



# Magical Bridge Playgrounds, Parks, and Programs



**ALL ABILITIES. ALL AGES. ALL WELCOME.™**

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

The critical need for social connection and time spent outside is mounting — and designing playgrounds for *everyone* is the perfect place to start.



The US Surgeon General reports that **84% of Americans do not feel attached to their local community<sup>1</sup>**, fueling an epidemic of loneliness and isolation across all age groups.



According to the CDC, **1 in every 4 adults (and 15% of children) live with a visible or invisible disability<sup>2</sup>** which can include physical, sensory, or cognitive challenges, autism, or the effects of aging.



Extensive scientific findings from a variety of disciplines conclude that **social connection is a significant predictor of longevity and better physical, cognitive, and mental health<sup>3</sup>**.

<sup>1,3</sup> “Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community”

<sup>2</sup> CDC [www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth)



# 1 in 4

**ADULTS ARE LIVING WITH A DISABILITY**

**10% OF DISABILITIES LOOK LIKE THIS**



**90% OF DISABILITIES LOOK LIKE THIS**



10% of disabilities are physical or “visible” while 90% are “invisible” including autism, cognitive and developmental issues, sensory challenges and other differences.



Today’s typical ADA-approved playgrounds are not enough.

With sand and loose gravel, raised surfaces and equipment, forced pathways, most playgrounds are unfit, unsafe, and not accessible for at least 25% of our population.



Magical Bridge Playground  
Palo Alto, California  
Opened June 2015

## MORE THAN A PLAYGROUND

# Magical Bridge is where a community comes together

Playgrounds and parks are vital for community connections and healthy outdoor activity at every stage of life, yet most designs overlook the many people living with a physical, cognitive, or sensory disability, autism, a medically-fragile condition, or the effects of aging.

Magical Bridge removes the physical and social barriers of today's typical playgrounds to give all ages and abilities a fun place to play, move, discover, and connect.

**Only at Magical Bridge can everyone — from tots to seniors, with and without disabilities — gather to enjoy the physical, development, and social benefits of play.**



## MAGICAL BRIDGE PLAYGROUND

# Inclusive Means Everyone



Award-winning Magical Bridge Playgrounds are internationally recognized for inclusive and innovative design features, including:

### INTENTIONAL SITE LAYOUT

**Play Zones™**, distinct grouped play experiences, such as swinging and spinning, provide predictable navigation and expectations throughout the playground.

**Ample space** gives visitors 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 mobility devices.

**Secure, perimeter fencing** increases parents and caregivers peace of mind as their children explore the many play opportunities within the playground.

### UNIQUE PLAY EXPERIENCES

**Quality equipment**, carefully selected for maximum accessibility and play value, includes elevated slide and climb zone, ground-level carousel, adult-sized swings, and ramp-accessible sway boat.

**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 visitors, such as people with autism, a quiet retreat from play a safe place to observe the action.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

**Gathering places** with ample shade and comfort ignites multi-generational connections with space for games, celebrations, and performances.

**The Kindness Corner™** with messaging that promotes acceptance, good will, and friendship encourages reflection and thoughtful conversations.

**Fitness equipment** for all ages keeps everyone active and healthy.

**Programming** provides fun and educational activities, events, and performances for all ages.

**Kindness Ambassador™** volunteers promote kind behavior on and off the playground.

## PLAY ZONES™

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 designed to provide maximum accessibility so everyone can play together.



**Slide and Climb Zone**



**Swing and Sway Zone**



**Spin Zone**



**Tot Zone**



**Kindness and Conversation**



**Music Innovation Zone**

**INNOVATING FOR INCLUSION** Drawing from over a decade of research and development, Magical Bridge continues to utilize technology, ingenuity, artistry, and imagination to push the boundaries of universal design.



**HIDEAWAY HUTS™**



**ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL**



**SLIDE AND SIT LANDINGS™**



**SENSORY-FRIENDLY SIGNAGE**

## PROGRAMS THAT CREATE A MORE INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

# It starts with a playground

Magical Bridge changes the way communities think about kindness and inclusion.

### KINDNESS AMBASSADORS

The Magical Bridge Kindness Ambassador™ program engages the community and local volunteers to promote an active, playful, and kind culture — on and off the playground.

As Kindness Ambassadors, local teens, adults, and senior volunteers host events, activities, and friendly open play for all ages and abilities. Becoming a Kindness Ambassador is a great opportunity for teens to find purpose in community involvement and for seniors to get outside and socialize with people of all ages.



### PROGRAMS — ON THE PLAYGROUND

Magical Bridge community programs ensure the playground is active all year long. Activities and events can include:

- Live music and performances on the Community Stage
- Story time and sing-a-longs for all ages and abilities
- Community Partner Days showcasing local talent and organizations
- STEM learning activities including inclusive playground design
- Resource exhibitions, such as Canine Companions™ and Girl Scouts®
- Fundraising events for local charities and organizations
- School field trips for playtime and educational tours



### PROGRAMS — OFF THE PLAYGROUND

Magical Bridge Foundation partners with local organizations to host programs and events that welcome all ages and abilities (sometimes for the first time). Programs can include:

- Sensory-friendly musical theater and dance classes and performances
- High school and university innovation workshops on universal design
- Tennis, sports, and movement classes for neurodiverse participants
- Activity tables at city-sponsored events, parades, fairs, and more
- School presentations to educate students about inclusion
- Support for student-initiated school Magical Bridge Kindness Clubs
- Conferences and speaking engagements focused on inclusive design



## WHAT'S NEXT?

# Partnering with Magical Bridge

Magical Bridge Foundation works with city and county leadership teams, developers, school districts, libraries and with various public projects to ensure the needs of all ages and abilities are met. Our innovative licensing solution offers a cost-effective approach as a way to implement the support of other landscape architect teams.

Internationally recognized, Magical Bridge has received dozens of awards for design and community impact, and has been featured for its innovation and inclusive playground design by:



## Magical Bridge Solutions

Magical Bridge designs, builds, and licenses play spaces of all sizes and for a variety of enriching experiences:

### Public Playgrounds

- Destination playgrounds
- Neighborhood playgrounds
- Developed community playgrounds

### Specialty Playgrounds

- Schools
- Museums
- Zoos
- Hospitals
- Senior Living

### Parks

- Recreational Parks
- Commercial Parks
- Residential Parks

### Play Plazas™

- City or Business Plazas
- Residential Plazas

**EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC** We welcome you to visit the Magical Bridge Playgrounds currently open to the public. Many more are in development around the world. Please visit [magicalbridge.org](https://magicalbridge.org) for a full project list.



Mitchell Park, Palo Alto, CA



Fair Oaks Park, Sunnyvale, CA



Red Morton, Redwood City, CA



Community Park, Morgan Hill, CA



Central Park, Santa Clara, CA



Rengstorff Park, Mountain View, CA



Hamilton, New Zealand

### SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

Addison Elementary, Palo Alto  
El Carmelo Elementary,  
Palo Alto  
Cesar Chavez Ravenswood  
Middle School, East Palo Alto

### SPECIALTY PLAYGROUNDS

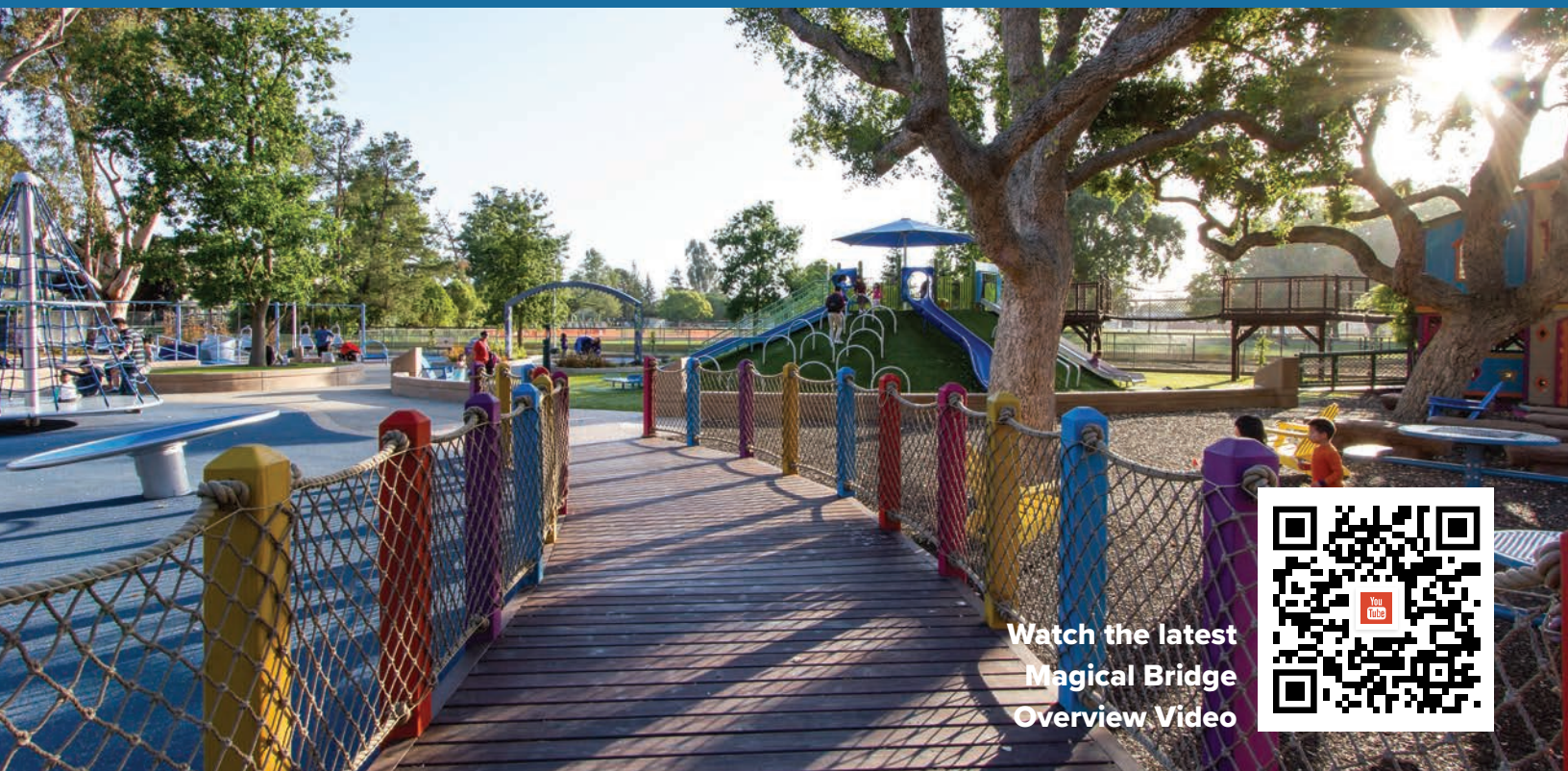
CuriOdyssey Museum,  
San Mateo

**THERE'S ONLY ONE MAGICAL BRIDGE**

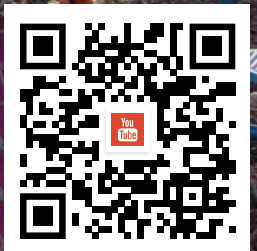
# The global need for Magical Bridge has always been there.

Yet, it wasn't until the birth of her second daughter that Olenka Villarreal began her worldwide search for a playground designed thoughtfully enough for both her daughters: Ava, who was born with disabilities, and her older sister, Emma. After discovering there was not a single "inclusive" or "accessible" playground created to truly delight members of a whole family, Olenka conducted research, mobilized volunteers, and raised private funds to introduce Palo Alto's Magical Bridge, the very first multigenerational playground designed for all ages and abilities. Almost a decade since its opening, Magical Bridge is proud to be recognized as the world's most inclusive and innovative playground, one that uniquely incorporates the needs of children, parents, and grandparents of varying abilities like no other.

**While playground companies are now finally responding to the growing need for inclusive play, there is only one playground design where inclusive means everyone: Magical Bridge. We look forward to hearing from you.**



Watch the latest  
Magical Bridge  
Overview Video



MAGICAL BRIDGE FOUNDATION

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Magical Bridge Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID: #81-2377796