

# Welcome to the Webinar Beyond Minimums: Disability Park Awareness

Presented by:

**CORE**<sup>®</sup>

Center for Outreach, Research & Education

The Session is scheduled to begin at 2:00 pm Eastern Time. We will be testing sound quality periodically. Audio and visual are provided through the online webinar system. This session is closed captioned and video interpreted. Options to connect via phone were available in the reminder email.

# Beyond the Minimums: Disability Park Awareness Webinar

Presented by:

**CORE**<sup>®</sup>  
Center for Outreach, Research & Education



**Jennie Sumrell**  
Community Outreach Director  
*PlayCore/CORE*  
(Moderator)

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Center for Outreach, Research & Education

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**Beyond Minimums Joining Link**  
10/25/2023 at 2:00 PM (EDT) | 75 minutes  
This event should start on 10/25/2023 at 2:00 PM (EDT).  
▶ Manager Preview  
📅 Add to Calendar  
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9 Questions
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6 Questions | Unlimited attempts | 2000 points to pass
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# Learning Objectives

1. Develop a better understanding of the features that make a park or play area inclusive for everyone.
2. Understand what features and elements people with disabilities look for when choosing their recreational experiences.
3. Evaluate existing park and play areas and identify barriers that may restrict people with disabilities from being able to fully participate in the provided recreational opportunities.
4. List two (2) helpful resources to obtain additional information or to utilize when evaluating new and existing park and play areas.



# Beyond the Minimums: Disability Park Awareness Panel



**Bill Botten**  
*Accessibility Consultant*  
*Lead Moderator*  
[bill.botten@playcore.com](mailto:bill.botten@playcore.com)



“Who is being Excluded?”

This is the question to consider when creating inclusive outdoor recreation experiences for everyone to participate and enjoy. The process must start early in the planning, designing, and programming of these unique spaces. Choose inclusion over exclusion!

– Bill Botten, Retired U.S. Access Board,  
Inclusion Specialist, PlayCore Consultant

# Anjali J. Forber-Pratt, Ph.D.

Director, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living & Rehabilitation Research



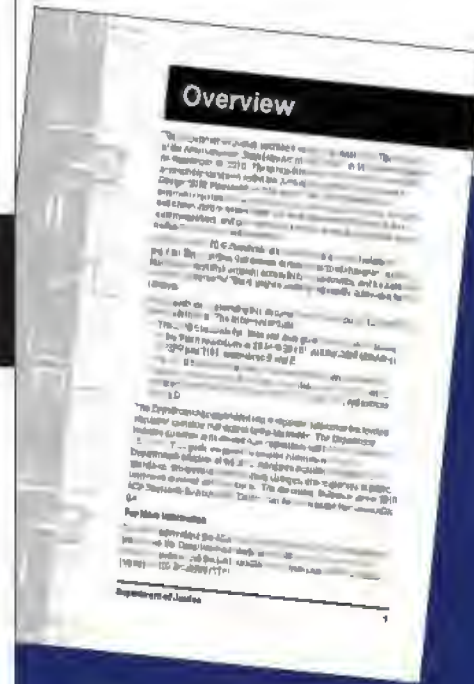


# Americans with Disabilities Act

The ADA is a federal civil rights law that provides protections to people with disabilities to ensure that they are treated equally in all aspects of life.

Under the ADA, the 1991 Standard for Accessible Design was the first accessibility standard.


The 1991 Standard was revised and replaced with a more comprehensive standard- the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design which included specific provisions for recreation facilities, including play areas, for all new construction and alterations after **March 15, 2012.**





# Panel Discussion



- Each panelist will respond to a series of questions facilitated by the moderator.
  - Attendees can post questions to the panelists in the Q & A feature.
  - Moderator will pose the attendee questions if time permits or questions will be answered via email if necessary.
- 

# Today's Panelists



**Marybeth Cleveland, COMS**  
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# Take Aways



# Inclusive Features to Positively Enhance Park Experiences for All Visitors

In order to create inclusive community park experiences, considerations must include the needs of the whole environment and the whole community. Use this comprehensive park checklist to thoughtfully create a welcoming atmosphere and outdoor play and recreation destinations that are more usable, by more people, to the greatest extent possible.



## 1. Parking

- More than the minimum required accessible parking spaces that include van spaces with wider access aisles and appropriate signage.
- Parking areas conveniently located to create an accessible route to the park entrance(s).



## 2. Pathways

- Firm and stable surface materials along accessible connecting routes (concrete, asphalt, or boardwalk preferred).
- Railings and edge protection on routes with running slopes greater than 5% or where there is a drop off.



## 3. Surfacing

- Unitary, fall attenuating safety surfacing, such as poured-in-place rubber provides the most consistent surface for accessibility in play and recreation environments.
- Various surface materials, textures, or colors to provide cues to help visually organize the environment so that it is easier to navigate and understand.



## 4. Playgrounds

- Robust assortment of activities that thoughtfully meet the physical, social-emotional, communication, sensory, and cognitive needs of all people, including those with disabilities.
- Go beyond the minimum ADA Standards for Accessible Play Areas to meet the 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design®, the only evidence-based design best practices for inclusive play environments. Visit [playcore.com/inclusion](http://playcore.com/inclusion) to request the design guidebook.
- Selection of playground equipment that has intentionally been designed to provide additional gross motor and fine motor supports for more active, independent play.
- Accessible routes to, around, and on the play equipment, using unitary safety surfacing and accessible ramps.



## 5. Wayfinding

- Accessible visual signage that identifies accessible routes and facilities within the site.
- Picture symbols to identify equipment with raised images, words, Braille, etc.
- Bilingual options on signage, QR codes with videos, or options to download in different languages.
- Detailed website information about the park and inclusive features.
- Tactile 3D site models where possible.
- Various surface material textures or colors to provide behavioral cues and help visually organize the environment so that it is easier to navigate and understand.





## 6. Site Amenities

### a. Accessible Toilet and Bathing Facilities:

- Accessible sink(s) with touchless operation.
- Paper towel/hand drying features within accessible reach ranges.
- Family/Unisex restroom with at least one adult size changing table.
- Signage with Braille characters and raised pictorial symbols at toilet room doors.



### b. Picnic Tables:

- Tables positioned on an accessible route and protected from weather by using shade or shelters where possible.
- Wheelchair spaces integrated into picnic tables which allow space for multiple individuals that use mobility devices to comfortably gather at the same table and offer choices of where to sit.



### c. Benches/Sitting Areas:

- Adjacent accessible wheelchair spaces/areas near benches with a firm and stable surface.
- Shade trees or shade structures surrounding seating areas to increase comfort.
- Back and armrests on benches when possible.
- Benches with charging ports for personal electronic devices and mobility devices.



### d. Shade and Shelters:

- A combination of integrated shade (manufactured) and natural shade (tree canopy) offers relief from elements and increased comfort.
- Shade shelters and pavilions on an accessible route and provide a firm and stable surface throughout.



### e. Drinking Fountains and Water Bottle Filling Stations:

- A wheelchair accessible and a standing height drinking fountain provided at each location.
- Stations to include accessible features such as switch/bar or automatic touchless sensors.

### f. Universal Fields:

- Each area of sport activity is connected with at least one accessible route.
- Unitary surfacing on fields that permit wheelchair access and play.
- Wheelchair accessible dugouts with a wheelchair space adjacent to team benches.

### g. Customer Service Areas:

- Wheelchair accessible sales and service counters no higher than 36 inches.
- Accessible point of sale systems.
- Condiment stations within accessible reach ranges.
- Menus with large print, pictures, and Braille.

### h. Bleachers/Spectator Seating:

- Wheelchair spaces integrated within each spectator seating area.
- Circulation paths are behind the designated wheelchair spaces to avoid obstructing the view.



### i. Aquatic Play Environments:

- Aquatic access wheelchairs of varied sizes for adult and child visitors are available to use.
- Changing/bathing facilities include an accessible changing bench.
- Showers provide a handheld shower device and a shower bench for transfer in each accessible shower.



### j. Dog Parks & Pet Amenities:

- Pet waste, water stations, and gate latches are positioned at an accessible approach, reach heights, and operation for individuals using mobility devices.
- Accessible route and surface to and throughout the environment.



### k. Adult Outdoor Fitness Parks:

- Universally designed equipment that provides individuals using mobility devices the opportunity to engage in aerobic and muscle strengthening activities alongside others.
- Accessible routes of travel to and around the equipment and include safety surfacing when appropriate.
- Signage with simple graphics and verbiage for instruction or QR codes to provide video instruction.



### l. Musical Instruments:

- Musical elements installed on an accessible route with a hard surface, and at an appropriate height so that individuals of various sizes and individuals using wheelchairs can comfortably approach and reach the activity.
- Adapted mallets to promote independence and usability for individuals that need additional fine motor support.



### m. Communication:

- Opportunities for visitors to communicate through pictures and/or symbols that are easy to recognize, paired with the written word, and are organized using color-coding to represent different parts of speech.
- Communication boards installed on an accessible route with a hard surface, at an appropriate height so that individuals of various sizes and individuals using wheelchairs can comfortably approach and point to or gaze at picture symbols.
- Printed communication boards for download or available to check out for visitors and/or their caregivers to use in preparation for and during their visit.

## Special Events & Programming:

- Activities located on accessible routes and with accessible surfacing.
- Accessible portable toilet facilities and parking at temporary events.
- Sign language or bilingual interpretation at special events.
- Special events designed and marketed to ensure people of all abilities can play and interact meaningfully.
- Adaptive equipment such as all-terrain wheelchairs, adaptive swing harnesses, adaptive switches for play panels that offer switch capability, and adaptive sports equipment available for visitors to check out or to use during programs/events.
- 'Sensory Kits' that include noise cancelling headphones, fidget toys, communication boards or picture symbols, or other adaptive tools available for visitors to reserve/check out.



# Useful Resources



## U.S. Department of Justice

Implementing regulation and  
additional requirements

Requirements for existing facilities –  
Title II & III

(800) 514-0301 (voice)

(800) 514-0383 (TTY)

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



## U.S. Access Board

2010 Accessibility Standards for new  
construction and alterations

(202) 272-0080 (voice/TTY)

(202) 272-0081 (FAX)

[ta@access-board.gov](mailto:ta@access-board.gov)



[www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov)

# Useful Resources

(Available in the learning system under handouts)



## Beyond the Minimums: Disability Park Awareness



## Public Playground Accessibility Review

Updated 8/17/2017

Connections  
Connections to ADA accessible paths connecting to the playground shall include paths and ADA accessible buildings, rest-rooms, parking areas and spaces to the street.

It shall be required that each playground be connected to a path, in turn, to an accessible route to each ADA facility.

Accessible Route

Surface  
All ADA facilities shall be on a firm, stable and slip resistant surface.

Width  
All ADA facilities shall be 36 inches wide minimum.  
If the width is greater than 36 inches, the path shall be 48 inches wide, with a 36 inch clear path within the 48 inch width.

Obstacles  
If there are gates or openings in the route, are the openings at least 34 inch clear?  
If the way is otherwise obstructed, is the obstruction 4 inches or less?

Changes in Level  
Is the slope level of any changes in level greater than 1:20?

Signs  
Signs shall include signs or architectural modifications:  
All ADA facilities shall have signs that are 48 inches high and 36 inches wide.

Yield  
Yield signs shall be placed at the entrance to the playground and shall be 48 inches high and 36 inches wide.

Landings  
Is there a level landing area at least 36 inches wide and 36 inches deep at the change?  
Is there a level landing area for the ramp changes direction that is at least 36 x 60 inches?

Seating  
If the camp has a table higher than 6 inches, are there seats with an 18 inch clear space?  
Is the height of the handrail supporting surface no less than 34 inches and no greater than 38 inches above the ramp surface?  
Is the handrail supporting surface 2 inches and not less than 1/4 inch above the top of the ramp?  
If the handrail supporting surface is 2 inches, is it at least 36 inches wide and no greater than 2 inches above the ramp?  
If the handrail supporting surface is 2 inches, is the post-to-post distance 4 inches and no greater than 48 inches?  
Is there a level landing area at least 36 inches wide and 36 inches deep at the change?  
Is there a level landing area at least 36 inches wide and 36 inches deep at the change?  
Is there a level landing area at least 36 inches wide and 36 inches deep at the change?


Large Playpieces  
Does the surface of the large playpiece extend at least 18 inches beyond the visible face of the large playpiece?  
Is there a level landing area at least 36 inches wide and 36 inches deep at the change?

Transfer Seating  
Does the transfer seating have a height of 18 inches and a depth of 18 inches?

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Transfer Seating  
Does the transfer seating have a height of 18 inches and a depth of 18 inches?

## 7 Principles of Inclusive Playground Design®



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The screenshot shows the CORE Professional Development Hub website. The navigation menu includes Home, Profile, My Dashboard (circled in red), CORE Resources, FAQs, Cart, and Back to PlayCore.com. The main content area features a circular logo with 'CORE' in the center and 'Professional Development Hub' around it. Below the logo, there is a heading 'Learn and earn CEUs with the CORE Professional Development Hub.' and a paragraph explaining the platform's purpose. A 'Log Out' button is visible in the top left. A search bar is located on the left side. The main content area is titled 'Event Details (4)' and includes a key for completion status: Complete (green check), Next (blue plus), Failed (red X), Available (orange square), and Locked (grey square). The event details for 'Beyond Minimums Joining Link' are shown, including the date and time. Below this, there is a section titled 'Obtaining your CEU Credit' with three steps: Step 1: Complete Beyond Minimums Survey (0 Questions), Step 2: Complete Beyond Minimums Quiz (0 Question | Unlimited attempts | 2000 points to pass), and Step 3: Download Putting Plan into Action Certificate (1.00 (0.1 IACET CEU / 1.0 AIA/NSW LU / 1.0 LA CES NSW PD) credit | Certificate available). Three blue arrows point to the first three steps.

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**Let's Have a Jam Session!  
Designing Music into  
Communities and Public Spaces**

**November 14**

**A Roadmap to Successfully  
Accessing Funding Through the  
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# Resources



- Questions? [core@playcore.com](mailto:core@playcore.com)
- Education [education.playcore.com](http://education.playcore.com)
- Resources [www.playcore.com/resources](http://www.playcore.com/resources)
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# Thank You!

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