



Lewiston's Inclusive Playground

"The River" at Marcotte Park

~ City of Lewiston, Maine ~

www.lewistonmaine.gov

Sponsorship Packet



THE VISION

The 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 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 also 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 been a quadriplegic 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!

~ **Monica Redlevske, Androscoggin Head Start Education & Special Services Manager** - "In my position, I understand the need for an inclusive playground. It would surely benefit the 260 children that Head Start serves via occupational, physical, and development therapy; social/emotional assistance; and speech/language."

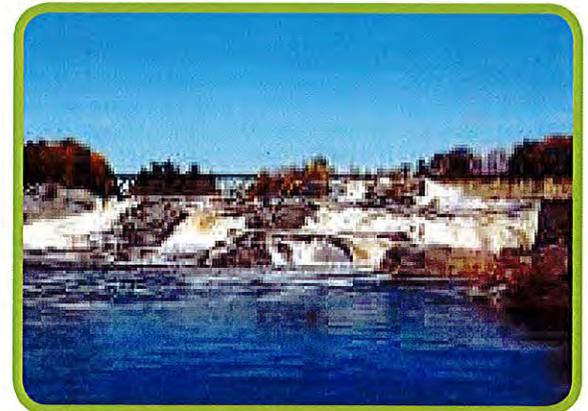
~ **Stephanie Gelinis, Executive Director of Sandcastle Clinical and Educational Services**, expresses concern that children are even isolated from their siblings when play is not integrated.

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

~ **Greg Armandi, Child Development Services Director** - "Child Development Services serves a diverse and unique population in Lewiston, Maine. Creating an inclusive playground for all the families will not only benefit the development of the children we serve, but the development of a stronger community."

~ **Bill Webster, Lewiston Superintendent of Schools**: "This playground would allow children with special needs to be able to socialize with their peers ... having a universally accessible playground would allow students to create bonds through playtime as well as classroom time."

~ **An accessible playground would also complement Lewiston's cultural diversity.** With an influx of approximately 5,000 refugees/immigrants to Lewiston since 2001, the creative offerings of an accessible playground would further encourage inclusiveness amidst children of varying cultures.





Executive Department

Lewiston City Council



October 20, 2015

Greetings from the City of Lewiston:

As President of the Lewiston City Council, I am excited about efforts to site a universally accessible playground within this community. This project would 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 Maine! It is my hope that many individuals and entities will come on board to help make this playground not only possible but a "stand-out" playground that will be a greatly desired place by both able-bodied children and those who face daily challenges.

Thank you for your consideration in partnering with us!

Sincerely,

Mark Cayer
City Council President



THE PROJECT

The City of Lewiston and several community partners entered a 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.

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. An inclusive playground at Marcotte Park would indeed address many community needs. For instance, Child Development Services in Lewiston serves 219 children with developmental delays and disabilities. In the neighboring City of Auburn, they serve another 130 children. The Lewiston School Department currently serves 5,517 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 details 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. Your donation and active involvement will support the first inclusive playground in the City of Lewiston. In order to commemorate all partners in this collaborative venture, the project site will recognize corporate and individual contributors. Contributions to this project are tax-deductible and may be made payable to the City of Lewiston's fiscal sponsor, Tri-County Mental Health Services, with "playground project" in the note and mailed to Tri-County Mental Health Services, P.O. Box 2008, Lewiston, ME. 04241-2008. For additional information about the project: dottie@lewistonmaine.gov.

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PLAYGROUND AREAS



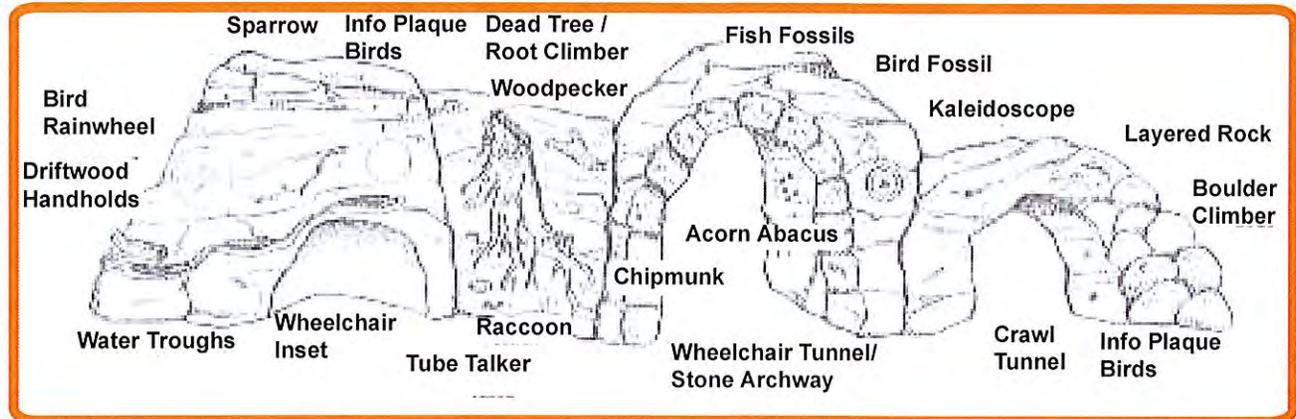
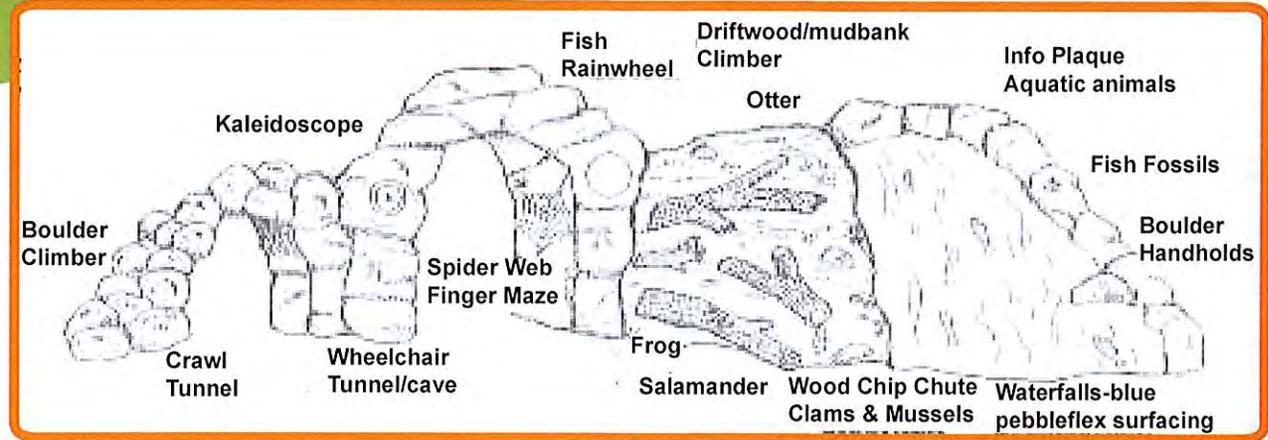
Images shown are for conceptual purposes only. Actual elements may vary slightly.

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
Total Donation: \$173,700
(including surfacing)



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



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

Riverfront Rock Wall - Sensory Details



River Otter



Raccoon



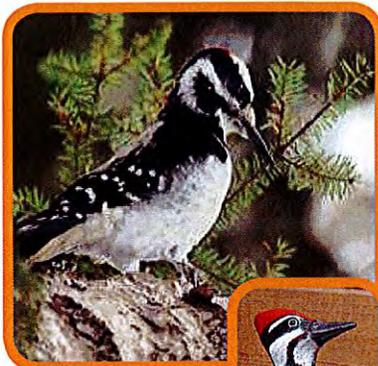
Kaleidoscope



Fish Rainwheel



Frog



Woodpecker



Sparrow



Chipmunk



Spiderweb Finger Maze



Salamander

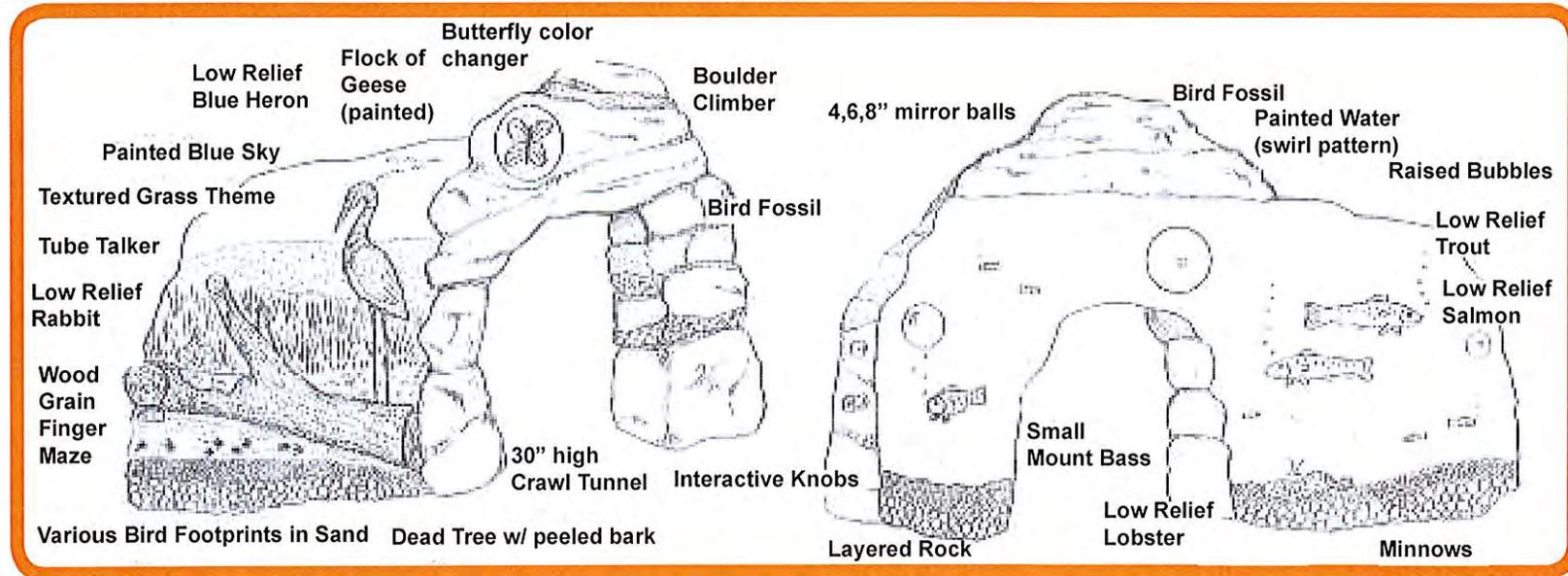


Sensory Rock

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 - Total Donation: \$ 57,600 (including surfacing)



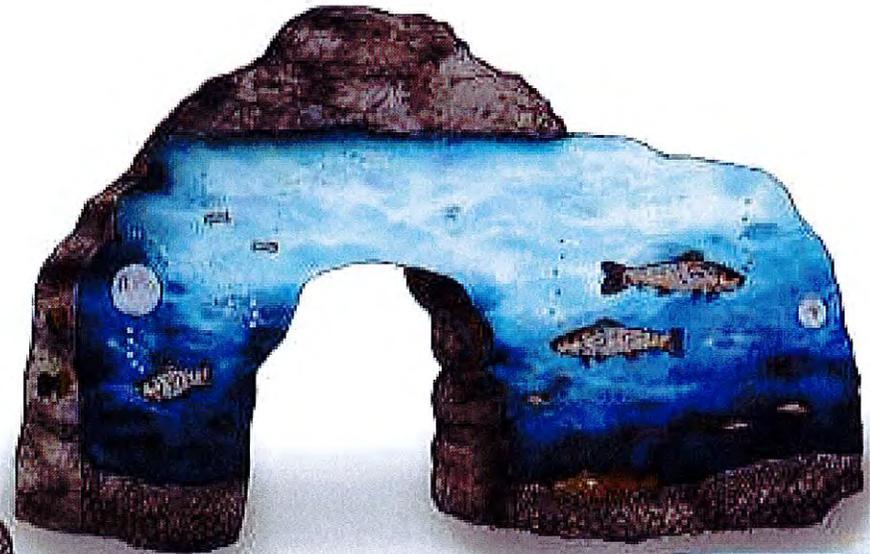
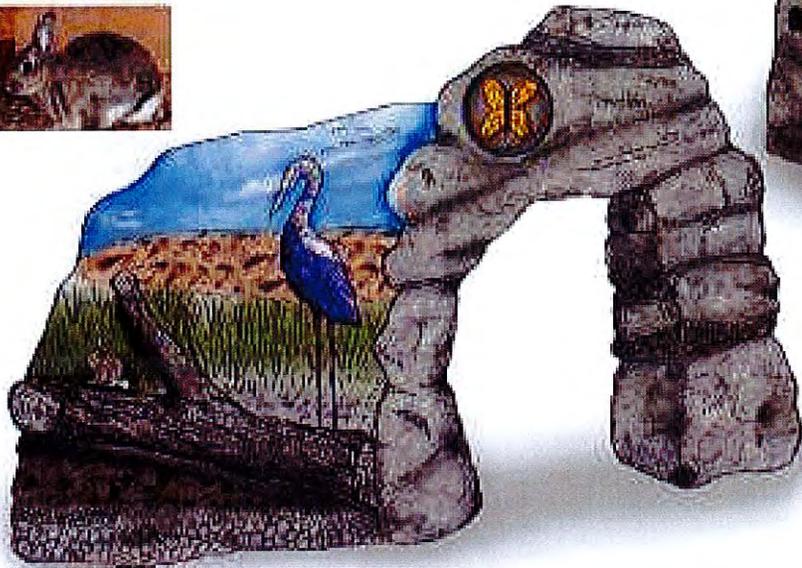
Construction Details:

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



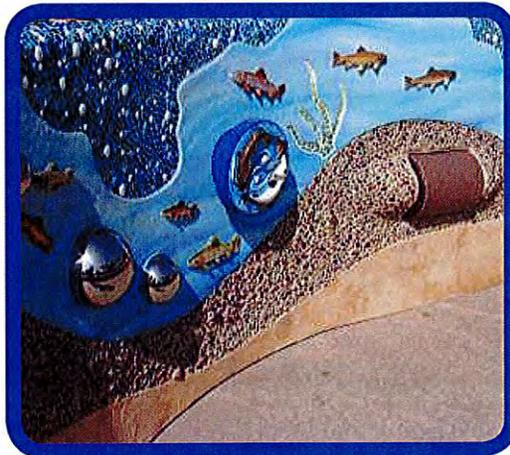
Butterfly Changer



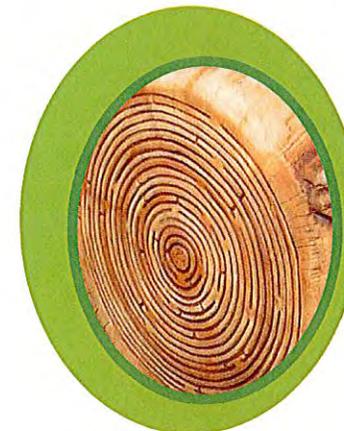
Blue Heron



Salmon



Mirror Balls/Fish Rainwheel



Finger Maze



Climbable Animal Sculptures

Construction Details

Sculptures - approximate dimensions:
to be determined

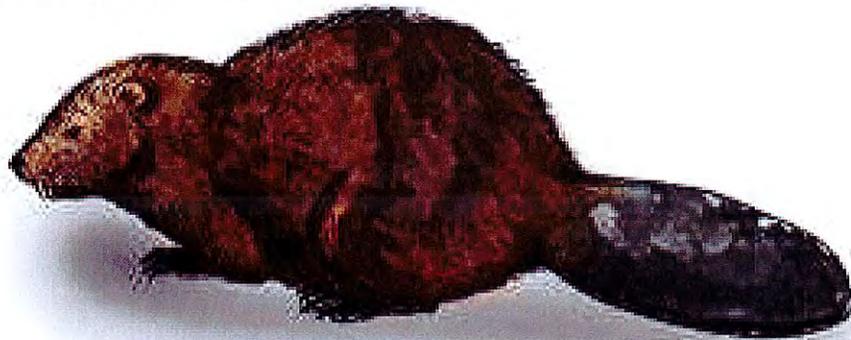
Each is designed with a 12" buried
base with earthen texture

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: \$24,600



**Easter Box Turtle
Donation: \$24,600**

**Total Donation: \$49,200
(including surfacing)**

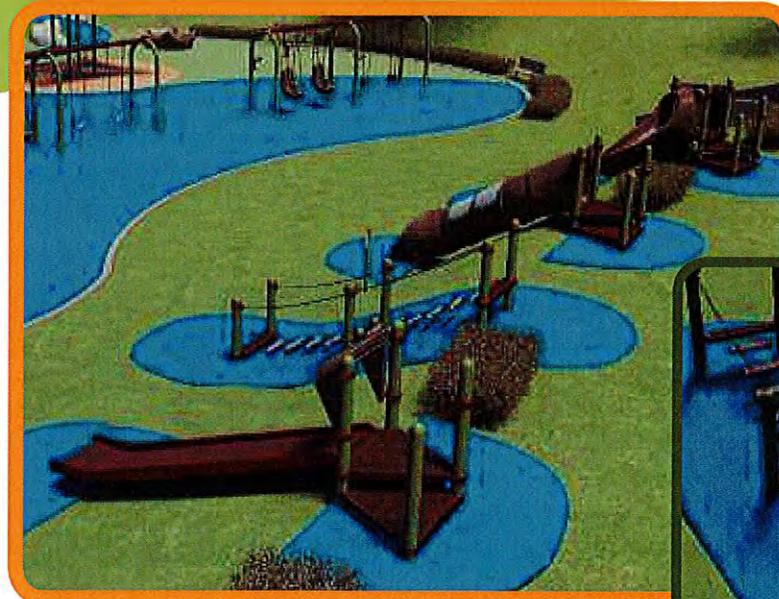


Slope Embankment Fun

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.

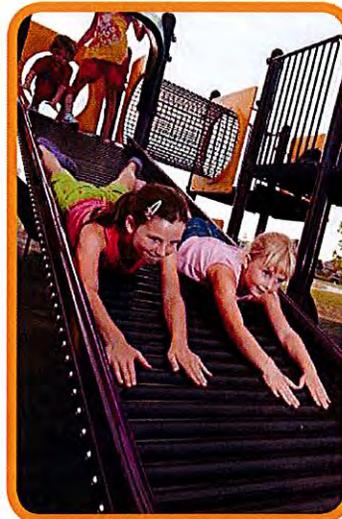
Total Donation: \$82,730
(including surfacing)



**Tunnel Slide w/
View Tubes**
Donation: \$18,695



Hillside Rickety Climber
Donation: \$22,284



Roller Slide
Donation: \$21,256

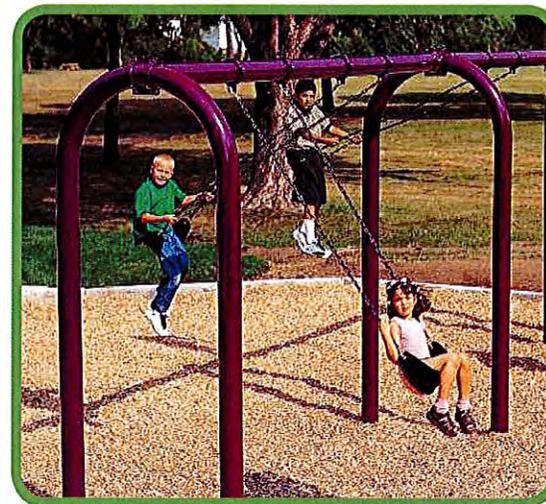


Gemini Slidewinder 2
Donation: \$20,495





Belt/High-back Swing Donation: \$25,947



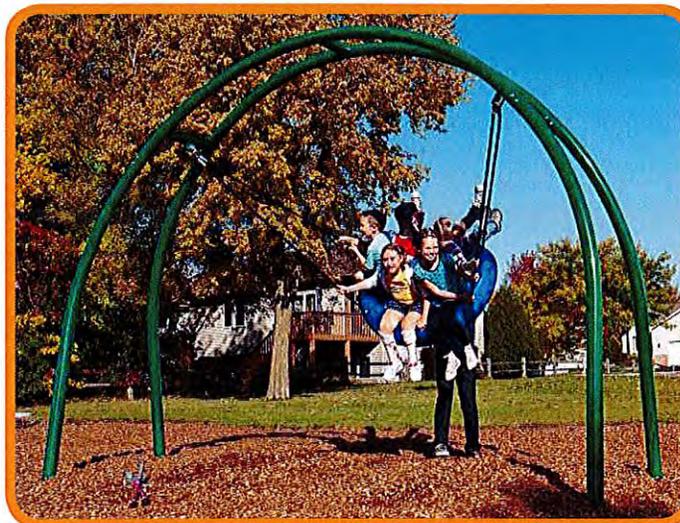
Bucket/High-back Swing Donation: \$23,880

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.

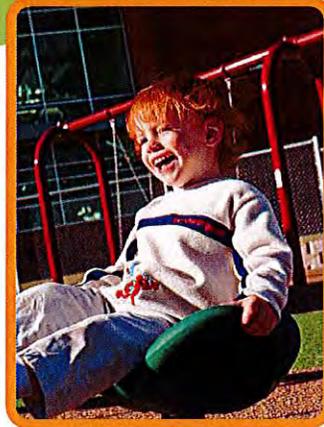
Colorful contrasting rubberized surfacing will rest beneath the swings to cushion any unexpected falls.

Total Donation: \$ 72,894
(including surfacing)

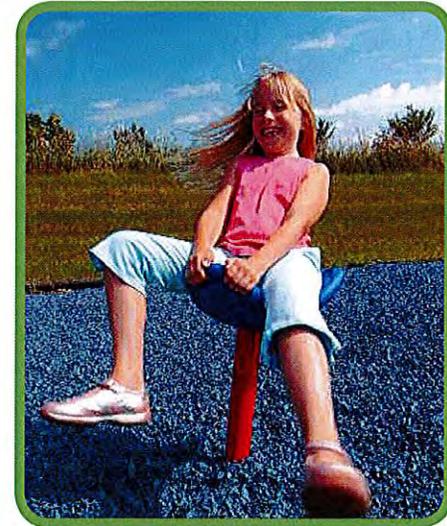


Oodle Swing Donation: \$23,067





Saddle/Stand-up Spinners
 Donation: \$16,898



Spinner Alley

The spinning motion can help ground some children with 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: \$29,005
(including surfacing)



OmniSpin Spinner
 Donation: \$12,107





Tuned Drums: Donation \$3,814



Glass Imbarimba: Donation \$5,504

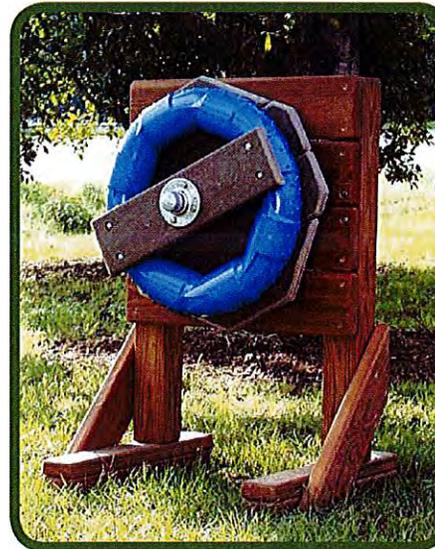


Swirl Chimes: Donation \$6,674

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: \$18,252
(including surfacing)



Rainwheel: Donation \$2,260





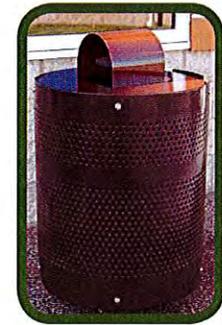
Cool Topper Shade Donation: \$ 13,150



Table Donation (4): \$6,810



**Drinking Fountain
Donation: \$ 6,250**



Trash Donation (3): \$3,890

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: \$43,150



**Cool Topper w/ Mister:
Donation: \$8,950**



Bench Donation (4): \$4,100



PROJECT PRICE LIST

	Material	Surfacing		Material	Surfacing
Riverfront Rock Wall (Ages 5-12)					
~ GFRC Sensory Wall	\$ 158,500				
~ Resilient Surfacing		\$ 15,200			
Sensory Rock Area (Ages 2-5)					
~ GFRC Sensory Rock	\$ 50,000				
~ Resilient Surfacing		\$ 7,600			
Climbable Animal Zone (Ages 2-5)					
~ Animal Sculptures	\$ 34,000				
~ Resilient Surfacing		\$ 15,200			
Slope Embankment Zone (Ages 5-12)					
~ Equipment: Slidewinder/Rollerslide	\$ 44,010				
Tunnel Slide/Rickety Climber					
~ Resilient Surfacing		\$ 38,720			
Spinner Alley (All Ages)					
~ Equipment: Saddle/Omnispinners	\$ 29,005				
~ Resilient Surfacing		\$ 17,000			
Tree Canopy Swings (All Ages)					
~ Belt/Bucket & Highback	\$ 15,586				
~ Oodle Family Swing	\$ 5,948				
~ Resilient Surfacing		\$ 51,360			
Sound Garden (All Ages)					
~ Marimba/Tuned Drums/Swirl	\$ 17,036				
Chimes/Rainwheel					
~ Concrete Pads		\$ 1,216			

(pricing continued at top right)

Site Amenities

~ Full Sail Cooltopper for Picnics	\$ 13,150
~ Picnic Tables	\$ 6,810
~ Benches	\$ 4,100
~ Trash Receptacles	\$ 3,890
~ Cool Topper Mister	\$ 8,950
~ Drinking Fountain	\$ 6,250

Hardscape Circulation

~ Main Entry Circulation Path	\$ 13,600
~ Picnic & Splash Area Pads	\$ 11,080
~ Concrete Seatwalls	\$ 3,000
~ Boulders	\$ 1,500
~ Concrete Mow Strip bet. Resilient Surfacing and Turf	\$ 6,050
~ Decomposed Granite Path to Embankment Area	\$ 4,680

SUBTOTALS:

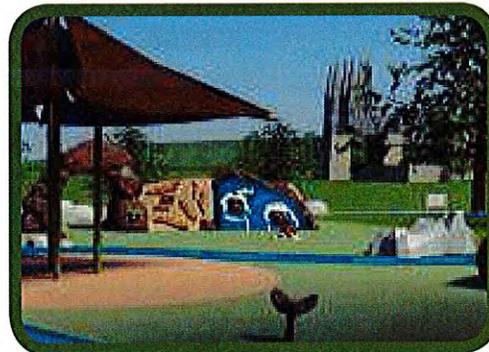
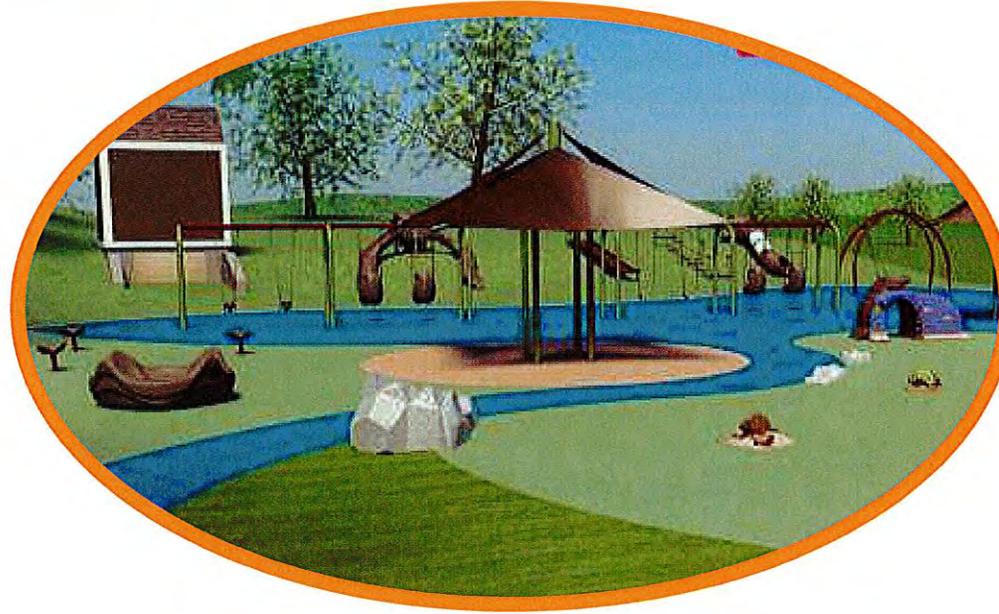
\$ 397,325 \$ 186,206

GRAND TOTAL: \$567,165

Not Included in Budget:

- ~ Site Prep/Grading/Drainage
- ~ Mobilization/Demo
- ~ Landscape/Irrigation
- ~ Entry Sign





lewiston's Inclusive Playground
~ Marcotte Park ~ City of Lewiston, Maine ~
www.lewistonmaine.gov





Executive Department
Lewiston City Council



October 20, 2015

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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 Maine! It is my hope that many individuals and entities will come on board to help make this playground not only possible but a "stand-out" playground that will be a greatly desired place by both able-bodied children and those who face daily challenges.

Thank you for your consideration in partnering with us!

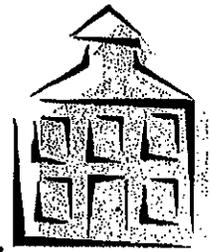
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Cayer".

Mark Cayer
City Council President

dapw

LEWISTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



36 Oak Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
www.lewistonpublicschools.org
TDD: 207-795-4100
FAX: 207-795-4177

Administration: 207-795-4100
Business: 207-795-4104
Curriculum: 207-795-4103
ELL Program: 207-795-4105
Maintenance: 207-795-4107
Nutrition: 207-795-4106
Payroll: 207-795-4109
Special Education: 207-795-4108
Technology: 207-753-6416

October 13, 2015

Greetings:

I am writing to support the continued efforts to build a universally accessible playground within the City of Lewiston. A universally accessible playground for our community's children would be a huge asset. Our schools' overall enrollments have grown from 4,792 in 2008 to 5,517 in 2016. Of that, approximately 16% of our students are special needs. Our entering kindergarten levels continue to grow from 354 in 2008 to 454 this year.

As Superintendent of Lewiston Public Schools, it is certainly rewarding to learn of opportunities that enable children to come together in positive ways. This playground would allow children with special needs to be able to socialize with their peers. Lewiston Public Schools want all of our students to succeed in life. Having a universally accessible playground would allow students to create bonds through playtime as well as classroom time. We wholeheartedly support the City's efforts in making this playground a reality for Lewiston's children.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Webster". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William Webster, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

WW/dd



Androscoggin

Head Start and Child Care

October 13, 2015

Dottie Perham-Whittier
Community Relations Coordinator
City of Lewiston
27 Pine Street
Lewiston, ME 04240

Dear Dottie:

I am thrilled to write this letter on behalf of Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care in support of Lewiston's desire to build a universally accessible playground to enable all children in our community the ability to play.

The philosophy of Head Start supports the inclusion of children with varying abilities in our classrooms. Lewiston's desire for an inclusive community playground that will be developmentally appropriate allowing every child to be included and successful is exciting. Androscoggin Head Start and Child Care serves 260 children (20% of whom are identified each year) age 6 weeks to age 5 with varying abilities who will benefit and enjoy an inclusive play area.

We support the City of Lewiston's effort to provide the opportunity for all children and families regardless of culture, economics and ability to come together and share the common language of play.

Yours Truly,

Betsy Norcross Plourde
Executive Director



-
- Supporting Tobacco-Free Lifestyles
 - Promoting Healthy Eating
 - Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning
 - Encouraging Physical Activity
 - Preventing Substance Abuse
-

October 9, 2015

Greetings,

On behalf of Healthy Androscoggin, I would like to express our support for the creation of a Universally Accessible playground in Lewiston. Healthy Androscoggin is dedicated to improving the health of all Androscoggin County residents through collaborative planning, community action, education and prevention. We seek a community environment supportive of health and healthy lifestyles. Healthy Androscoggin supports this effort because we know that accessible active play opportunities support healthy lifestyles and promote physical, social and emotional health. The proposed playground will provide invaluable support to families by offering them more space to achieve a healthy lifestyle.

The City of Lewiston and its partners, which include Healthy Androscoggin, have a strong vision for an inclusive playground that cuts across physical ability and cultural backgrounds. We hope to provide our residents who have difficulty benefiting from traditional playgrounds the opportunity to play, learn, and grow by engaging with their neighbors in a fun play environment.

Our community has always been a dynamic place, where people from many countries and of all abilities, come to live together. This tradition continues today and we believe that playgrounds are a perfect venue for kids and adults to find common ground. We hope that this playground will not only facilitate understanding and acceptance of our community's diversity, but be a place to celebrate diversity. Additionally, the playground planned has great potential for being a source of community pride.

Sincerely,

Erin Guay, MPH
Executive Director



Michelle Hathaway, Director

The Margaret Murphy Center for Children

October 15, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of support for the City of Lewiston as they seek grant moneys to fund an accessible playground. As the Director of the Margaret Murphy Center for Children, a non-profit program for children with special needs, I know first hand the issues that our students and families have in accessing playgrounds that are safe, entertaining and appealing to children with and without special needs.

The City of Lewiston educates hundreds of children with special education needs within their public schools. The needs of these children include significant mobility issues and physical, emotional and developmental disabilities. While there are some "newer" school playgrounds within the City, these have minimally accessible equipment. As you are well aware, the cost of accessible equipment is out of the realm of possibility for many cities and agencies. Exceeding the "requirements" is not an attainable goal without grant support.

I commend the City of Lewiston for recognizing this need within our community. Summertime is a clear reminder of how much some children are able to enjoy during the hot days of summer and a painful reminder of how little opportunity there is for another population of children. Providing equal opportunities for all of the Lewiston children is an ambitious and important endeavor.

I fully support the City and wish to offer any support that can give them!

Sincerely,

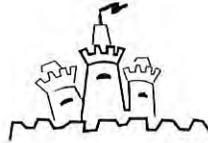
Michelle Hathaway

Director

The Margaret Murphy Center for Children

425 Rodman Road

Auburn, Maine



SANDCASTLE CLINICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

October 19, 2015

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of Sandcastle Clinical and Educational Services, I am writing this letter to express continued support and excitement about the City of Lewiston's Universally Accessible Playground.

Sandcastle is a private non-profit agency that each year serves approximately 550 Lewiston-Auburn area families with special needs children. We provide clinical services in the form of speech, physical and occupational therapy as well as audiological and mental health services. Much has been learned from the families we've had opportunity to work with over the past 20 years. The most significant truth that has been repeated loud and clear for all of us to hear has been the importance that individuals of ALL abilities be integrated.

I can speak for numbers of Sandcastle families who would benefit from such a universally accessible playground. There are families who have a child in a wheelchair, and being able to take a family trip to a playground with accessible equipment would be wonderful. Similarly, there are families who have children that could benefit from a designated space that allows them to play alongside other children, feeling safe and welcomed.

I applaud the vision our community has for an inclusive playground. As a business owner and resident of Lewiston, I am honored to be part of a community that acknowledges and responds to the diverse needs of our community neighbors. In order to foster this acceptance and understanding and move this priority and opportunity forward, grant support is needed.

The City of Lewiston's investment in this project for our community is one I back wholeheartedly, and one I hope you will please consider. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of support.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Gelinis, M.S., CCC-SLP
Executive Director