

The Opportunities, Inc. Learning Center Inclusive Health/Recreational Park is much more than just a playground.



The Opportunities, Inc. inclusive park is an accessible life-learning and recreational space in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin designed for adults and children with physical and developmental disabilities. It provides a safe, inclusive environment for sensory stimulation, social interaction, and motor-skill development.

The park theme will focus on enjoying a healthy lifestyle, while including elements to enhance sensory stimulation, music enjoyment through nature in the form of flowers and nature's creatures. A paved, graded walking path, with seating along the way, and distance-markers will provide a safer and inclusive environment, along with raised garden beds and outdoor exercise opportunities. A sitting area and shelter with outdoor games for young and old alike will complete the space. To ensure individuals with sun sensitivities can participate, the area will be covered.

The project will involve renovating existing buildings on the property to include a learning and gathering space, as well as handicap accessible bathrooms complete with bathing area and parking.

INCLUSIVE FEATURES:



Sensory Exploration Area: Equipped with interactive elements like xylophones, drums, and illuminated light-up music games.

Life-Learning Zones: Features a "street crossing" area with working stop lights and crosswalk signs to teach street safety.

Cognitive & Motor Paths: Includes way-finding paths to build cognitive skills and in-ground surface piano for motor development.

Recreational Activities: Features outdoor bowling lanes, shuffleboards, activity areas, and a miniature putting green.

Gardening & Art Areas: A space where users can grow fruits and vegetables for cooking, as well as create and display their art.

Health & Fitness Pavilion: Outside exercise equipment and yoga area to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Safety & Comfort: Sun-covering throughout the park, air-conditioned restrooms, and a first-aid station keep visitors cool and safe in the summer heat.

Accessible Surfaces: Turf and paved surfaces will be implemented for ease of movement.

Quiet Spaces: Area set within to address the need for less stimulation.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....

How do the Opportunities, Inc. Learning Center and Inclusive Health/Recreational Park align with the mission of the City of Fort Atkinson?

The Opportunities, Inc. Learning Center and Inclusive Health/Recreational Park support the individual with significant disabilities and the City of Fort Atkinson's mission by creating an inclusive, welcoming space for everyone. It encourages community connection, active living, and a higher quality of life for residents and visitors.

How common are disabilities among Fort Atkinson residents?

About one in five people have a disability, and half report it as severe. The Opportunities, Inc. Learning Center and Inclusive Health/Recreational Park are designed for people with a wide range of abilities so everyone can use and enjoy the space. The recreational area will feature irrigated raised garden beds for healthy eating, an outdoor exercise pavilion that can be used by young and old alike, walking path, sensory features and equipment that is easily accessible for individuals who use wheelchairs, walkers or have other limited mobility.

What other inclusive parks exist in Fort Atkinson or surrounding areas?

There are currently no inclusive parks in or near Fort Atkinson. The Opportunities, Inc. Learning Center and Inclusive Health/Recreational Park will be the first in the Fort Atkinson, filling an important community need. It is also expected to attract visitors, support local businesses, and strengthen Fort Atkinson as an innovative, welcoming, forward-thinking community.

How does the park foster understanding and respect for differences?

The health/recreation area is designed for individuals of all abilities. By creating a place where people with and without disabilities can learn, exercise and play together, it promotes understanding, respect, and acceptance.

What barriers to inclusion will the park remove for those with disabilities?

The Opportunities, Inc. Learning Center and Inclusive Health/Recreational Park **reduce physical, social, and psychological barriers by offering accessible equipment, sensory-friendly spaces, and an environment where everyone feels welcome.**

How will the recreation area provide shared experiences for families and visitors, whatever their abilities?

The recreation area will include activities and spaces for people of all ages and abilities. This will create opportunities for families and visitors to share experiences, build memories, and strengthen connections.

What is the estimated cost and what is the completion date?

Opportunities, Inc. Learning Center and Inclusive Health/Recreational Park will be funded through the Opportunities, Inc. Foundation as well as by donations at a cost of \$2 million. It is the goal to complete the project by Spring 2027.



**For more information contact:
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MISSION

Opportunities, Inc. provides services for individuals for the purpose of maximizing their success and enhancing their abilities to be independent, contributing members of the community.