Create an amazing playground

Landscape Structures has joined Kiwanis International as a vision partner in order to bring play and playgrounds to communities across the globe. Kiwanis aligns with partners who share their mission and preserve the trust of members and the communities, children and families they serve. Landscape Structures is proud to provide high-quality commercial playground equipment and services that reflect the high degree of integrity that Kiwanis demands. This guide will help Kiwanis clubs create amazing playgrounds that will bring their communities together to play. Contact your local Landscape Structures playground consultant today to find out more at 888.438.6574 or 763.972.5200, or visit playlsi.com/Kiwanis.
Partner with community members

As a Kiwanis member, you are likely already involved with a variety of local organizations, schools and connected to community members. If your Kiwanis club is interested in helping create a new playground or updating an existing one, you’ll want to work closely with your current contacts, and develop new relationships to maximize the positive impact and involvement of the community.

Envision the play area

A great playground provides maximum play value and safety for visitors as well as minimizes the lifetime cost of ownership. Ideally, a playground will complement your community’s unique personality and be a destination for years to come. Get started by defining objectives for the play area. Planning an efficient and exciting layout and following recommended design guidelines can help ensure a beautiful playground that is safe, fun and comfortable for all visitors.

Community and user considerations

• What are the ages and abilities of the visitors who will use this play area?
• Are there specific play experiences you would like to include for individuals with special needs?
• How many visitors will typically be playing at once?
• Are there unique historical characteristics, a color scheme or theme you’d like to incorporate?
• What additional amenities, such as shade, benches or restrooms, should be considered?
• Which members of the community could or should be involved in the planning, funding or installation?

Budget considerations

• Start outlining your budget.
• How will funds be secured? Do you need to consider additional fundraising?
• Reach out to potential funding partners.
Analyze the playground site

The characteristics of the site, including both natural and man-made elements, impact the playground design. Work with a landscape architect or directly with your playground consultant to analyze the site and make the most of the design, installation, user satisfaction, aesthetics and maintenance. Start with a blank sheet of paper and begin sketching ideas. Eventually you should obtain a scale drawing of the area from the city or landscape architect. Consider the play area entrance points, existing shade and typical visitor traffic patterns. Draw permanent structures such as paths, walls, fences and landscaping, whether they exist now or you plan to add them. Be sure to allow enough space for visitors to move about, rest and relax, and for new vegetation to expand as it grows.

- Consider the slope and soil conditions of the site for proper drainage.
- Incorporate existing vegetation, especially mature trees, into your design.
- Add landscaping elements and native vegetation that is safe for visitors, especially children and pets.
- Consider climate patterns including wind, temperature, sun angles, and precipitation in the design and orientation of your playground.
- Consider access and amenities such as parking, distance to the play area, seating, bicycle paths, shade and rest areas, restrooms, and security such as emergency telephones and visibility from seating areas and the street.
- Check with local utilities company to locate water, sewer and power lines.
Design the playground and site

Now that you’ve thought through the playground vision, visitors and the characteristics of the playground site, you can create a detailed budget and design an exciting playground that will meet your community’s needs. Consider designing separate play areas for younger and older kids. The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) recommends separate areas for infants and toddlers from ages 6 to 23 months, preschoolers from ages 2 to 5 years and school-age children from ages 5 to 12 years.
Design considerations:

• Participate in a design session with a Landscape Structures playground designer.

• Would you like your playground to look modern, blend in with the environment or carry out a theme?

• Include a variety of play components for a wide range of activities and play opportunities.

• Include components that promote group play and sensory experiences.

• Select materials that will work well with your climate, user needs and local environmental requirements.

• Consider maintenance and manufacturing timing when selecting materials and equipment.

• Incorporate accessible surfacing to provide easier access to inclusive elements.

• Design for future phases to make it easier to enhance your playground and keep it exciting and fresh for users.

Budget considerations:

• Request a Landscape Structures fundraising and/or grant guide.

• Assign expected expenditures for site preparation, playground equipment, site furnishings, surfacing, amenities, installation, future maintenance, phased additions and anything else that will complete your design vision.

• Before submitting your purchase order, carefully review the design specifications and obtain required approvals.

Tips for designing an inclusive play space

Consider these suggestions to ensure your playground is a place individuals with a wide range of ages and abilities can play together.

• Accessibility: Can everyone get to the play equipment safely and easily?

• Developmentally appropriate: Are there a variety of play events that address not just standard age groups, but the developmental needs and levels of all children?

• Sensory: Are there a wide range of sensory experiences that engage people of all abilities?
Install the playground

Installing the playground is an exciting step for the entire community because they get to see the playground come to life! A community build is a great way to involve everyone and create a sense of pride and ownership in the play area. Landscape Structures has a comprehensive Community Build Guide to walk you through the process through to the professional inspection.
Enjoy and maintain the playground

When the playground is ready for public use, host a grand opening party to welcome visitors and thank all those involved in the process. Grand openings are a great way to build community camaraderie and celebrate all the work that went into creating the new play area.

The playground should last for many years to come; regular inspections and proper maintenance will ensure it is safe and comfortable, too. Landscape Structures customizes maintenance kits for each playstructure purchase. The cost and frequency of inspections and maintenance varies depending on the equipment and products you purchase. Consult your playground consultant for assistance. Retrofitting and adding to your play area in phases are great ways to update and add equipment to your play area over time.
Recognize your Kiwanis club on the playground

With the purchase of a playstructure, Kiwanis clubs may receive one of three complimentary items to bring recognition to their club on the playground they helped create.

Welcome Sign
- Sign can accommodate 7 lines of text, 19 characters per line
- Kiwanis International logo inset
- Surface mount or direct bury
- Posts included
- Custom design

Driver Play Panel
- Select PlayBooster® or PlayShaper® format
- Optional steering wheel infill available
- Sign can accommodate up to 2 lines of text, 10 characters per line
- Kiwanis International logo inset
- Clamps and hardware included
- #115228A-B

Kaleidoscope Bench
- Made with 73% post-consumer recycled Permalene® material
- Select any available color for end panels; multi-colored pieces for seat as shown
- Kiwanis International logo inset into end panels
- 60” long, 18” high; surface mount or direct bury
- #186588D
Better playgrounds.
Better world.®

Since 1971, Landscape Structures has been committed to enhancing children’s lives while honoring the environment. We create innovative playground equipment to inspire children to grow strong bodies and minds so their future remains bright. And to further ensure a better tomorrow, we are sensitive to the environment through manufacturing practices that minimize our impact on the earth. Our goal from day one has been to foster healthy children playing in healthy communities year after year, generation after generation.

Contact your local playground consultant today at 888.438.6574 or 763.972.5200 to learn more. Or visit playlsi.com.