



Outdoor Musical Instruments for
Landscape Architects

Sound Landscaping

Percussion Play has the industry's most comprehensive portfolio of outdoor musical instruments. Combining art and sound, they're ideals for schools, Parks and Recreation teams, local authorities, family attractions, housing developers, and landscape architects. A perfect choice for anyone looking to add dynamic, inclusive, and playful items that add energy and soul to countless outdoor spaces.



Integrated with local architecture or landscaping, they transcend the boundaries of regular play equipment and can be appreciated by everyone, regardless of age or ability.

Constructed of resilient, easily cared-for materials, these instruments can withstand the worst effects of the elements in all sorts of environments without detriment to their sound or tuning. Each instrument is designed to avoid costly or long-term maintenance. Where possible, we've developed instruments that can be played simply by using your hands, but where beaters are required, we've engineered them as one complete piece attached using coated stainless-steel cables.

Most instruments are made from 316 stainless steel or anodized aluminum, which is highly corrosion-resistant. This makes them stand out in terms of durability, performance, and appearance.

“No matter who’s playing the instruments, they sound wonderful and draw people into the park both young and old. They bring life to the park year-round.”

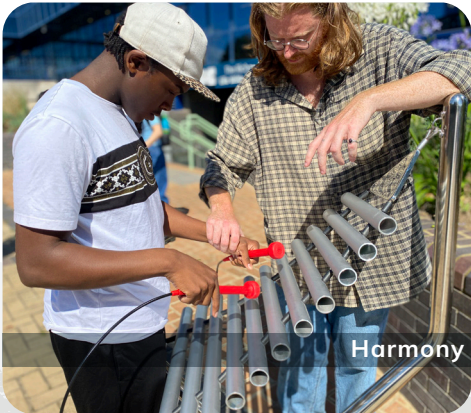
♪ Valerie Bassett ♪

Basset Associates Landscape Architecture Inc.



Therapeutic Landscapes

Music is like physical exercise, and it is for people of all ages. Participation in music leads to good health and well-being. Music making is fun and uses different skills from the ones that most people usually employ on a day-to-day basis making it relaxing, relieving feelings of stress and anxiety.



Outdoor musical instruments are an innovative and delightful way for children and adults to enjoy the outdoors. They are fully inclusive, accessible, and multi-generational. Grandparents can play alongside their grandchildren or even great-grandchildren! Children with disabilities who are often left to sit and watch their friends and siblings have fun can now play side by side in a sensory-rich playground environment.

Everyone and anyone can make music. Playing musical instruments can help bring communities together across generations, cultures, social classes, income brackets, and abilities in a way that no other medium can. It transcends language limitations, instead providing its own language of rhythm and melody to enable players and users to communicate with each other non-verbally. Providing opportunities for community members to be around each other promotes familiarity, the formation of healthy relationships, and helps to engender a sense of belonging for those who participate. Music can help to develop a more harmonious society if access to it is provided and engagement is promoted.

“The instruments create a durable way for kids to engage in creative and inclusive musical play. Kids experience so much joy when interacting with the instruments.”

♪Falon Mihalic♪

Landscape Architect & Project Manager



Large Babel Drum



Congas Pair

Music on Main Street, IN

For over 40 years, there has been a movement across the United States to revitalize communities that have seen economic development move away from town centers. The nonprofit Main Street America is helping Main Streets in towns across the US bring communities together and stimulate business development.

One such town is Versailles, whose charity, Main Street Versailles, seeks to draw positive interest to the downtown area and square, creating activities and events for the community. Founded almost a decade ago, it has brought entertainment and interest to the center of the town, which now boasts Percussion Play's outdoor musical instruments.

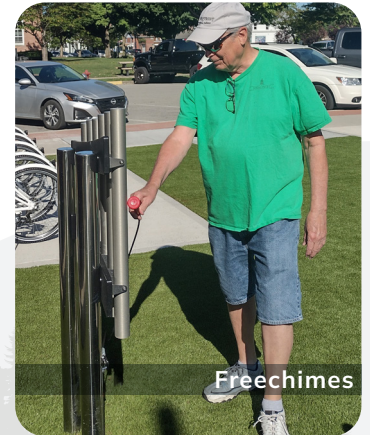
The community's feedback showed that they wanted a wide range of things, including public restrooms, live music, splash pads, and a playground with green space, benches, and picnic tables. A development plan was soon drawn up, and town officials agreed to develop a Pocket Park next to the town hall.



Cadenza



Cajon Drum Circle



Freechimes

The nonprofit looked for musical elements to include in the space and was soon inspired by a roadside park on Main Street in Laurel, Mississippi, which included instruments from Percussion Play. Main Street Versailles members realized they would act as an inclusive, intergenerational activity with children and adults able to play together.

Two sets of [Freechimes](#), a [Small Babel Drum](#), a [Cajon Drum Circle](#), and [Cadenza](#) have now been installed and draw both young and old to the center to create music and have fun.

Since their installation, the area has seen an increase in intergenerational play. The local Facebook group shows people of all ages enjoying the instruments.

Percussion Play's instruments are part of a bold project across the United States to rebuild the 'social fabric,' something Versailles is achieving as it breathes life back into the community.

"I walk around the square, and kids are out there playing the chimes. The look and sound of the instruments is really pretty, and they have lovely tones."

♪ Holly Wehr ♪

Director of Community Development for the Town of Versailles



Quinterra Legacy Garden, Canada

The Quinterra Group - a community built of the family and friends of five young people whose lives were lost in a tragedy in Calgary's Brentwood neighborhood - shared a vision for a peaceful, contemplative, yet vibrant outdoor community space for people to be inspired, heal, and connect with nature. They worked closely with Valerie Bassett at Bassett Associates Landscape Architecture firm to create a special place to celebrate the students' lives and bring a positive light to the tragedy. Known for their love of music, art, and community, the Quinterra Legacy Garden, full of outdoor musical instruments, became the natural connection with the students' artistic talents.

With no fundraising experience, the small group collaborated creatively and innovatively to raise the money needed to complete the project. This proved to be an incredibly special part of the journey as Calgary foundations, corporations, and individuals all contributed to help achieve the fundraising target.



Harmony & Emperor Chimes



Cavatina



Large Babel Drum

South Glenmore Park offers a beautiful tree-lined setting next to the reservoir. The location provides stunning views across the water. A diverse collection of outdoor musical instruments was set up along an accessible cement pathway and stage area. Natural features and log seating were included for viewing and climbing, complementing the space.

The instruments are intended for all musical abilities and ages and include musical [Flowers](#), [Rainbow Sambas](#), [Emperor Chimes](#), [Handpipes](#), [Aerophones](#), several different Xylophones, and [Babel Drums](#). Percussion Play engraved the [Cajon drums](#) with a favorite saying from each student.

The Quinterra Legacy Garden has certainly fulfilled the dream of the Quinterra Group, giving the community a beautiful place to celebrate music, art, family, friends, and for take a moment to remember loved ones.

“Through generous support of passionate volunteers and hundreds of individuals, corporations, and foundations, the community’s outpouring of love shows that there is light after loss.”

♪ Gregg ♪

Father of Student



Florida Botanical Garden, FL

The Florida Botanical Gardens is a green oasis in Largo, Florida, amidst a highly populated area. It boasts an extensive collection of exotic and tropical plants, including fruit-bearing trees, large palms, and native flora and fauna. Several attractions within the Gardens, including a tropical fruit garden, wetlands walkway, and butterfly garden, offer plenty of experiences for all visitors. Recently, a dedicated space for children has been created, featuring a multi-sensory garden that includes outdoor musical instruments designed to promote nature to children in a playful and interactive manner.

The garden already had some percussion instruments, but with the new project, there was an opportunity to create a Music Forest that would truly be inspired by nature. This theme of being inspired by nature can be observed in the 'Pollinator Landing,' which has a stage for children to play and act on.



Curtis McMahon, a landscape architect from Coyle and Caron Landscape Architecture, was involved in the Music Forest project and discovered Percussion Play while researching instruments for the project. They selected a [Cajon Drum Circle](#) and the [Colossus Chimes](#), which were inspired by the sounds of plants. These instruments were arranged in a piano key layout, and bamboo plants were incorporated near the garden to mirror the chimes. When the wind passes through the plants, it creates a beautiful sound.

After a successful grand opening, the garden is now enjoyed by people of all ages. The Children's Garden Facilitator regularly utilizes the space to host school field trips, and individuals can even have their birthday parties in the area.

Nestled within the hustle and bustle of the city, the Florida Botanical Gardens stands out as a serene and tranquil haven. It's a lush oasis, bursting with greenery, vibrant flowers, and the sweet melody of music. The harmonious notes of music now add an extra layer of enchantment to this already captivating sanctuary.

"Music is all around us, and especially in nature. Children love music, and it encourages exploration."

♪Jessie Wingar♪

Children's Garden Educator at Florida Botanical Gard

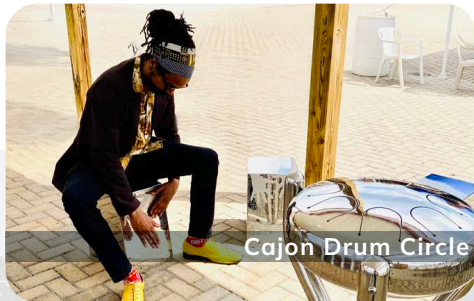


Bill Withers Memorial Plaza,WV

Beckley, West Virginia, has long been a town that cherishes its roots, and the city has recently honored one of its own, music legend Bill Withers, with the Bill Withers Plaza at the Beckley Intermodal Gateway. This vibrant new space not only features a beautiful statue in his honor but also incorporates a collection of outdoor musical instruments that invite the community to join in the celebration of music and creativity, whilst encouraging spontaneous musical expression and fostering community connection.

Each instrument offers an opportunity for visitors to engage with music in an interactive way, regardless of their experience or background. Among the instruments installed are the [Large Babel Drum](#), [Handpipes](#), [Emperor Chimes](#), and stainless-steel [Cajon Drum Circle](#)—each one chosen for its ability to produce rich, resonant sounds that anyone can enjoy.

Bill Withers Plaza is more than just a memorial—it's a celebration of a life that touched hearts across the globe. With the plaza's interactive musical features, the legacy of Bill Withers is not only honored but also actively lived out by the people of Beckley. As visitors gather in this special space, they'll be invited to make their own music, share their memories, and contribute to a community that is a testament to the power of music and unity.



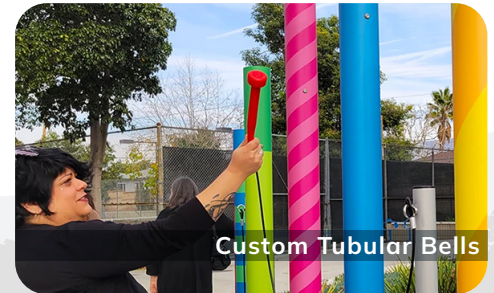
Public Art and Sound Sculpture for City of Burbank, CA

A beloved park in the City of Burbank, California, close to the glamour of major Hollywood film studios, has been given a public artwork facelift with a mural and interactive sound sculptures, including musical instruments from Percussion Play.

“The Answer is Yes” mural and interactive sound sculptures now boldly enliven the entrance to the popular Verdugo Park and Aquatic Center, designed by artist Dina Fisher.

Commissioned by the City of Burbank, California, there was an open call for artists to submit their work. Dina answered this call and thought about all the possibilities, but she knew it had to include music! She chose to include the [Tubular Bells](#) and [Cyclone](#) for the musical elements. To match the vibrant mural serving as a backdrop to the instruments, the Tubular Bells were powder-coated in jazzy colors and patterns.

The instruments and mural are themed toward diversity. Represented in the mural is Burbank’s Sister City’s Youth Programme, and all 4 Sister Cities are depicted in the artwork. As a permanent art installation, it animates the park’s primary passageway and appeals to all ages, inviting the public to discover, interact, and engage by sparking curiosity and creativity on site.



Lions Pride Park Brings Community Alive, PA

Great public spaces draw people together, bring communities alive, generate pride and a sense of belonging, foster connections, and create opportunities. Lions Pride Park in Warrington, Pennsylvania, has managed all of this while breathing new life into a disused space. The popular outdoor space has even been named one of 2021's Great Places in Pennsylvania by the American Planning Association's Pennsylvania Chapter in the category of 'Great Public Spaces'.

Created from a shared vision of the local Lions Club, Warrington Township, and local school students, the park is a model of accessibility and intergenerational use that is exciting, attractive, and engaging. The Township and the Lions Club employed the services of Landscape Architects Viridian Landscape Studio to transform the ideas of local elementary school students and the public through surveys, interviews, and multiple design workshops, to create an exciting, accessible public play space unique to Warrington - one that would become a centerpiece of community life.



The focal points of the park are The Grove and Kids' Mountain, home to a unique playground that includes large, long slides that descend from the playground's mountain top.

This area encourages creative free play and physical challenges with climbing towers, swings, bridges, and space for winter sledding. A sensory trail leads to the top of the mountain that is planted with native species and pollinator plants.

There is also an array of visual, audio, tactile, and sensory experiences throughout the park, including a smartphone app that provides information about the park for blind visitors, and an area for outdoor musical play. The grove included [Rainbow Sambas](#), [Akadinda](#), [Tubular Bells](#), [Congas](#), [Duo](#), [Cherub](#), [Sansa-Rimba](#), and [Alto Diatonic Freechimes](#). This music area has a mixture of instruments tuned to both pentatonic and diatonic scales to empower aspiring musicians and those with little musical knowledge.

“Not a day goes past that you cannot hear the beautiful sounds of music traveling across the park. The community wanted real musical instruments in the park – not just noisemakers – and the intergenerational play they provide totally supports the ethos behind this playground.”

♪ Tavis Dockwiler ♪

Principal and Founder of Viridian Landscape Studio



The Evolution of Community Spaces

Many see loneliness as one of the most significant health concerns of this century. The importance of social connections and relationships has been brought into sharp relief since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Access to green spaces and parks in built-up urban areas has been crucial to residents' mental and physical well-being during the pandemic. Public spaces - a place of free and open access - are traditionally linked to social, cultural, or economic exchanges and are again gaining increasing importance as a component of everyday quality of life, especially in urban areas. Growing public attention to loneliness in our communities has been accompanied by designers and landscape architects. Play and playground design is challenging, and extending the role of open play spaces to help encourage socialization.

Social isolation and loneliness are well-known causes of depression, mental health problems, and physical illness. Usually associated with older people, new Harvard research suggests that feelings of social isolation are on the rise and that those hit the hardest are older teens and young adults.



The potential for the hybridization of play spaces, where the spatial boundaries between adult and children's activities merge, can result in innovative and uplifting settings that encourage connections plus opportunities for shared creativity while helping to secure a community's future prosperity.

The notion of intergenerational activity and play has increasingly drawn attention over recent years, and a growing body of scholarly literature has begun to point more and more toward the premise that when adults and, in particular, seniors become involved in cross-generational learning activities with children and adolescents, huge benefits are accrued by both parties.

Adding outdoor musical instruments to public spaces certainly encourages creativity, and due to its universal appeal, playing music can successfully bridge intergenerational gaps. The combined effects of musical play and intergenerational social participation have proven to be incontrovertibly beneficial for improving and maintaining seniors' physical and mental health. Research shows children display higher levels of language and problem-solving skills when they have more contact with adults. It promotes socially valued behavior for teenagers and young adults, helps them gain new community perspectives, and teaches empathy and compassion.

Given the opportunity to participate, regardless of physical or psychological impairments, musical play in public spaces can serve as a productive, meaningful, and financially accessible activity for all.



Music Matters

When searching for inspiration and the right instruments, you can browse through our website to find and download all the necessary files and technical documentation, enabling you to design, create, and bring to life your unique play and activity space solution.



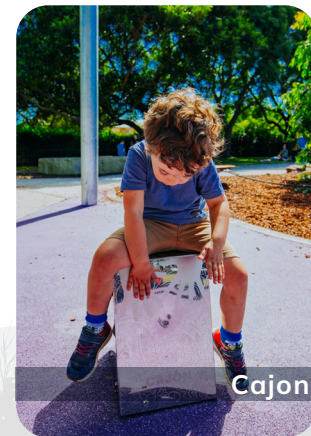
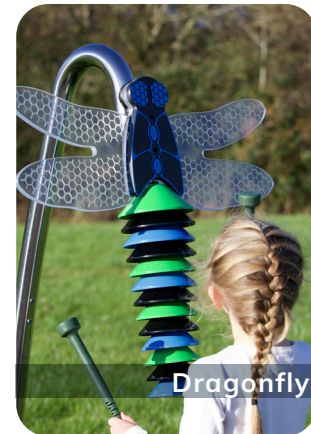
Alternatively, to incorporate our products into your plans quickly, our CAD & 3D drawings, product specifications, media files, and more are free to download from the Percussion Play CADdetails page. This is an online source for manufacturer-specific product information for input into working plans and specification documents.

Percussion Play has supplied instruments to projects in school playgrounds, parks, activity trails, family attractions, museums, hospitals, senior centers, seaside piers, zoos, and even a cruise ship.

No musical knowledge or skill is required to create beautiful sounds, and all instruments are orchestrated to be pleasing to the ear for the players and those listening nearby.

[Need More Inspiration?](#)

Scan the QR code to visit our Parks & Trails Resource Hub and learn more about how outdoor musical instruments can enhance parks by creating inclusive, engaging spaces that promote wellness, creativity, and community connection.





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