



She'll Be Comin' Round The Mountain
Playful

Frère Jacques
Sweet

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PercussionPlay®
Outdoor Musical Instruments

Outdoor Musical Instruments for
Parks & Trails

Bringing Communities Together Through Music

Parks and recreation spaces play an important role in bringing people together, supporting well-being, and creating opportunities for meaningful community interaction. Outdoor musical instruments transform parks, plazas, playgrounds, trails, and public gathering spaces into vibrant destinations where people of all ages and abilities can connect through shared creative experiences.



Ladybug



Temple Block Tree



Cavatina



Sylvan Bell-Trees

Unlike many recreational activities, music requires no prior experience to participate. A simple rhythm, melody, or collaborative performance can encourage conversation, spark curiosity, and help build connections between people who may never otherwise interact. In this way, outdoor music supports social inclusion, community engagement, and a stronger sense of belonging.

Musical outdoor spaces also activate underused areas by creating destinations that encourage visitors to stay longer, return more often, and engage more deeply with their surroundings. Whether incorporated into a neighborhood park, destination playground, downtown plaza, community trail, or civic space, outdoor musical instruments create opportunities for play, learning, creativity, and discovery.

From spontaneous performances and community celebrations to everyday moments of connection, they help transform public spaces into places people remember, enjoy, and return to, strengthening the social fabric of the communities they serve.

“The community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and it continues to inspire us to keep expanding our community and further embracing the power of music.”

♪ Phire Baldwin ♪

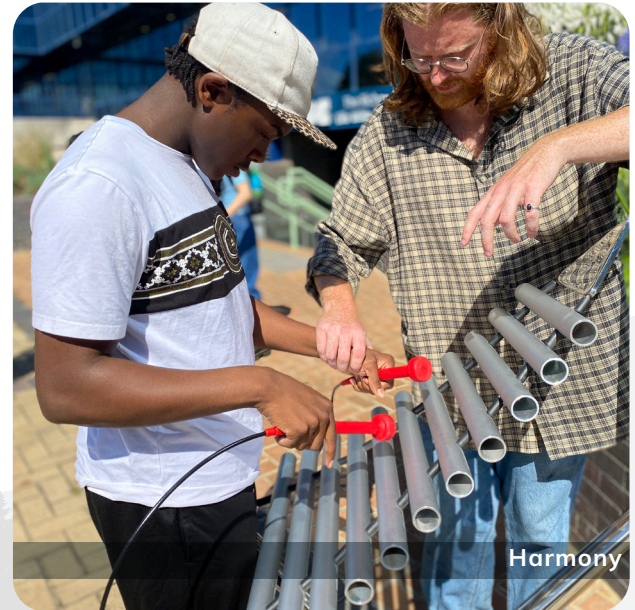
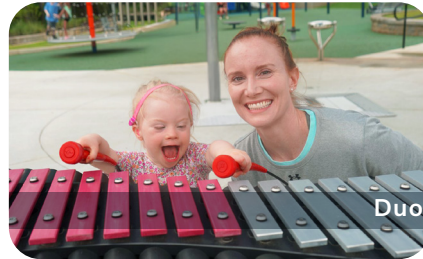
Project Lead for Dwight Baldwin Memorial



Inclusive Recreation for All

Great parks are designed to serve everyone. As communities place increasing emphasis on accessibility, inclusion, and equitable access to recreation, outdoor musical instruments offer opportunities for meaningful participation regardless of age, ability, language, or musical experience.

Music is often described as a universal language because it enables people to communicate, create, and interact without relying on words. Outdoor musical instruments encourage participation through simple, intuitive play, making them accessible to individuals with diverse physical, sensory, cognitive, and developmental abilities.



As ground-level play elements, outdoor musical instruments can enhance inclusive playgrounds and recreation spaces by providing engaging experiences that encourage interaction between family members, friends, caregivers, and community members. Their open-ended nature allows every participant to engage at their own pace and in their own way.

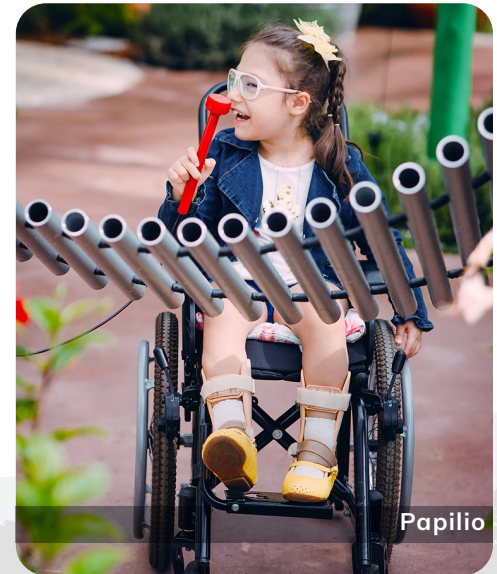
For many communities, inclusion means more than meeting accessibility requirements. It means creating spaces where people feel valued, can participate confidently, and enjoy shared experiences alongside others. Outdoor music helps remove barriers to engagement while supporting recreation opportunities that can be enjoyed by people from all backgrounds and abilities.

By creating opportunities for everyone to play together, parks become more welcoming, engaging, and inclusive destinations for the entire community.

“It’s magical to see an inclusive park where children of all backgrounds and abilities play together, building empathy and social skills.”

♪Alana Sagar♪

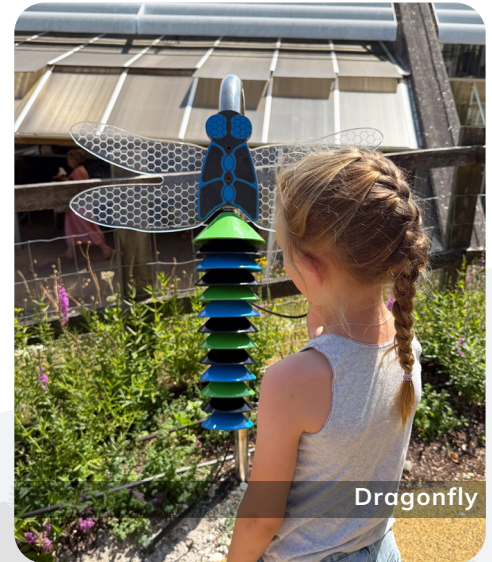
Differently Abled Children of Marlborough Group



Health, Wellness & Belonging

Parks and recreation spaces play a vital role in supporting healthier, happier communities. As organizations increasingly focus on mental health, social well-being, and quality of life, outdoor musical instruments offer a unique way to encourage participation, creativity, and human connection in public spaces.

Music has long been recognized for its ability to bring people together, reduce stress, elevate mood, and create positive emotional experiences. Unlike many recreational activities, outdoor music-making is accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, providing opportunities for engagement without competition, pressure, or prior training.



Outdoor musical instruments encourage spontaneous interaction, helping to create environments where people feel comfortable participating, expressing themselves, and connecting with others. These shared experiences can help strengthen community relationships, reduce feelings of isolation, and foster a stronger sense of belonging among park visitors.

From neighborhood parks and community playgrounds to trails, plazas, and senior living environments, outdoor musical spaces invite people to pause, explore, and engage with their surroundings in meaningful ways.

Through creativity, expression, and social connection, outdoor musical spaces help foster a sense of well-being and belonging that extends far beyond the playground.

“The sound they create alone or together is unique in our town and brings a sense of calmness, relaxation to those in the playground. It also gives joy and a sense of magic to those playing your instruments that this beautiful sound is coming from them!”

♪ Niamh Egan ♪

Chair of Greystones Playground Committee



Large Babel Drum



Harmony Flowers



Tembos



Stepping Stones

Play for All Generations

Great parks bring people together, creating opportunities for shared experiences across all ages. As communities increasingly focus on age-friendly design and lifelong recreation, outdoor musical instruments offer a unique way to encourage participation, interaction, and enjoyment across generations.

Unlike many recreational amenities that appeal primarily to a specific age group, outdoor musical instruments invite people of all ages and abilities to engage side by side. Children, parents, grandparents, caregivers, and older adults can play together, communicate through music, and share experiences that strengthen relationships and create lasting memories.



Congas



Large Babel Drum



Bell Lyre

These opportunities for intergenerational interaction are increasingly valued in parks, trails, community spaces, senior living environments, and civic destinations. Whether incorporated into a neighborhood playground, a walking trail, a courtyard, or a public plaza, outdoor musical instruments create places where people can connect through creativity, curiosity, and play.

Research continues to highlight the importance of social connection and meaningful engagement throughout life. Outdoor musical spaces can help encourage conversation, spark collaboration, and provide opportunities for participation that do not rely on age, physical ability, or previous musical experience.

By creating shared experiences that appeal to children, adults, and older generations alike, outdoor musical instruments help support vibrant, age-friendly public spaces while strengthening connections across the community.

"It is a truly intergenerational product, and we continue to see both adults and children engage in play together."

♪ Alice Bridges ♪

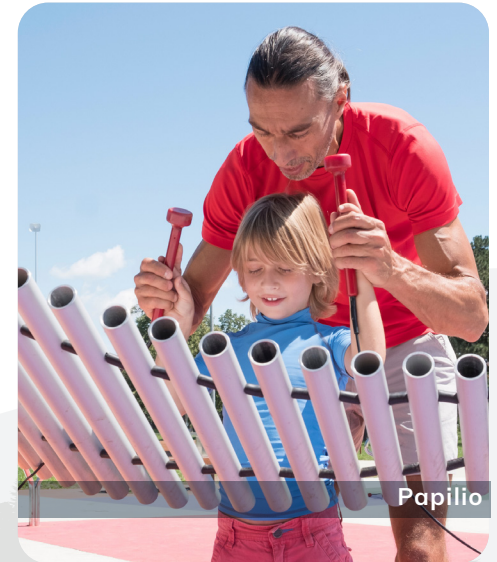
The Parks Alliance Director of Special Projects



Activating Parks, Trails & Public Spaces

Successful public spaces encourage people to stop, stay, explore, and connect. As communities seek new ways to enhance parks, trails, plazas, and civic spaces, outdoor musical instruments offer a proven way to create engaging destinations that attract visitors and encourage meaningful interaction.

Whether transforming an underused corner of a neighborhood park, adding an interactive feature along a walking trail, or creating a focal point within a downtown plaza, outdoor musical instruments bring energy and activity to public spaces. Their visual appeal and universal accessibility invite participation from people of all ages, helping create places that feel vibrant, memorable, and engaging.



Musical installations can be incorporated into destination playgrounds, community parks, nature trails, pocket parks, waterfront developments, and public gathering spaces. They encourage exploration, support spontaneous play, and create opportunities for social interaction that extend beyond traditional recreation experiences.

Many communities are also using outdoor music to strengthen local identity, create unique visitor experiences, and support placemaking initiatives that reflect the character and culture of a place. From everyday enjoyment to community celebrations and special events, outdoor musical instruments help transform public spaces into active destinations that people are excited to visit, share, and return to.

By turning passive spaces into interactive experiences, outdoor musical instruments help create vibrant public places that support recreation, community engagement, and a strong sense of place.

“The percussion sets are a win-win in many aspects! They add to the aesthetic of the public space, expose children to musical instruments, allow children to express themselves in a new way, and stimulate sensory learning.”

♪ Adrian Garcia ♪

Harris County Commissioner



Music for Youth at Hamilton Park, WI

In the city of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, there is now a space where children can discover music and learn how to play well-known tunes - all in the great outdoors. This was made possible by a local girl's love of music and her desire to give back to her community.

College student Natalie Johnson's Girl Scout Gold Award project, "Music for Youth," brought musical instruments to Hamilton Park, a popular space for the local Boys and Girls Club of Fond Du Lac. The project aimed to provide children with easy access to musical instruments and even brought in local retired music teachers to introduce children to music-making and the musical scale.



Natalie, who is a teaching aide at the Boys and Girls Club, was keen to provide a space where children could engage with music and have the opportunity to make music with their parents and grandparents.

The initial instruments for Natalie's Girl Scout project were donated by a local business, and the City of Fond Du Lac purchased additional instruments to create the largest outdoor music garden in the area. The chosen instruments, including the [Rainbow Cavatina](#), the [Music Book](#), and a Pair of [Congas](#), were selected because they could be incorporated into music lessons.

Other instruments include [Sunflower](#), [Daisy](#), and [Forget-Me-Not Petal Drums](#), [Calypso Chimes Diatonic - Set of 8](#) Notes C4-C5, and a bunch of [Harmony Bells](#) musical flowers.

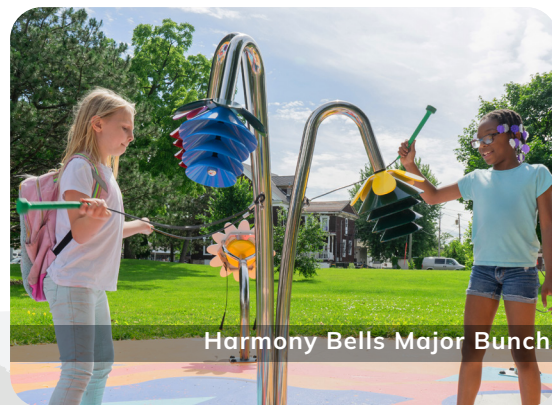
"It's a joy to see children and adults making music together in the park. The space helps children to begin their musical education, which I have been lucky to enjoy and develop growing up in the City."

♪ Natalie ♪

Girl Scout at The Boys and Girls Club



Cavatina with Music Book



Harmony Bells Major Bunch

Harmony at Vollrath Park in Sheboygan, WI

An interactive Music Garden designed by a High School student to increase young people's interest in music has been welcomed by the local community of Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Vollrath Park includes an installation of outdoor musical instruments incorporated into a 'Storywalk,' which tells the tale of a cheeky monkey called Coda! Each of the five stations in the garden includes a musical instrument and a page of the story, written and illustrated by the project's creator, Eileen English, a student at Sheboygan North High School. In the story, Coda, the monkey, is trying to learn a new musical instrument!

Playing percussion for the Sheboygan Youth Symphony and drumline for her school, Eileen's vision was to create a musical space in her community where everyone can discover the joy of music-making.



To understand what instruments to install, Eileen visited local schools and their music programs, discovering what children liked about specific instruments and what barriers they faced when trying to play them.

She chose Percussion Play's Rainbow Sambas, Harmony Flowers, [Calypso Chimes Diatonic - Set of 8](#) Notes C4-C5, and Rainbow Cavatina and [Music Book](#).

At one station, Eileen created her own musical instruments out of pots and pans, illustrating how music can be found anywhere and that an expensive musical education isn't needed to engage with music-making.

The local community is enjoying the Music Garden, and Eileen is seeing people of various ages come together to enjoy her story and engage in music-making.

“We’ve seen people in wheelchairs, grandparents, even a baby in someone’s arms playing the instruments! It’s amazing how intergenerational and accessible music can be.”

♪ Eileen English ♪

Director of Community Development for the Town of Versailles





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