

providence playscape

Providence Playscape is the City of Spokane's first all-inclusive playground, designed to be socially and physically inclusive. Located downtown in Riverfront Park, the playground is made possible through a generous community benefit grant from Providence Health Care.

Illustration by Stephanie Bower



"This is amazing. We've always struggled finding a playground adaptive enough for Amy, for her wheelchair and special needs. This really fits the bill."
– Shawna Scott

"It's great to see the playground come together after months of planning, and to see all my kids play together."
– Ayesha Horton, Advisory Committee member



"My brother Emmett finally has a place to play. He is very limited on the amount of things he can do, so for this park to be here is revolutionary to him. He can roll around, he can actually play, and there are many things for him to do, and not just for kids who can walk."
– Oliver

“Providence Playscape is the sweetest place on earth. We’re so excited to bring something unique to serve our community in this all-inclusive way. The power of play enhances our well-being, decreases stress, and creates a place to build relationships. Everyone deserves a place to play.”
– Peg Currie, Chief Operating Officer, Providence Health Care



At a Glance: Providence Playscape

- Location: Riverfront park, along the Howard Street Promenade just north of the orange bridge
- Theme: Nature
- Size: 11,600 square feet
- Number of play elements: More than 20 different types of inclusive play pieces
- Surfacing: Colorful, resilient rubber surfacing creates ease of movement for wheels and walkers
- Restrooms: A temporary ADA restroom and hand washing station is in place. A permanent structure will have two family restrooms that are wheel chair accessible, with adult-sized changing tables and a drinking fountain. It is delayed due to COVID-19 manufacturing impacts.
- Seating: Benches and seating areas, several with receptacles for charging motorized chairs
- Parking: An adjacent parking lot will have 8 ADA parking stalls; currently three are available while the majority of the lot is closed for construction of the Post St. Bridge. Street parking is available along Post.
- Open: Year-round, following park hours 6 A.M. - midnight
- Funding: More than \$1 million dollar community benefit grant over five years from Providence Health Care, through the Spokane Parks Foundation’s Campaign for Riverfront.

Inclusive Design

The goal of Providence Playscape is to create a play environment that promotes social and physical inclusivity, allowing participants to interact and play more independently and equally with their siblings, buddies, caregivers and family members. Developmental benefits of the playground include opportunities to promote gross motor skills (stabilizing, push/pull, swinging, rocking), sensory and imaginative play (tactile/auditory/visual processing, quiet places to retreat), cognitive skill building, and risk/challenge opportunities. Inclusion Matters by Shane’s Inspiration generously donated the playground design. Community focus groups made up of parents, children, and health professionals specializing in adaptive and sensory play provided input at multiple stages during development. Their expertise helped ensure the playground meets the diverse needs of our community.

