What is an inclusive park?
Inclusive play goes beyond the required ADA accessibility requirements to create play experiences that meet a variety of needs and interests. Inclusive playgrounds provide the right level of challenge and inspiration for children physically, supports and stimulates them cognitively, and facilitates an emotional and social connection. Inclusive playgrounds also allow adults of varying ages and abilities to actively engage with children in their care.

What value does this bring for our Berkley community?
Inclusive play promotes understanding, reduces prejudices and supports social integration. All-encompassing environments allow people of all ages and abilities to develop independence, feel included and smart while contributing to meaningful play experiences. This community engagement empowers and integrates people from different backgrounds.

Why is the City pursuing this?
We believe it is important to provide access for all residents and non-residents with a wide range of design elements for all children and people of all ages to interact.

What is the MEDC’s Public Spaces Community Places grant match program?
The Public Spaces, Community Places program is a public placemaking initiative created by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Projects that meet the program’s parameters and successfully crowdfund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to $50,000.

What funds have the City already implemented for the new park development?
The City and Parks & Recreation Department has put forward a significant capital budget (approx. 380k) towards this playground and park.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is...

Why does this matter?
Inclusive play in parks make it possible for everyone in the community to enjoy themselves outdoors. With truly inclusive multigenerational outdoor recreation spaces people of all ages and abilities will experience the joy of meaningful play and physical activity among peers and family.

What benefits does this have for people without disabilities?
It provides children and adults without disabilities more variety and richness of play. Play richness refers to the quantity, quality, diversity and inter-relationships of play events. It includes experiences that are physical, sensory, social, and cognitive.

If less than $50,000 is raised do we still keep what was raised or it is returned to the donors?
Yes, any funds raised for the park will go towards the parks development. We will just not receive the matching grant from the MEDC.

Why not use other funds to pay for this (e.g., parking ticket money)?
Governments cannot use funds from other departments because each financial item must be reported and reserved for specific purposes. It also ensures that we pass our annual financial audits and that we are transparent with our taxpayers about where their money is going.

Will there be public restrooms added to the new park development?
Yes, there will be public restrooms. However, it is planned for the next fiscal budget.

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How will the bathrooms be maintained?

Similar to Oxford Park, we will budget additional funds to have the City’s contracted cleaning company come to clean the bathrooms daily. We would also follow a similar model like Oxford Park with electronic doors and locks to assure restrooms are locked during the night.

Will there be an outdoor fitness area for residents 50 years and older?

Outdoor fitness equipment is not part of this phase or play area. Outdoor fitness equipment (for any age use) is something that is budgeted in future capital years with the right space and park area to be determined over time.

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