

Para NB – Sport & Recreation

Playground Accessibility Checklist



Para New Brunswick Sport & Recreation | Para Nouveau-Brunswick Sport et loisirs

This checklist is designed by Para NB – Sport & Recreation to provide guidelines to assist organizations and park and recreation professionals in New Brunswick to work towards creating inclusive play environments for children with and without a disability in schools, parks, childcare facilities, private recreation developments, and other areas of public use. Inclusive play areas promote social integration and through play, we are able to improve our physical fitness, build skills, problem solve, set goals, practice communication and develop friendships. Following the suggestions in the categories below will help remove barriers, provide support and increase opportunities for individuals of all abilities to play and learn together.

*This checklist is not intended to replace a formal Ability NB Accessibility Review. This checklist represents a snapshot of areas to consider when planning for accessibility events. To request a free formal review, please contact the Ability NB office at **1-866-462-9555** or email **info@abilitynb.ca**

Facility: _____ **Location:** _____

Accessible play spaces incorporate all types of play:

Creative/Cognitive – encourages thinking, manipulating or problem solving.

Social Play – facilitates interaction between children.

Physical Play – creates opportunities to climb, slide, swing, run, ride & rock.

Quiet Retreat – creates opportunities to perch, hide, or play alone.

PLEASE PLACE AN "X" IN THE BOXES THAT APPLY TO INDICATE THE ACCESSIBILITY OPTIONS AVAILABLE AT THIS FACILITY.

Parking & signage

Playspace/park offers accessible parking spaces and designated spaces have the International Symbol of Access (ISA) painted on the surface and on a vertically mounted sign.

There is signage with the International Symbol of Access in place to identify the location of a barrier-free entrance to the play space.

The surface of the designated parking space and path to the entrance of the play space is firm, stable, slip resistant and level with a slope no steeper than 1:16.

The parking spaces are located within 50 meters of the play space entrance.

Surfacing

Accessible surfaces are firm and stable to provide support and stability for mobility devices used in a play space.

Examples of accessible surfacing include:

- Synthetic poured in place (PIP) surfacing or tiles – provides the easiest movement for wheelchairs and other mobility devices
- Engineered wood fibres

Crusher dust on a firm and level pathway (exterior route of travel only)

*Note: The following surfaces should be avoided: bark mulch/wood chips, gravel and sand.

The ground surface is inspected and maintained regularly by checking for water pools, debris and dangerous materials such as broken glass or twisted metal.

The ground surface is free from elongated openings greater than 1.3cm in width.

Accessible routes

At least one accessible route is provided within the boundary of the playspace and connects ground-level play components to elevated play components.

There is a continuous unobstructed pathway from the perimeter of the use zone to equipment and changes in elevation are less than 1.3cm.

The clear width of accessible routes at ground level is 152cm or larger.

The slope of the exterior routes of travel (e.g., to the playspace) are no steeper than 1:20 and inside the playspace, the accessible route is no steeper than 1:16.

Elevated ramps have a slope no steeper than 1:20.

The route from the parking area and facility entrance of the play space have slopes no steeper than 1:16 and are free of protruding objects.

Play components

There is at least one turning space provided on the same level as play components that is 152cm in diameter.

Where play tables are located, knee clearance is a minimum of 61cm high, 43cm deep and 76cm wide.

The playspace provides shade or cooling areas allowing individuals to get out of the heat and return to play.

Play components that require transfer to the entry point or seat, are between 28cm and 61cm above a clear ground space and have a means of support for transferring such as handrails, hand grips or hand holds.

Ground level play components = A play component that is approached and exited at ground level.

Individuals in a sitting position have a knee clearance of:

- Height – 61cm
- Depth – 43cm
- Width – 76cm

Individuals can enter and exit the activity from ground level.

Ground level components with an elevated play surface have a 1.8 m obstacle free protective surfacing zone around the equipment. This is the area surrounding each playstructure and it is free of debris, broken glass and sharp objects.

Ground-level accessible or universally designed play components are integrated in the play space to foster interaction and socialization among all children.

The chart below shows the requirements for ground-level components relative to elevated components on an accessible route. It also shows the number of different types of ground-level components that are required relative the total number of ground-level components on an accessible route.

RECOMMENDED MINIMUM NUMBER AND TYPES OF GROUND-LEVEL PLAY COMPONENTS ON ACCESSIBLE ROUTES

Number of elevated play components provided	Minimum number of ground-level play components required to be on an accessible route	Minimum number of different types of ground-level play components required to be on an accessible route
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2 to 4	1	1
5 to 7	2	2
8 to 10	3	3
11 to 13	4	3
14 to 16	5	3
17 to 19	6	3
20 to 22	2	4
23 to 25	8	4
More than 25	8 plus 1 for each additional 3 over 25, or fraction thereof	5

Elevated play components

A play component that is approached above or below grade & is part of a play structure consisting of two or more play components.

At least 50% of the elevated play components are located on an accessible path.

Elevated accessible routes connect the entry and exit points of 50% of elevated play components.

Entry and exit points of the elevated play components are connected by ramps or transfer systems (e.g., platform or steps), which help people access elevated play structures without the use of a wheelchair or mobility device.

Elevated accessible routes are at least 91cm in width but have a turning space periodically (when direction of the ramp changes) of 152cm.

Turning spaces, level landings & entrances

Turning spaces and level landings are important components of a truly accessible playspace. Their purpose is to provide opportunities to change direction, as well as to stop and enjoy play components. The turning space has a minimum diameter of 152cm.

At least 76cm x 122cm of clear ground space is provided at the entrance to all accessible components.

Two wheelchairs are able to pass through the width of the ramp with ease at the same time and a three-point-turn is possible

Ramps, transfer stations & handrails

Ramps are the preferred method of accessing elevated play components whenever possible. Transfer systems are another option to allow for access to elevated play components if ramps are not present. When transfer systems such as platforms, steps or handrails are used, distance between desired location/play component and the mobility device is kept to a minimum. Transfer platforms or steps are between 28cm and 46cm above ground level.

The slope of the ramp connecting elevated play components is no steeper than 1:16.

Ramps have vertical bars on each side for the entire length of the ramp to prevent mobility equipment and equipment from falling off the side of equipment.

Transfer platforms are provided parallel to where transfer is intended from a wheelchair/mobility device with a level surface of a minimum of 36cm deep and 61cm wide. The surface is between 28cm and 46cm above the ground.

Handrails are present on all ramps in accessible playspaces that provide access to elevated play components.

Accessible slopes meet the following:

- Elevated interior ramps have a slope no steeper than 1:16
- Ramps inside the play surface have a slope no steeper than 1:16
- Ramps on the exterior route of travel to the playspace have a slope no steeper than 1:20

All handrails meet the following:

- Between 2.4cm and 4cm in diameter
- The top hand rail gripping surfaces are between 51cm and 71cm above the ramp surface
- Handrails are free from any protruding elements

Splashpad accessibility Splashpads are a great zero depth aquatic solution for the whole family.

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The concrete is coloured to provide visual cues for persons with limited sight to indicate they are in various play areas and to signify age or ability appropriateness of the play activity.

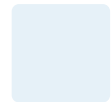
There is an array of water play equipment that sprays and splashes including ground level, mid level and overhead spray features incorporating colorful, stimulating and tactile elements with adequate spacing of 20.32cm – 30.48cm between components to allow safe play.

There are ground level or sitting position spray activation buttons which allow someone using a mobility device to roll over the switch or reach it from a sitting position to turn on the water.

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Aqua wheelchairs are available on site or by reserving in advance.

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