



Accessible Play Comes to Nassau County

Let All The Children Play to design and build an inclusive playground in Eisenhower Park

Cedarhurst, NY, July 2008 - Let All The Children Play (LATCP), a Long Island-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation and Museums have officially agreed to develop a new 2-acre Universally Accessible Playground for children of all abilities. Centrally located in Eisenhower Park, this playground initiative will allow children with autism and other physical, sensory, developmental or cognitive disabilities to play side-by-side with their able-bodied peers.

Long Island children and adults with disabilities are denied opportunities to challenge themselves and build physical, emotional, social, cognitive, and creative skills simply because traditional playgrounds lack accessible structures, play spaces and amenities. As the first of its kind in Nassau County, the LATCP playground will be barrier-free so that every child, those with or without disabilities, can explore, play and interact, together.

Unlike other playgrounds that meet only a minimal level of American with Disabilities Act requirements, the LATCP playground is designed to make the entire setting inviting, and will drastically improve Nassau County's recreational accessibility and integration. A collaboration of landscape architects, designers and community members help with the playground design, which will include features such as ramp access, rubberized safety surfacing, accessible amenities such as washrooms, benches and parking, adapted swings, activity panels and Braille signage. In addition to the play areas, there are special areas like the Sound Garden, Amphitheatre and Environmental Classroom.

Besides creating a fun atmosphere for all children, integrated play will foster friendships, spur personal growth and help to break down misconceptions about disabilities. For all children, especially those with disabilities, play supports rehabilitation such as balance and coordination, develops physical strength along with fine and gross motor skills.

“Receiving the permit is a critical step in making this vision a reality for all children,” said LATCP’s Executive Director David Weingarten, the father of two adult children including a son born with Down syndrome. “We hope this is the first of many inclusive recreation opportunities where families can enjoy together-time, and where all children can play side by side while eliminating misconceptions about disabilities.”

Construction will begin once Let All The Children Play finishes raising a total of \$1.8 million. The organization has already received commitments for greater than \$1 million and is actively seeking additional funds through naming opportunities from individual donors and corporations along with foundation and grant support. For more information about LATCP, visit www.latcp.org, or call 516.569.0648.

About Let All The Children Play

Headquartered in Cedarhurst, Let All The Children Play is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization created to improve the lives and dignity of children and families with disabilities by building Universally Accessible Playgrounds and programs. An LATCP playground provides a complete and integrated environment where children with disabilities can play with their able-bodied peers creating a truly integrated environment where friendship and acceptance flourish.

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Let All The Children Play Foundation

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