling 800, and staff would embrace the playground for gross motor, sensory, cognitive, and social development.

~ **George Veilleux, Lewiston Public Schools Special Education Director**, notes Lewiston's youth population growth, and he believes an inclusive playground will enable children without special needs to learn from children who have them!

~ **An accessible playground would also complement Lewiston's cultural diversity.** With an influx of approximately 4,000 refugees/immigrants to Lewiston since 2001, the creative offerings of an accessible playground would further encourage inclusiveness amidst children of varying cultures.





**August 13, 2012**

**Greetings from Lewiston:**

**As President of the Lewiston City Council, I am excited about Lewiston's forthcoming universally accessible playground. Indeed, we have an opportunity to build upon Lewiston's winning Shane's Inspiration contest application and create a multi-aspect environment where children of all abilities may experience the magic of play.**

**I am particularly pleased that so many community stakeholders have stepped up to advocate for this playground. They know full well of the need for and benefits that would result from Lewiston being home to an all-inclusive place for children and families to make fun-filled memories.**

**I am also very proud that Lewiston's universally accessible playground would be the first of its kind in New England. It is my hope that during the September 12th salon, many other individuals and local entities will come on board to help make Lewiston's universally accessible playground not only possible but a "standout" playground that will be a greatly desired place by both able-bodied children and those who face daily challenges.**

**Our planning has begun, and the best is yet to come!**

**Sincerely,**

**Mark Cayer  
City Council President**

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Telephone: (207) 513-3121 ~ TTY/TDD (207) 513-3007  
Email: [mcayer@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:mcayer@lewistonmaine.gov) ~ [www.lewistonmaine.gov](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov)**





September 5, 2012

Re: Together We Play Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

One focus of recreation programming is improving the conditions and needs of a target population and the community in which they live. Another focus is directing its programming and services toward offering quality recreation experiences for the enjoyment and enrichment of all individuals. Shane's Inspiration playgrounds reflect both of these central points: improving the needs and enriching everyone's play experiences.

People of all ages have different barriers as well as abilities. Let's celebrate all our gifts regardless of our challenges. A Shane's Inspiration playground with all inclusive equipment and activities will engage all abilities creating a wonderful environment of play, laughter, and adventure.

With Inspiration,

Maggie Chisholm, Director of Recreation  
City of Lewiston

65 Central Ave ~ Lewiston, Maine ~ Tel. 207-513-3005 ~ Fax 207-786-0783  
Visit us on the world wide web at: [www.lewistonmaine.gov](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov)



## THE PROJECT

In July, 2011, the City of Lewiston and several community partners entered the Shane's Inspiration "Together We Play" contest, in the hopes of winning the grand prize or being selected as one of the five regional winners. The City of Lewiston was chosen as one of the five and was awarded \$10,000 in inclusive playground equipment and \$50,000 for development, design, and educational programming. In addition, the Lewiston City Council has endorsed this project, and the City has agreed to provide in-kind services for the site prep work and future maintenance at the project site.

Earlier this year, the City of Lewiston and its partners identified Marcotte Park as the site for Lewiston's first inclusive playground.

## THE LOCATION

Marcotte Park, located at the intersection of Caron and Birch Streets, will house the first inclusive playground in the City of Lewiston. Child Development Services in Lewiston serves over 210 children with developmental delays and disabilities. In the neighboring City of Auburn, they serve another 114 children. The Lewiston school district serves over 4,990 children, and 16% of those are special needs children who are limited to minimal play at traditional playgrounds. An inclusive playground is needed in Lewiston so every child in the community can enjoy the multi-generational benefits of play.

## THE DESIGN

Lewiston's project received an in-kind design services donation from Southern California-based Shane's Inspiration, a leader in inclusive playground design. As the detail in this packet will reveal, the playground

design celebrates the principles of inclusive design while addressing the developmental needs of Lewiston's diverse and unique population. Marcotte Park's inclusive playground will be designed for all ages and will incorporate sensory rich, multi-generational play for all! The design will focus on four types of sensory play: Sound & Music, Movement-Skill, Water, and Sensory Activities, including imaginative theme play. The playground will include: (1) the **'Riverfront Rock Wall'** for 5-12 year olds, offering numerous tactile, climbing, sliding, wheeling, and crawling opportunities with local animals, birds, and fish featured; (2) the **'Sensory Rock'** provides similar opportunities, but for younger kids on a smaller scale; (3) **'Animal Sculptures'** pop out of the surfacing, providing climbing, tactile, and imaginative play opportunities; (4) a **'Sound Garden'** where chimes, drums, a glass imbarimba, and a rainwheel will entertain and delight; (5) **'Spinner Alley'** where children of all abilities will spin and laugh together while enjoying the wind and sky; (6) **"Embankment Fun"** will take advantage of the park's native slope and install slides and climbers for children to experience; and, finally; (7) the **'Tree Canopy Swings'** where all children will soar side-by-side in bucket, belt, and high-back seats. For the ultimate thrill, multiple children of all abilities will swing together in the new **"Omni Swing"**!

## PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Please join this effort and bring the City of Lewiston's inclusive playground dream to reality. As each partner joins, our success moves forward. We have developed this packet as a visual description of our inclusive playground, depicting each of the areas available for sponsorship. Opportunities exist to sponsor a play area, a piece of equipment, or partial sponsorship.

A special thank you to municipal departments who have assisted with this effort. In order to commemorate all partners in this collaborative venture, the project site will recognize corporate and individual contributors. For more information as to how you can make a tax-deductible donation, please contact: Dot Perham - Whittier, Community Relations Coordinator ~ [dottie@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:dottie@lewistonmaine.gov) or Maggie Chisholm, Director of Recreation ~ [mchisholm@lewistonmaine.gov](mailto:mchisholm@lewistonmaine.gov).

## Catalog Contents

<b>Playground Areas</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Riverfront Rock Wall</b>	<b>8-10</b>
<b>Sensory Rock</b>	<b>11-13</b>
<b>Animal Sculptures</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Slope Embankment Fun</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Tree Canopy Swings</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Spinner Alley</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Sound Garden</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Site Amenities</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Letters of Support</b>	<b>21-33</b>



# PLAYGROUND AREAS



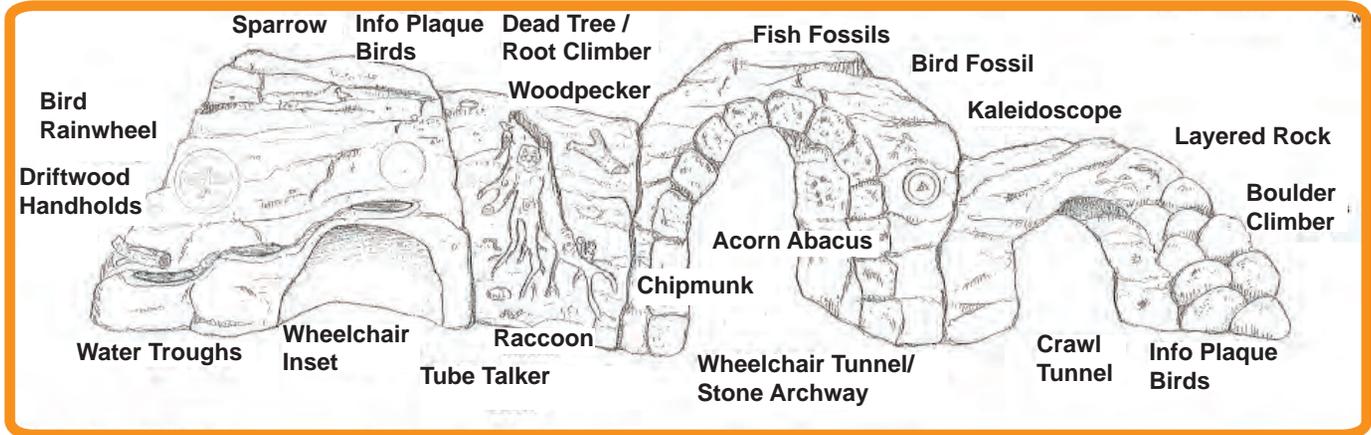
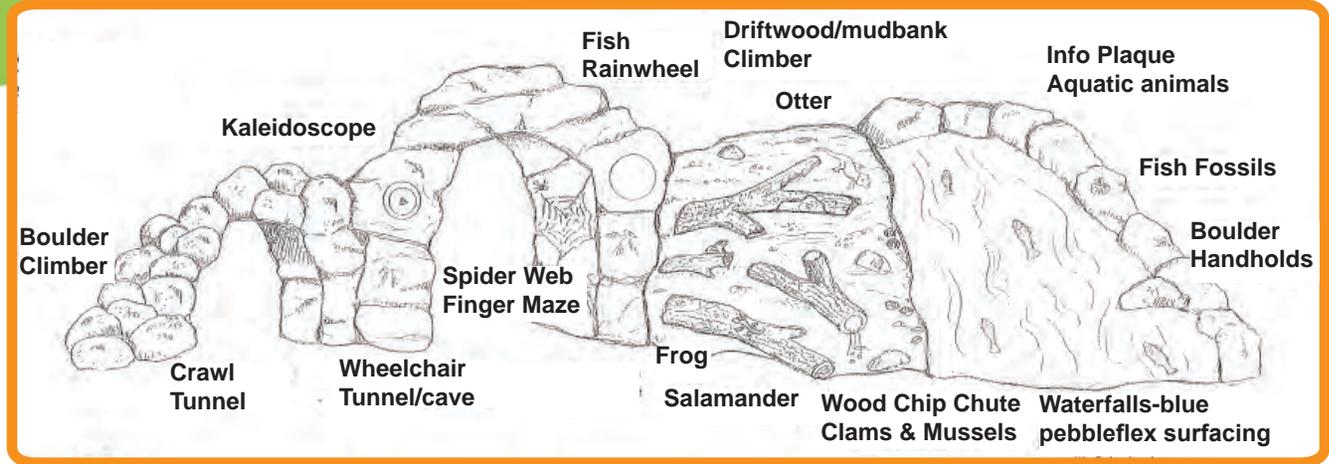
Images shown are for conceptual purposes only. Actual elements may vary slightly.

## Riverfront Rock Wall

This 5-12 school-age interactive climbing rock is a wonderful opportunity for inclusive play. A sensory wonderland... this element supports parent-child and peer interaction. Sensory development is supported as a child experiences new sounds from the fish and bird rainwheels, new sights from the interactive kaleidoscope, tactile textures from the low relief fossils, and colored surfacing wall. Also provided are movement opportunities as children work their gross motor skills navigating wheelchair tunnels and climbing rock slopes for the more able-bodied. Given the numerous opportunities for play, child therapists can work on language development as they discuss various play opportunities.

The rubberized surfacing will display a colorful river pattern, interspersed with natural rock and tree elements depicting local fish and wildlife, well contrasted against the play equipment for those with orientation and mobility issues.

**Riverfront Rock Wall Donation:**  
**\$177,750**

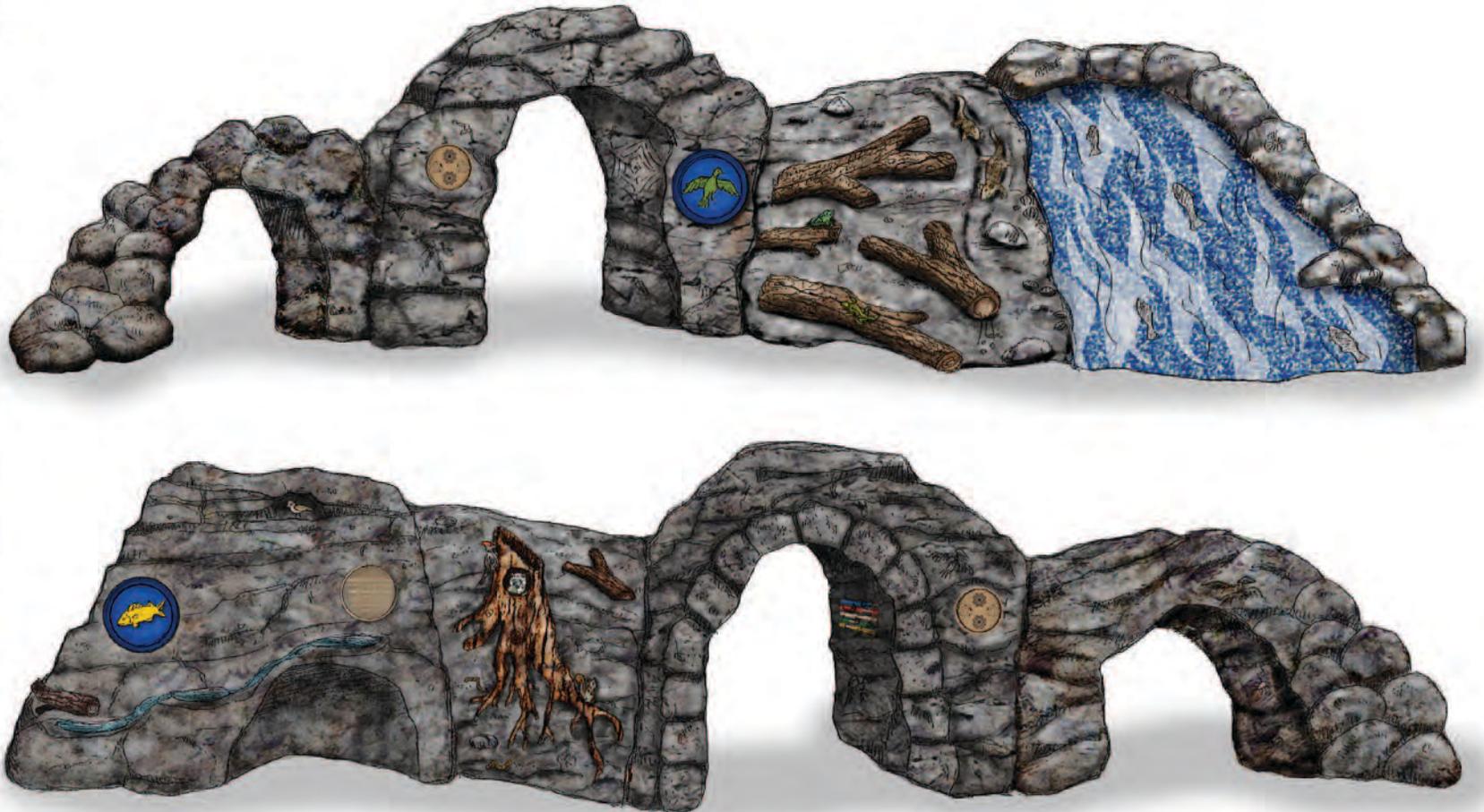


### Construction Details:

- Boulder Tunnel Section approximate dimensions: 5' wide x 2' wide x 54" high
- Wheelchair Tunnel Section approximate dimensions: 6' long x 4' wide x 84" high
- Driftwood Climber Section approximate dimensions: 7' long x 6' wide x 6' high
- Waterfalls Section approximate dimensions: 8' long x 7' wide x 7' high
- Various textures and nature inspired activities representing local riverfront
- Includes internal steel structure with perforated metal mesh
- Coated with 1" min. GFRC sculptural concrete
- Nature inspired painting
- Designed for 12" bury with fork pocket sleeves



# Riverfront Rock Wall Illustrative Sketch



## Riverfront Rock Wall - Sensory Details



River Otter



Raccoon



Kaleidoscope



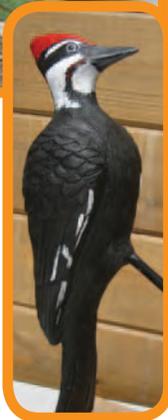
Fish Rainwheel



Frog



Woodpecker



Sparrow



Chipmunk



Salamander



Spiderweb Finger Maze

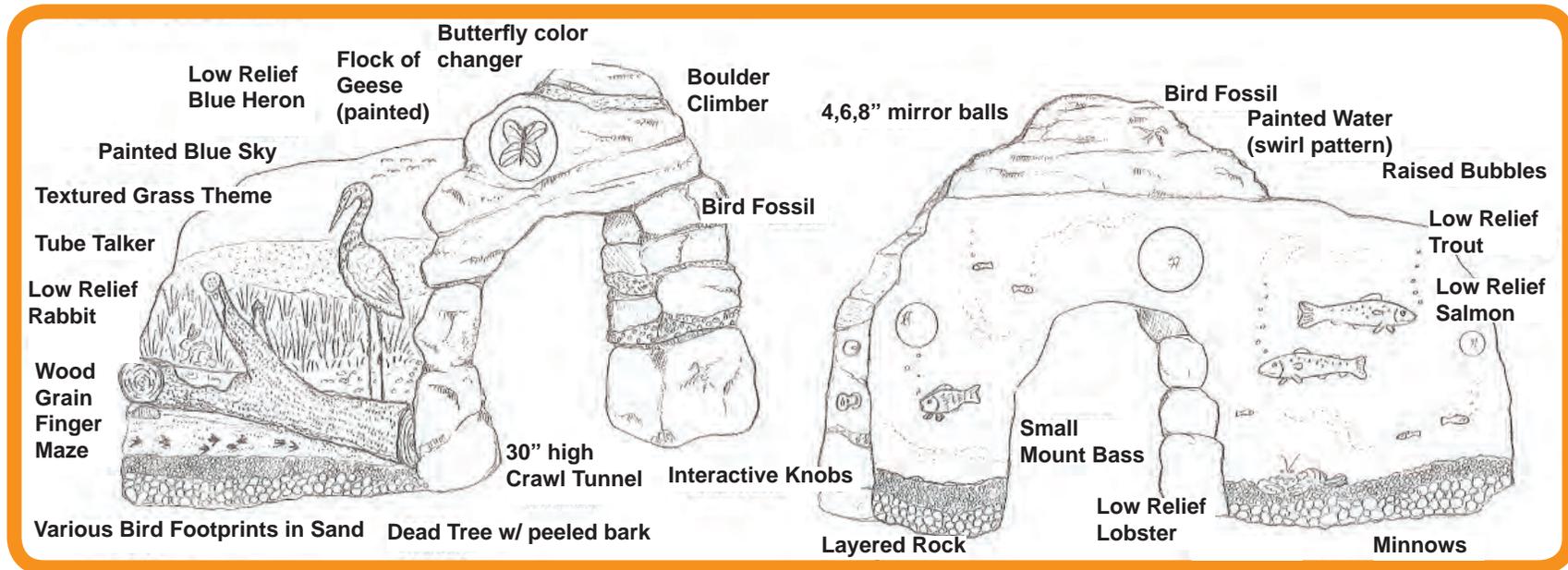


# Sensory Rock

Welcome to our toddler/pre-school **Sensory Rock** where young children can begin to experience sensory opportunities offered through spinning the butterfly color changer, communicating with older friends or siblings at the Riverfront Rock Wall via talk tubes, learning complex facial expressions as they explore the mirror balls, and working their fine motor skills twisting and turning knobs of different shapes, colors, and sizes. The wall is full of colorful tactile pebble and fossil textures for further exploration. Adjacent to the rock rest two concrete animals, modeled after Lewiston's local **Turtle** and **Water Beaver**. The **Sensory Rock** provides a place where children can socialize with friends, experience imaginative theme play, and rest upon the lifelike local turtle and water beaver.

The rubberized surfacing pattern established under the Riverfront Rock will continue here, linking the play spaces through imaginative play.

**Sensory Rock Donation: \$ 51,750**



## Construction Details:

Approximate Dimensions: 6' long x 36" wide x 54" high

Tunnel approx. dimensions: 30" wide x 30" high

Various textures and nature inspired activities representing local riverfront

Includes internal steel structure with perforated metal mesh

Coated with 1" min. GFRC sculptural concrete

Nature inspired painting - Designed for 12" bury with fork pocket sleeves

Images shown are for conceptual purposes only. Actual elements may vary slightly.



# Sensory Rock - Illustrative Sketch



## Sensory Rock - Tactile Details



Butterfly Changer



Blue Heron



Salmon



Mirror Balls/Fish Rainwheel



Finger Maze



## Climbable Animal Sculptures

### Construction Details

Sculptures - approximate dimensions:  
to be determined

Each is designed with a 12" buried  
base with earthen texture

Kid friendly textures and animal details

Includes internal steel structure with  
perforated metal mesh

Coated with 1" min. GFRC sculptural  
concrete

Nature inspired painting



**Beaver Donation: \$13,950**



**Easter Box Turtle  
Donation: \$13,950**



## Slope Embankment Fun

Enjoy Marcotte Park's existing rolling slope along with the double curved **Gemini Slidewinder2** for cooperative play, the **Roller Slide**...perfect for body awareness and group play, the **Rickety Climber** to challenge those gross motor skills, and finally... the **Tunnel Slide** which offers a partially enclosed space for children in need of a quiet space or those with depth perception challenges. View tubes along the ceiling allow light for visual stimulation. Our proprioceptive senses, along with vestibular senses, are involved in motor planning and give an awareness of body position. Providing frequent and regular opportunities for movement is critical if a child is to succeed in school!

Rubberized surfacing will be placed at the top and bottom of all play elements, but natural grass will remain as the primary slope treatment. A barrier-free decomposed granite path will connect Caron Street to each step/transfer platform at the slope elements.

**Total Donation: \$67,500**



**Roller Slide**  
Donation: \$13,250



**Tunnel Slide w/  
View Tubes**  
Donation: \$9,200



**Hillside Rickety Climber**  
Donation: \$18,860



**Gemini Slidewinder 2**  
Donation: \$12,650





**Belt/High-back Swing Donation: \$26,600**



**Bucket/High-back Swing Donation: \$24,800**

## Tree Canopy Swings

This multi-generation area will contain swings for everyone: full **buckets** for toddlers, **belt** seats for school age/adults, and **molded high-back** seats for all. We even have a new swing called the **Oodle Swing** which can hold multiple children for the optimum play experience. The rhythmic movement of play supports language development by helping eye tracking necessary for reading. When a child achieves regular rhythmic movement on the swings, it can produce a relaxing effect or a sense of excitement. Swinging benefits a child's proprioceptive system as he/she moves through space and is thus required to make subtle adjustments to posture.

Colorful contrasting rubberized surfacing will rest beneath the swings to cushion any unexpected falls.

**Total Donation: \$ 69,800**



**Oodle Swing Donation: \$18,400**





**Saddle/Stand-up Spinners**  
Donation: \$13,600



## Spinner Alley

The spinning motion can help ground some children who have sensory-motor processing challenges. **Spinner Alley** will provide independent or group movement play opportunities. Choose the **OmniSpin Spinner** for play with multiple participants of all abilities, as many sit inside and others spin them around and around. The **Saddle and Stand-up spinners** allow children to sit or stand face to face depending on the game! Presenting children with a variety of movement opportunities provides them with important vestibular activation which in turn stimulates the vestibular system. This sense is vital in both movement (dynamic balance) and stillness (static balance). All this fun on top of multi-colored, textured rubberized surfacing for safe play!

**Total Donation: \$28,350**



**OmniSpin Spinner**  
Donation: \$14,750





**Tuned Drums: Donation \$2,350**



**Glass Imbarimba: Donation \$3,400**



**Swirl Chimes: Donation \$4,250**



**Rainwheel: Donation \$1,100**

## Sound Garden

Located along the walking paths, musical instruments are at ground level with easy access for children of all ages and abilities. The **Sound Garden** instruments (**Chimes, Rainwheel, Glass Imbarimba, and Drums**) will provide an additional element of play for children with disabilities and can be especially enjoyed by children who have visual challenges. Music is also a wonderful opportunity for cooperative play or can simply serve as an independent focused activity for children with autism or ADHD who may need to find that private space.

**Total Donation: \$11,100**





**Cool Topper Shade Donation: \$ 13,000**



**Table Donation (4): \$5,000**



**Drinking Fountain  
Donation: \$ 5,000**

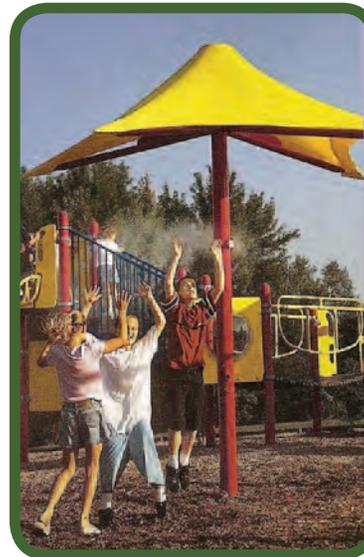


**Trash Donation (3): \$2,850**

## Site Amenities

Located off the walking path, within play areas and under the central shaded picnic area, are site amenities including barrier-free benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles. Specially designed to allow for wheelchairs to be placed alongside friends and family, the picnic tables will be located under the Cool Topper Shade Pavilion. The 72" benches will be positioned for optimum viewing by parents and caretakers. One barrier-free tri-level accessible drinking fountain will be located in the playground.

**Total Donation: \$37,700**



**Cool Topper w/ Mister:  
Donation: \$8,850**



**Bench Donation (4): \$3,000**





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