



ALL KIDS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PLAY TOGETHER

A Guide to
All-Inclusive Playgrounds
in Massachusetts

This project was funded by the Gopen Fellowship through the
Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network.



My name is Marie. I have been in a wheelchair since I was six years old. When I was little I couldn't get on playgrounds and I felt left out. A long time ago I came up with the idea that I would change things not only for me but for others. When I heard about the Gopen Fellowship I knew this was my chance to make a difference. My goal has been to educate people about the importance of accessible equipment and to advocate for children and parents with disabilities. I visited twenty-one different playgrounds that claimed to be accessible. I found that although most of the playgrounds are accessible some of the playgrounds weren't like they claimed to be. The playgrounds included in this booklet are what I consider to be accessible. I created this booklet so that anyone, no matter what their capabilities are, can use it as a resource to find a playground they can enjoy. I want kids to be able to play together side by side and enjoy their childhood with the least amount of limitations.

—Marie Saldi, 2014–15 Gopen Fellow

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BOSTON

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Harambee Playground..... | 4 |
| Thomas Menino Park..... | 5 |

NORTH SHORE

| | |
|--|----|
| Amelia Grace Place..... | 6 |
| Adventures for Angels Playground..... | 7 |
| Rising Star Playground..... | 8 |
| Ronan McElligot Memorial Playground..... | 9 |
| Touch the Sky Playground..... | 10 |

METRO WEST

| | |
|---|----|
| Barton Rd. Housing Complex Playground..... | 11 |
| Lyons Pride Playground & S.M.I.L.E. Playground..... | 12 |

SOUTH SHORE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Buttonwood Park Playground..... | 13 |
| Early Learning Center Playground..... | 14 |
| Everybody's Playground..... | 15 |
| Luke's Love..... | 16 |

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Wilson Boundless Playground..... | 17 |
|----------------------------------|----|

RHODE ISLAND

| | |
|---|----|
| Roger Williams Carousel Village Park..... | 18 |
|---|----|

KEY

| | |
|---|---|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | At least three accessible ground components |
|  | Learning boards |
|  | Swing chair |
|  | Sensory slides |
|  | Established in honor of an individual |



Harambee Playground

Westview St.

Boston MA 02124

This is a very bright and colorful playground that offers a couple of elevated components that are accessible to all. This is a playground that has spacious ramps that offer multiple handrails.



Thomas Menino Park

300 First Ave.

Charlestown, MA 02129

This is a clean playground that offers accessibility to everyone. Some of the features include play components that are within reach, a path that goes all the way through the playground, and a swing chair.

| | |
|--|--|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | Swing chair |
|  | Established in honor of an individual |



Amelia Grace Place

34 Jerden's Ln.

Rockport, MA 01966

This playground is open to the public when school is not in session. Amelia Grace Place has Braille, Sign Language, and English to Spanish learning boards. This playground also offers all inclusive ramps that go throughout the whole structure. Tennis courts are connected to this playground.

| | |
|--|---|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | At least three accessible ground components |
|  | Learning boards |



Adventures for Angels Playground

**36 Johnson St.
Peabody, MA 01960**

This playground offers a ramp with multiple handrails for children of all ages and sizes. A Braille learning board is provided and is very clear. Entire elevated portion of playground is accessible to all.

| | |
|--|--|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | Learning boards |
|  | Sensory slides |



Rising Star Playground

**48 Putnam St.
Beverly, MA 01915**

Interactive musical ground components are perfect for kids of all ages to explore together. A ground level window area promotes imaginative play. This playground also offers a Sign Language learning board to help enhance communication between all.



At least three accessible ground components



Learning boards



Ronan McElligott Memorial Playground

**55 Williams Ave.
Westford, MA 01886**

“Because every child deserves to play” This playground is designed for 5-12 year olds and has a path that goes throughout the whole play structure. It has multiple swings with harnesses designed for safety.

| | |
|--|--|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | Learning boards |
|  | Established in honor of an individual |



Touch the Sky Playground

**6 Echo Ave.
Beverly, MA 01915**

This playground is open to the public when school is not in session. A shady open picnic area is accessible under part of the playground, perfect for a sunny day. There is also a ramp that goes all the way through this playground making it accessible for all.



Learning boards



Sensory slides



Barton Rd. Housing Complex Playground

**Barton Rd.
Wellesley, MA 02482**

This brightly colored playground provides multiple ground components that are easily accessible to all. There is an interactive learning board about outer space. Another Spanish to English learning board promotes inclusive play.

| | |
|--|---|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | At least three accessible ground components |
|  | Learning boards |



Lyons Pride Playground & S.M.I.L.E. Playground

**40 Fairbank Rd.
Sudbury, MA 01776**

Two playgrounds that are in walking distance from one another in Sudbury. A learning board that shows rules of the playground enhances communication skills. Inclusive swings with safety harnesses allow for kids to play safely. Many other learning boards educate with games.

| | |
|--|--|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | Learning boards |



Buttonwood Park Playground

**425 Hawthorn St.
New Bedford, MA 02740**

Wide ramps and elevated surfaces that are spacious are perfect for turning in a wheelchair. Areas of this playground that aren't fully accessible have alternatives to getting around. Make sure to check out the zoo next door. This playground is also near a pond with friendly ducks/geese.



Early Learning Center Playground

25 School St.

North Attleborough, MA 02760

This playground is perfect for ages two to five. The structure of this playground is very low to the ground. Wide slides are offered so that parents may go down safely with a child in their lap.



At least one swing with a safety harness



At least three accessible ground components



Everybody's Playground

60 Scotic Neck Rd.

Fairhaven, MA 02719

Just like the name states this playground is built for everyone to play together and have some fun. Everybody's Playground offers a lower level boat to play in, foam/tar surfaces that are even, and also a track that goes around the play structure. A basketball court is also connected to this playground.



Luke's Love

**2377 Meetinghouse Way
West Barnstable, MA 02668**

The surface of this playground is level and accessible to all. Musical ground components encourage children of all ages to play together. Luke's Love offers two different styles of accessible swings.

| | |
|--|---|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | At least three accessible ground components |
|  | Sensory slides |



Wilson Boundless Playground

252 Bliss Rd.

Longmeadow, MA 01106

A life size Mr. Potato Head greets you at the entrance to this playground. Paths are provided to get around areas that have wood chips or sand. There are also three sensory slides that have different textures and are low to the ground.

| | |
|--|--|
|  | At least one swing with a safety harness |
|  | Sensory slides |



Roger Williams Carousal Village Park

**1000 Elmwood Ave.
Providence, RI 02907**

This playground has a lot of lower ground components that multiple people can use at the same time, promoting inclusive play. There is an accessible elevated path that goes from one side of the play structure to the other. There are also wide turning areas that make the whole playground easier to access.



At least three accessible ground components



I would like to say thank you to David Helm, Liz Fancher, David Temelini, MDDC, and everyone at UMASS Boston for helping me through my project and believing in me.

-Marie Saldi

This document is available online at:

www.mass.gov/mddc

&

www.communityinclusion.org/inclusiveplaygrounds



This project was funded by the Gopen Fellowship through the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Network.

MASSACHUSETTS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK

