



Magical Bridge Playgrounds, Parks, and Programs



ALL ABILITIES. ALL AGES. ALL WELCOME.™





WHERE EVERYONE PLAYS

More than a playground, Magical Bridge brings community together.

Playgrounds and parks are vital for community connections at every stage of life, yet most designs overlook the needs of the 1-in-4 living with physical, cognitive, or sensory disabilities, autism, the medically fragile, and our aging population.

Through innovative design and community programs for all ages and abilities, Magical Bridge removes the physical and social barriers of today's typical playgrounds and parks to give everyone a place to play, discover, reflect, and connect.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

The critical need for social connections and time outdoors is mounting — and designing playgrounds for *everyone* is the magical place to start.



The US Surgeon General reports that **84% of Americans do not feel attached to their local community¹**, fueling an epidemic of loneliness and isolation across all age groups.



According to the CDC, **1 in every 4 Americans live with a visible or invisible disability²** 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 health³**.

^{1,3} "Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community"

² CDC www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth



1 in 4

PEOPLE 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.

ADA^{*} REQUIRES

PLAYGROUNDS GIVE ACCESS TO PEOPLE USING A WHEELCHAIR.



MAGICAL BRIDGE REFLECTS THE UNIQUENESS OF US ALL.

- ✓ Autistic
- ✓ Low Vision
- ✓ Hearing Loss
- ✓ Neurodivergence
- ✓ Restricted Mobility
- ✓ Sensory and Processing Difficulties
- ✓ Medical Fragility
- ✓ Effects of Aging

^{*}ADA: The Americans with Disabilities Act – ada.gov



Today's typical playgrounds are not enough.

With sand, raised surfaces, and forced pathways, most playgrounds are unfit, unsafe, and not welcoming for many families.

At Magical Bridge, Inclusion Means Everyone.

With a unifying message of kindness, Magical Bridge ensures people of all ages and abilities enjoy the physical, cognitive, and social and emotional benefits of outdoor play and community connections.



PHYSICAL BENEFITS

- Builds strong muscles, endurance, and motor skills
- Reduces the risk of chronic conditions and depression
- Encourages trying new things and taking risks
- Promotes a lifelong appreciation for nature and outdoor activity



COGNITIVE BENEFITS

- Improves spatial awareness and concentration
- Nurtures self-discipline and problem solving skills
- Enhances imagination and creativity
- Increases attention span and ability to focus



BEHAVIORAL BENEFITS

- Improves mood and increases overall wellbeing
- Boosts self-esteem, confidence, and resilience
- Reduces symptoms of ADD and ADHD



SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL BENEFITS

- Unites diverse people in a kind and friendly environment
- Cultivates an awareness of similarities, over differences
- Promotes multigenerational connections to reduce loneliness
- Builds and reinforces the importance of compromise, compassion, cooperation, and leadership



MAGICAL BRIDGE PLAYGROUND

Beyond Inclusion, There's Magic.



Award-winning Magical Bridge Playgrounds are internationally recognized for thoughtful innovation.

DISTINCT PLAY ZONES™

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 wheelchairs or 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™

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 intentionally designed to provide maximum accessibility so everyone can play together.



Playhouse and Stage Custom original by Barbara Butler Artist-BUILDER



Slide and Climb Mound



Swing and Sway Zone



Spin Zone



Tot Zone



Kindness Corner



Music Innovation Zone

It starts with a playground.

Whether its finally having a place where everyone can play together or the many programs and activities hosted at the playground, Magical Bridge changes the way communities think about kindness and inclusion.

KINDNESS IS MAGICAL™

The Magical Bridge play experience is undeniably fun and unique, but there's something intangibly special about visiting a Magical Bridge Playground. The very act of gathering in an intentionally inclusive, accessible, and kind space brings out the best in a community — and those values transcend into every aspect of life.

As the hallmark of Magical Bridge community engagement, the Kindness Ambassador™ program fosters a sense of belonging, both on and off the playground.

Ready with a friendly hello, a push on a swing, or an invitation to create a colorful craft, Kindness Ambassadors™ are a welcoming presence on the playground. These 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.

ON THE PLAYGROUND

Magical Bridge community programs ensure the playground is active all year long. Activities and events, hosted by Kindness Ambassadors, City organizations, and community groups, include:

- Live music on the playstage including a Summer Concert Series
- Entertainment featuring local artists, magicians, and jugglers
- Storytime and sing-a-longs for all ages
- Hands-on STEM activities
- Arts and crafts
- Senior movement classes
- "Send Kindness" postcard activities
- Resource exhibitions, such as Canine Companions™
- Fundraising events for local charities and organizations
- School field trips for playtime and educational tours





OFF THE PLAYGROUND

Magical Bridge Foundation partners with local organizations to host complementary programs and events that welcome all ages and abilities (sometimes for the first time). With Kindness Ambassadors on-hand as well as other helpful resources and accommodations, programs include:

- Sensory-friendly musical theater and Nutcracker ballet performances
- Stanford University innovation workshops on universal design
- Kindness Kits™ activity guides for classrooms and at-home education
- Tennis and movement classes
- Activity tables at city-sponsored events, parades, fairs, and more
- School presentations to educate students about inclusion
- Conferences and speaking engagements focused on inclusive design



PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

What happens when a young person with disabilities ages out of school day programs?

Exploring this question, Magical Bridge proudly co-sponsored a pilot day program for five young adults in Palo Alto, CA. Each participant was joined with a one-to-one caregiver, and much like a summer camp, explored the Bay Area, including visits to the zoo, restaurants, cooking class, musical performances, bowling, and a local farm to pet the animals.



WHAT'S NEXT?

Partnering with Magical Bridge

Magical Bridge Foundation works with community leaders and dreamers to create innovative spaces that inspire more inclusive communities.

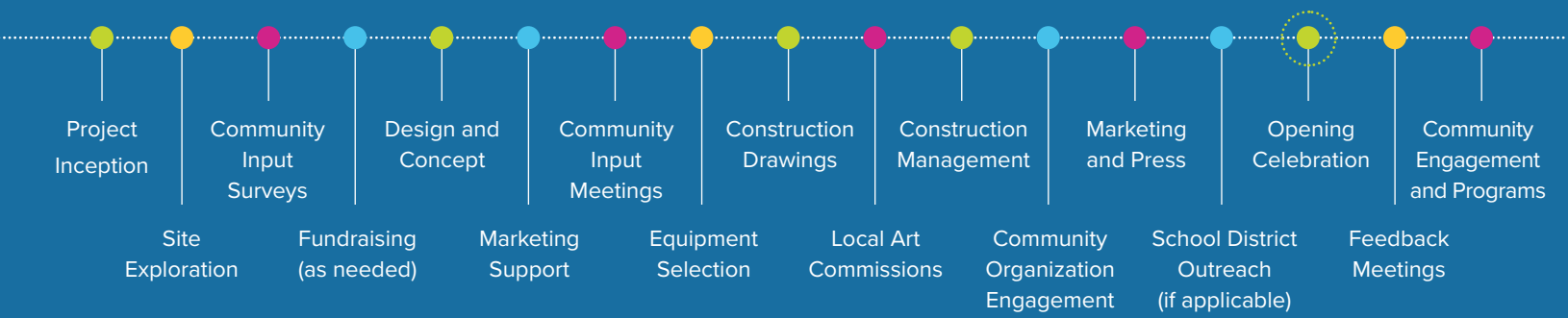
Internationally recognized, Magical Bridge enjoys ongoing recognition for design and community impact, and has been featured for its innovation and inclusive playground design by:



“Inclusion means everyone, no matter what body we were born into or what body we grow old in. We all deserve to be included.”

– Olenka Villarreal, CEO and Founder, Magical Bridge Foundation

Below is a typical project outline for a Magical Bridge project.



INNOVATING FOR INCLUSION

Be a part of the future of play.

Drawing from over a decade of research and development, Magical Bridge continues to push the boundaries of playground design utilizing a mix of technology, ingenuity, artistry and imagination. Here are just some of the magical touches found at Magical Bridge Playgrounds, with more exciting features to come!



ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL Ramps and bridges ensure visitors using wheelchairs or other mobility devices can reach all areas of the playground, including the the slide mound and the second story of the playhouse.



SLIDE AND SIT LANDINGS™ The Magical Bridge-patented bench extensions at the bottom of the slides give those needing extra time a safe space to wait for their mobility device or help from a friend.

Magical Bridge Projects

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

Public Playgrounds

Specialty Playgrounds

- Schools
- Museums
- Zoos
- Hospitals
- Hotels and Resorts

Multi-Generational Parks

- Recreational
- Commercial
- Residential

ParkPlazas™ — a public square for everyone

- Public
- Residential
- Mixed Use

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC

Visit a Magical Bridge Playground currently open to the public in the San Francisco Bay Area.



Mitchell Park, Palo Alto, California



Fair Oaks Park, Sunnyvale, California



Red Morton Park, Redwood City, California



Community Park, Morgan Hill, California



LASER HARP Created by artist Jen Lewin, the 24-string harp creates a symphony of sounds as visitors move through the invisible laser beams. The tones stimulate brain activity while facilitating non-verbal communication.



HIDEAWAY HUTS™ Placed throughout the playground, these custom designed domes with tactile interior walls offer visitors, especially those with autism, a quiet and soothing place to retreat and observe the action.



THE MAGIC MAP™ The tactile and interactive bronze area map lets visitors explore with their hands, eyes, and ears. Powered by digital vision and auditory technology, a stylus responds with descriptions of the active area.

THE STORY OF MAGICAL BRIDGE

Magical Bridge began with a mom, two daughters, and the need for a playground.

It was only after the birth of her second daughter, Ava, that Magical Bridge founder Olenka Villarreal discovered how isolating a playground could be. A place that brought joy and community connections with her older daughter, Emma, had become a dreaded outing when she realized there were no parks designed for families like her own — a family with two children with very different needs.

2008 Determined to create the kind of outdoor space that both her disabled and non-disabled daughters (and all their friends) would love, Olenka mobilized a team of volunteers — including community leaders, landscape architects, therapists, developers, artists, and families living with disabilities — to create such a place, where visitors of every age and ability could play together.

2015 After seven years of design research, advocacy effort, and fundraising, Magical Bridge Playground in Palo Alto, California opened to the public. Once discovered, people from around the world began reaching out for help in bringing this new kind of playground to their communities.

2016 With generous support from the Enlight Foundation and Steckler Family Fund, Magical Bridge Foundation was launched as a non-profit organization with a mission to develop more playgrounds, parks, and programs designed for all ages and all abilities.

TODAY With award-winning custom playgrounds now open to the public, and many more in development around the world, Magical Bridge continues to bring the joy of play, kindness, and social connection to communities everywhere.



READY TO BRING MAGIC TO YOUR COMMUNITY?

Magical Bridge Foundation would love to hear from you.

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



MAGICAL BRIDGE FOUNDATION

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

