DEMYSTIFYING UNIVERSAL DESIGN:

Turning a Buzzword into Impactful Action

CLARK CONDON



The concept of "universal" or "inclusive" design means that the design of products and environments should make them usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

National Recreation and Park Association

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

5% OF THE TOTAL POPULATION OR

PEOPLE WORLDWIDE

experience a disability



75 MILLION PEOPLE REQUIRE A WHEELCHAIR



16 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE COGNITIVE DISABILITY



1.3 BILLION PEOPLE HAVE A VISUAL DISABILITY



466 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE A HEARING DISABILITY

UNDERSTAND THE TERMINOLOGY

ACCESSIBLE

All public spaces should be physically accessible to everyone, regardless of their physical, cognitive, or mental ability. Specific areas of public spaces should be designed for people with specific disabilities; all public space should work for everyone.



ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is achieved when people with disabilities can "acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services' as people who do not have disabilities" in "an equally effective and equally integrated manner with substantially equivalent ease of use."

CLARK CONDON



Accessibility - Can engage with the space equally

UNDERSTAND THE TERMINOLOGY

DISABILITY

People who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various barriers, may prevent them from participating fully, effectively, and equally in society.



any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or anatomical function, such as a missing arm, a chronic illness, limited vision, or similar.

CLARK CONDON

- Disability Society engagement & barriers
- Impairment Focus on physical aspect of disability

UNDERSTAND THE TERMINOLOGY

EQUITY

The process of assessing needs, correcting historical inequalities, and creating conditions for optimal outcomes by members of all social identity groups.



An environment that offers affirmation, celebration, and appreciation of different approaches, styles, perspectives, and experiences

CLARK CONDON



>>> Inclusion - Creating a welcoming environment

UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

"...Universal Design has the potential to change the way we view access to the public realm, far beyond the ADA.

- ALEXA VAUGHN, ASLA, FAAR

7 PRINCIPLES CREATED BY RONALD MACE, A DISABLED ARCHITECT

- 1 Equitable use
- 2 Flexibility in use
- 3 Simple & intuitive use
- 4 Perceptible information
- 5 Tolerance for error
- 6 Low physical effort
- 7 Size and space for approach and use





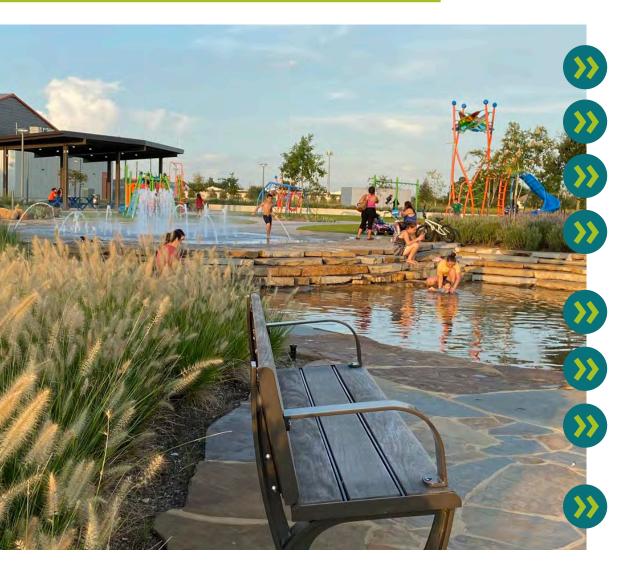








PARK AND PLAZAS



CONNECTION TO STREET

SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING

PROVIDE OPTIONS

EASY ACCESS TO RESTROOMS

MIX OF SPACES

PREVIEW OF SPACES

COMFORTABLE AND ACCESSIBLE SEATING

COMFORT

PLAYGROUND



BASELINE ADA

USABLE BY ALL

NO ADAPTATION

ALL DISABILITIES

MAXIMIZE ACCESS

VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES

APPEAL TO ALL 5 SENSES

NEEDS TO BE FUN!

Content via https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2022/september/principles-of-inclusive-playground-design/

ACCESS TO THE PARK





RIGHT PAVING RIGHT PLACE



DECOMPOSED GRANITE



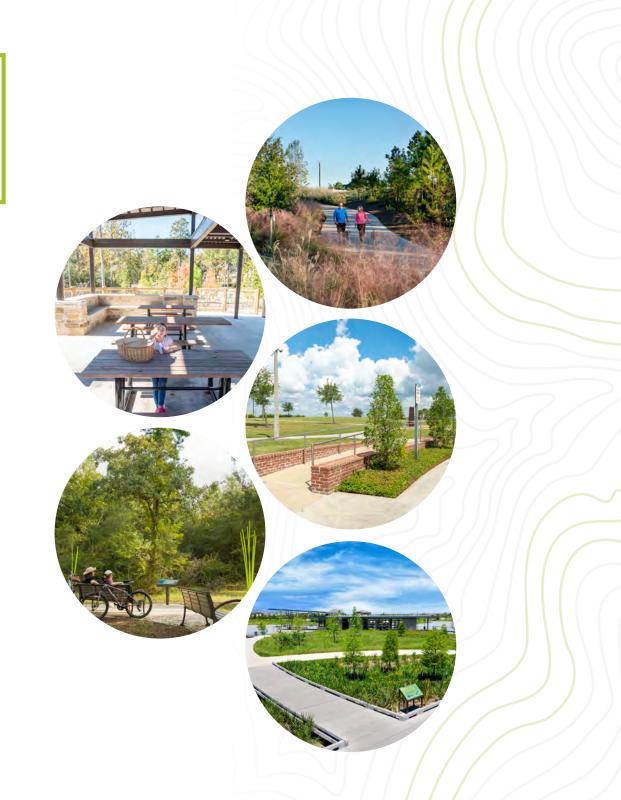
PAVERS



CONCRETE

SITE FURNISHINGS

- »Mobility Impairments
- »Ages & Abilities
- »Design Function
- »Security
- » Maintenance



UNIVERSAL DESIGN (NRPA)

- The goal of designing inclusive playgrounds is to maximize each facility's usability by individuals with a wide variety of characteristics. Whether we are talking about learning strategies or physical space, inclusive design operates by a distinct set of principles designed to maximize access and everyone's enjoyment of a space.
- As with many aspects of our daily lives, one size does not fit all. Well-designed outdoor play environments must include a variety of experiences, be accessible to people with varying skill sets, and, most importantly, they should be fun!

UNIVERSAL DESIGN RECAP

Universal Design shouldn't be seen as a hindrance, but an opportunity to imagine new and innovative ways to enhance the user experience and make a space accessible and enjoyable for all.

- KNOW THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE
- UNDERSTAND THE TERMINOLOGY

- >>> INCORPORATE UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES
- CONSIDER THE PARK-GOER EXPERIENCE

