

J.A. Dawson & Company

Your Total Recreation Resource

City of Pensacola Hitzman Optimist Park Playground Inclusive Play Features & Benefits

Whole communities start with inclusively designed whole environments which carefully meet the needs of the whole child. Children want to ‘Be’ and feel fair, included, smart, independent, safe, active, and comfortable during play. Me2’s 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design focus on the usage of individual play activities as well as the context of the overall environmental design. By aligning these design principles and the specific guidelines and considerations, communities can create whole environments that support the active participation of all people, of all ages, and all abilities.

The goal of the Hitzman Optimist Park playground is to innovate play experiences and provide quality outdoor play for people of all ages and abilities that develop the whole child, the whole environment, and ultimately, benefit the whole community. Play components were specifically selected to address the developmental needs of the whole child by providing opportunities for physical, social and emotional, sensory, cognitive, and communicative play.

The following play components area included in the Hitzman Optimist Park design were intentionally selected to create a truly inclusive play environment that goes well above and beyond the minimum ADA requirements.

Adaptive Switch Feature – Jambox Sensory Panel

Adaptive Switch capability allows individuals with limited upper body or fine motor control the ability to activate auditory features.

Music – Concert Duo Drums & Jazz Chimes, Bongo, Ashiko and Djembe Drum Panels

Encourages collaboration, creativity and age-appropriate activities for multi-generational users at any developmental stage.

Dramatic Play – Telescope Panel, Store Panel, Steering Wheel Panel

Encourages imagination, creativity, symbolic thinking and social dialogue through pretend play.

Graduated Levels of Physical Challenge – A variety of Climbers & Slides are provided at different levels of challenge.

Supports the progression of physical skill development by incorporating play components that address the needs of beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of skill through activities such as climbing and upper body events.

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Communication – **Talk Tubes and Jambox with Adaptive Switch**

Encourages language skills through motivating, collaborative and reciprocal activities with friends and family.

Looping Patterns – **IONiX components & Layout of Play Structure**

Supports intuitive play patterns so that children can successfully engage in repetitive, active play to develop skills.

Active vs. Passive Play Settings – **Layout of Equipment** – Moving elements are placed away from high traffic areas.

Enhances play experiences through well-organized, easy-to-recognize areas while avoiding user conflict.

Slide Transfers – **Provided for 3 slides accessible by ramps**

Assists individuals transferring out of wheelchairs and/or their caregivers onto slides and provides additional height.

Ramp Access – **ADA Ramps**

Allows diverse users, adaptive equipment and caregivers access to social and physical play on the structure.

ADA Compliant Surfacing – **Poured in Place Rubber**

Creates accessible routes of travel to and throughout the play environment.

Motion/Movement – **Sensory Spinning Seat, Deco Spring Rider, and Dragonfly Seesaw**

Offer sensory rich feedback to provide vestibular and proprioceptive stimulation through spinning, sliding, rocking, and/or swinging elements.

Jump in Points – **Nature Discovery Table and Benches**

Offers passive areas for children to observe and understand the play activity prior to participating and help draw them into active play.

Cozy Spots – **Sensory Cove and Crawl Tube**

Offers quiet or semi-enclosed places, such as under deck or crawl tubes, where children can seek sensory relief and retreat until ready to engage in play.

Seating – **Benches**

Offers clear visibility and supervision of activity areas.

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Cooperative Play – **Deco Spring Rider, Dragonfly Seesaw, and Talk Tubes**

Reinforces positive interactions between children through dynamic and fun experiences as they work together to drive the action or engage in the activity.

Accessible Upper Body Event – **Therapeutic Rings and Hand Cycler**

Offers an equitable alternative to upper body/climbing equipment while still providing a rewarding fitness experience that promotes healthy physical activity.

Half Activity Panel – **Half Thundering, Ashiko & Djembe Drum, Half Steering Wheel**

Provides adequate space underneath the panel to allow individuals using mobility devices to comfortably reach play activities while facing forward.

Shade – **Provided by Existing Trees**

Integrates a balance of sunlight exposure and relief to environmental conditions.