

Magical Bridge Playgrounds

INCLUSIVE DESIGN SOLUTIONS FOR SCHOOLS



INCLUSION MEANS EVERYONE™



WHEN THE BELL RINGS

Every Child Deserves to Play

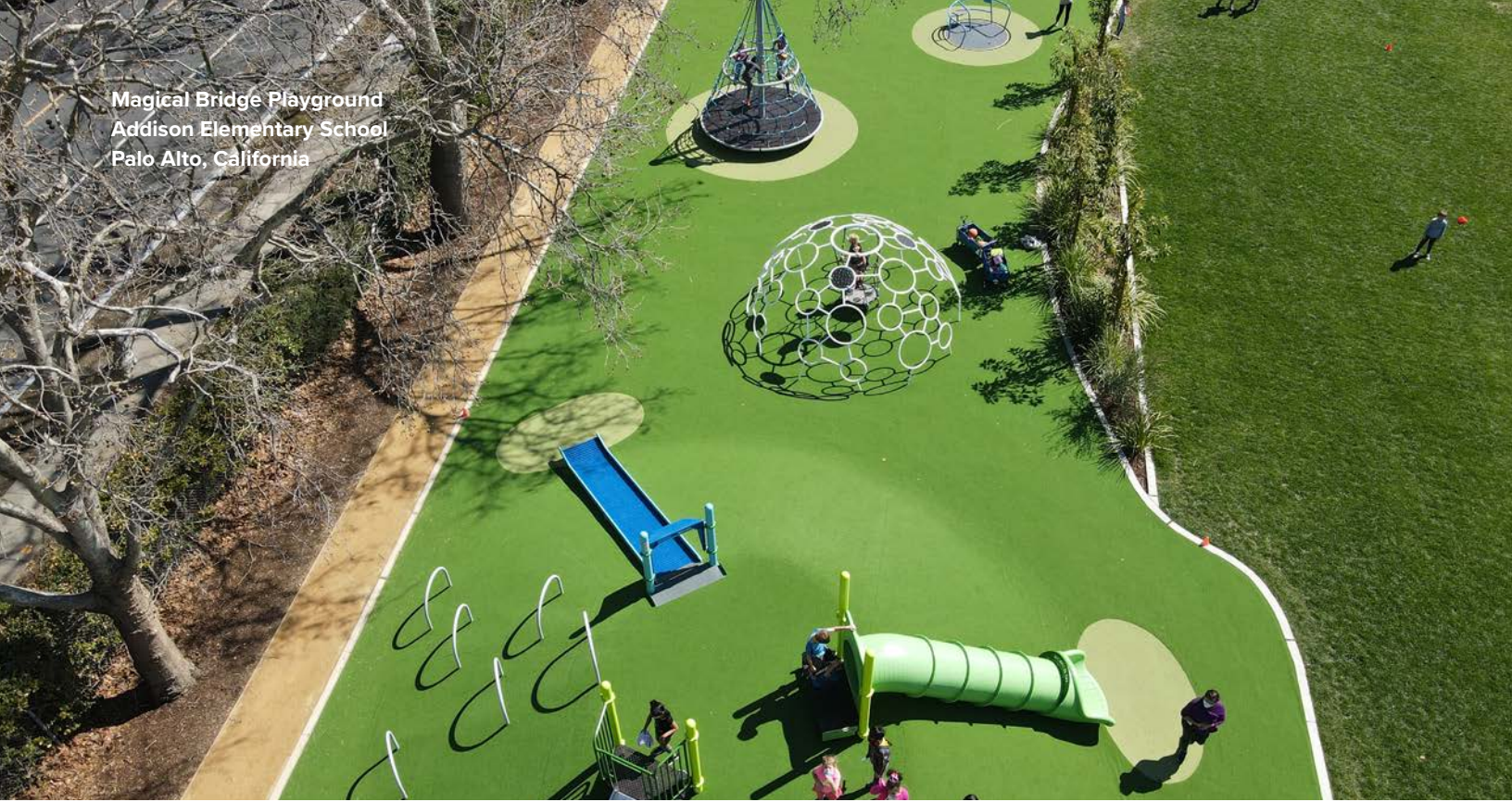
While all children benefit from unstructured play at recess, each child plays differently. Some race out the classroom door straight to the climbing structure, some skip eagerly to the swings, some look for friends to play an imaginative game, and some look for a quiet spot to relax, think, or observe. These choices can be based on a child's interest, the need to release energy or engage socially, or his or her ability or disability, whether that disability is visible (physical) or invisible (cognitive, sensory, autism, ADHD, etc). Magical Bridge captures the unique play needs of all students with inspiring and interesting playgrounds designed specifically for each school community.



ADA compliance isn't enough.

With raised surfaces, hard to reach bars, loose gravel, and forced pathways, the typical “post and platform” playgrounds found in most schools are unfit, unsafe, and not welcoming for many children, especially those with disabilities.

Pictured: a large, typical playground in Palo Alto, California



INCLUSION MEANS EVERYONE

Playgrounds are a vital part of every school, yet most designs overlook the needs of the many in our community living with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities, autism, medically fragile conditions, and social differences. Magical Bridge removes the physical and social barriers of today's typical school playgrounds to give every student a place to play, discover, reflect, and connect.

Magical Bridge aligns with school administration, faculty and staff, students and their families to design the optimal playground and learning landscape for the space while addressing the unique needs of the surrounding community.

Without ever compromising accessibility and inclusion, Magical Bridge Playgrounds are adaptable and cost-effective while offering extraordinary play value.

MEET ELIZA AND CHLOE. These friends from Loyola Elementary School in Los Altos remind us that everyone deserves to play.

In 2018, Chloe, a bubbly third grader, spent nearly every recess sitting and talking or playing hide and seek with her younger buddy, Eliza, who would have rather been on the playground, but she couldn't get her wheelchair over the wood chips. After studying empathy and inclusion in class, Chloe and her classmates concluded that they needed an inclusive playground and arranged to present their request to the Los Altos School Board (scan the QR code to watch). Chloe and her class are currently Freshmen in high school still waiting for their inclusive playground.



HOW MAGICAL BRIDGE IS DIFFERENT

A Playground for Everyone

Internationally recognized for innovation in universal design, a Magical Bridge Playground will celebrate your school's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Magical Bridge ensures everyBODY benefits from recess with these features:

DISTINCT PLAY ZONES™

Grouped play experiences, such as swinging and spinning, provide predictable navigation throughout the playground. Play Zones are customizable and chosen based on space limitations and school preferences.

Ample space gives students wide areas for open play, real decision-making, and transitional space between zones.

Smooth and seamless soft-fall surfaces are used throughout — with no tan bark, sand, or loose gravel that may obstruct breathing tubes or impede access for those using wheelchairs or mobility devices.

UNIQUE PLAY EXPERIENCES

Quality equipment is carefully selected for maximum accessibility and play value.

Variable challenge levels engage all ages and abilities and help build skills and confidence.

Magical Bridge-patented Slide and Sit Landings™ provide an extended bench area at the end of a slide for those needing extra time to wait for a mobility device or assistance from a friend.

Hideaway Huts™ with tactile sensory walls give students, such as those with autism, a quiet retreat from play a safe place to observe the action.

INSPIRING CONNECTIONS

Gathering places, such as outdoor classrooms and play stages, ignite social connections and imaginative play.

The Kindness Corner™ promotes acceptance, good will, and friendship while encouraging reflection and thoughtful conversations.

Green and Garden Zones connect students with nature and provide opportunities to teach sustainability, preservation, and horticulture.

Programs and curriculum, developed by Magical Bridge, offers the opportunity to explore inclusive design, STEAM activities, and empathy work.



PLAY ZONES™

Carefully identified and customizable Play Zones™ are the foundation of Magical Bridge Playgrounds. Each zone offers a variety of play equipment, multiple challenge levels, and unique benefits for all ages and abilities. Best of all, the spaces and equipment are adaptable and intentionally designed to provide maximum accessibility so everyone can play together.



Slide and Climb



Swing and Sway



Spin



Imagination



Kindness



Habitat Hideaway

SPECIALTY ZONES™

In addition to our core Play Zones (above), Magical Bridge offers specialty outdoor experiences to gather, garden, create, and explore. These Zones can be incorporated into the playground site or can be placed in other areas of the school property for best access and usability.



Gathering



Gardening



Green Education



STEAM and Innovation

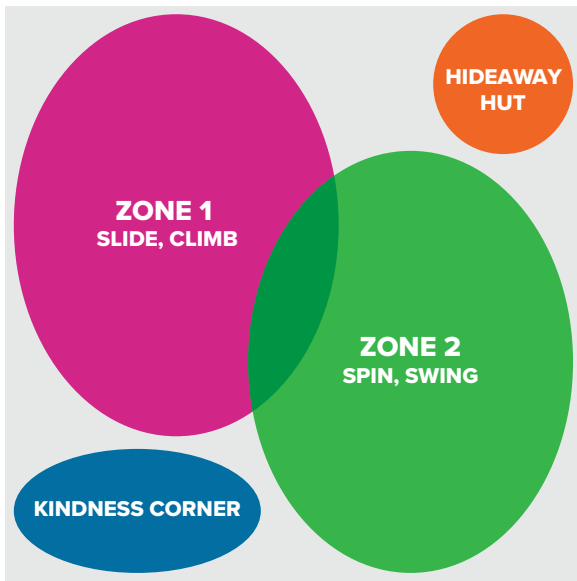


Sensory Exploration

MAGICAL BRIDGE PLAYGROUNDS

Solutions for Any Size and Budget

Based on size, need, and budget, Magical Bridge recommends a customized Play Zone configuration (small, medium, or large) with play experiences and equipment that has been carefully designed and/or selected by Magical Bridge for exceptional play value and maximum accessibility.



SMALL PLAYGROUNDS

TYPICALLY FOR KINDERGARTEN

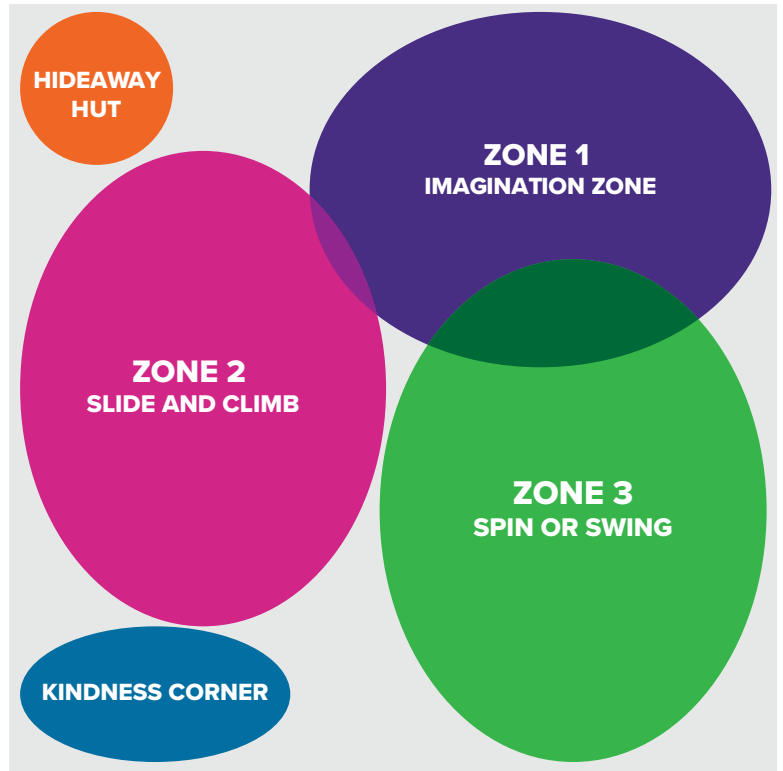
1500 - 2000 SQ FT (estimated)

- 1 to 2 Smaller Play Zones
- Designed for 2-5 year olds (if Kinder)

COST ESTIMATE: \$380K

PLAY FEATURES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Variety of movement and imaginative play
- Tactile and sensory experiences
- Group play experiences to emphasize cooperation and social connection
- Kindness Corner and Hideaway Hut



MEDIUM PLAYGROUNDS

TYPICALLY FOR LOWER GRADES 1-3

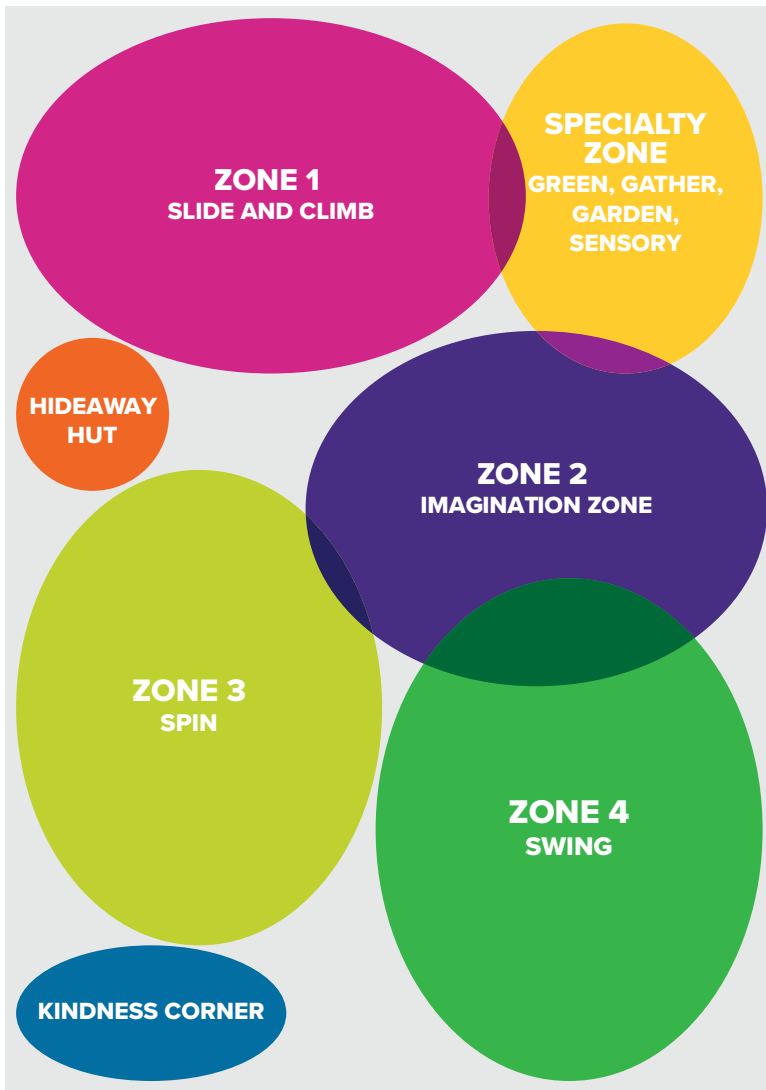
2000 - 2500 SQ FT (estimated)

- 2 - 3 Play Zones

COST ESTIMATE: \$450K

PLAY FEATURES AND OPPORTUNITIES

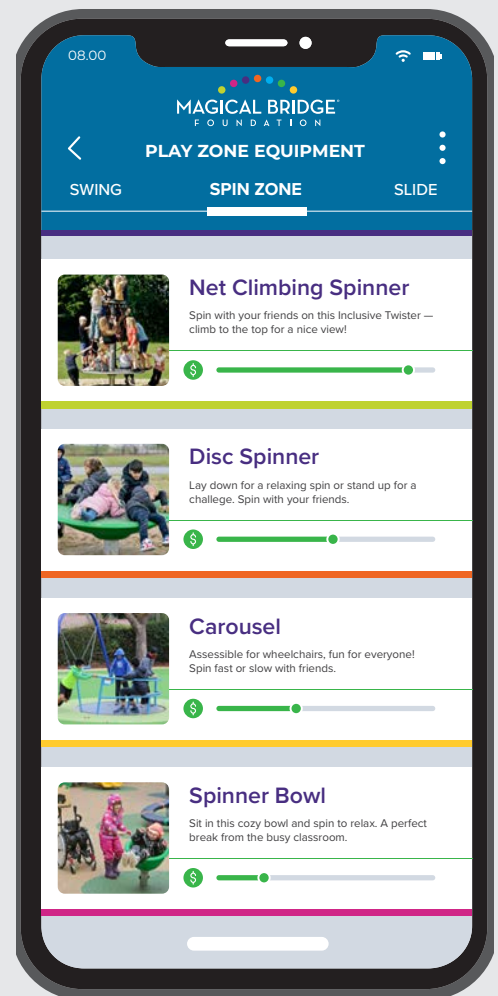
- Variety of movement and challenge levels for skill building and risk taking
- Imagination Zone or group seating
- Group and individual play experiences
- Transition space for decision making
- Kindness Corner and Hideaway Hut



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Celebrating Student Voices

From the start, Magical Bridge engages with the school community with input meetings and online surveys to pinpoint the Play Zones and equipment best suited for the school. Together with teachers and administrators, the Magical Bridge team guides students through the importance of inclusive design — and leads them through Play Zone and equipment selection exercises where they make choices based on play value, community interest, and budget constraints. It's an fun and educational experience for every grade level.



IN DEVELOPMENT: *Magical Bridge plans to develop an interactive app for students and community members to help in the Zone planning and equipment selection process.*

LARGE PLAYGROUNDS

TYPICALLY FOR UPPER GRADES 4-5

2500 - 4000 SQ FT (estimated)

- 3 - 4 Play Zones
- Optional add-on Zone(s)

COST ESTIMATE: \$565K

PLAY FEATURES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Variety of movement and challenge levels for skill building and greater risk taking
- Imaginative Play Stage™ or group seating
- Group and individual play experiences
- Additional Zone, such as Green or Garden Zone for deeper connection with nature with lessons in agriculture, horticulture, and sustainability
- Hideaway Huts and Kindness Corner

COMPANION PROGRAMS

Building a More Inclusive Community

As a holistic solution for schools, Magical Bridge extends the many lessons and benefits found on the playground with programs and STEAM activities that foster empathy, kindness, and human connections.

KINDNESS IS MAGICAL™

With the addition of a Magical Bridge Playground, students of all ages and abilities are invited to join the Kindness Club™.

With a parent or staff sponsor, Kindness Club members will be ambassadors of kindness on the playground and in the classroom — and earn Kindness Club stickers along the way. The Kindness Club gives students the opportunity to practice leadership and find joy in being a positive role model to their peers. Later, as teens, they can continue their work as a Kindness Ambassador on Magical Bridge public playgrounds.



PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

With the installation of a Magical Bridge Playground, each school will receive a tool kit for use either in the classroom or as part of an after school, library, science, or club program. Some of the activities and learning opportunities include:

BUILDING COMMUNITY

- Kindness Club™ — start-up kit for a student-run club focused on empowering students to spread kindness on and off the playground
- Idea guide for community events on the playground, such a Magical Talent Show, “Sending Kindness” postcard mailings, etc.

TEACHING KINDNESS

- Kindness Kits™ — group activities, games, and lessons
- Magical Library™ — a reading list of books that promote inclusion for personal reading, storytimes, or a special section in the library

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

- Hands-on STEAM activities — teaching science on the playground, teaching about differences (e.g. how to read Braille), arts and crafts
- Kindness to the planet: community garden program
- Stretching and movement guides for fitness on the playground



READY TO BRING MAGIC TO YOUR SCHOOL?

Please email play4all@magicalbridge.org or call (650) 538-2850.



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