

Dune Valley Experience

*Fedder's Alley, Washington Park
Michigan City, Indiana*



March 1, 2023

Michigan City Parks and Recreation Department



Our Goal

Our goal is to create a destination playground our whole community can be proud of. The new park will be inclusive and multi-generational and feature fitness stations and walking trails to promote healthy lifestyles.

Existing Conditions

The playground equipment in Fedder's Alley consists of 2 post and deck structures and a 2-bay swing set. The outdated equipment was installed in the early 1970's and no longer meets National Safety Standards nor is it ADA accessible. There is also an outdated fitness trail with 26 workout stations.



What is an Inclusive Playground?

With inclusive playgrounds, the objective is to **include everyone**. They are thoughtfully designed to provide a safe place where children and adults of all ages and abilities can interact and play together.

An inclusive playground takes away the barriers to exclusion, both physical and social, providing a “sensory rich” experience for all.

Components of an Inclusive Playground

An inclusive playground focuses on the following components to ensure a positive, engaging experience for all children:

Physical Accommodations - Accommodating physical disabilities is one component of an inclusive playground. This includes meeting ADA requirements by providing wheelchair accessible routes, ramps and transfer points. Customized equipment, such as special swings, allow all kids to enjoy the playground as it is meant to be enjoyed.

Engaging – Inclusive playgrounds provide a number of different opportunities for children to explore. They integrate all of the senses and encourage social play. There is a little something for everyone including those that like to climb, run, spin, slide, swing and more.

Integrated – A true inclusive playground doesn’t mean that there is special equipment in a separate area off to the side, but rather a space designed as a cohesive community where play opportunities are integrated throughout. This is important for social development.

Promote Inclusion – Just as the name suggests, inclusive playgrounds have another mission that goes beyond the physical accommodations and specialized equipment. These playgrounds do so much for the community. They educate and bring families and people together. They stress the importance of inclusion in everyday activities, no matter the ability level. They prove that kids of all abilities enjoy exploring, learning, interacting, and having fun together. They stress compassion and inclusion of those that are different from you. That's a lesson that benefits us all.

Playground Features

- New ADA accessible restroom
- New ADA routes/walking trail
- Safety surfacing throughout
- Separate toddler area for 2- to 5-year-olds
- Metal slide for those with cochlear implants
- ADA accessible slide
- Dual zipline with adaptive swing
- Swings – adaptive, standard, toddler, baby and me
- ADA accessible merry-go-round
- Cozy cocoon play pods for those who experience sensory overload
- Benches
- Shade structures
- Music features
- Climbing features
- Swinging feature
- Spinning feature
- Monkey bars
- Art feature
- Sensory garden
- New fitness stations
- Water bottle filling station
- Donor recognition wall

Funding Strategy

FUNDING GOAL

- \$4,000,000

POSSIBLE FUNDING PARTNERS

- Michigan City Redevelopment Commission
- Michigan City Common Council
- Community Partners
- Private Donors
- Grant Funding

Schedule

- Complete Design and Engineering and public input by 2nd quarter of 2023
- Secure funding by the 3rd quarter of 2023
- Go out to bid 4th quarter of 2023
- Complete construction 2nd quarter of 2024
- Ribbon cutting ceremony summer of 2024



“Inclusive playgrounds support the abilities and recognize the possibilities of all of our community members.”