



 PercussionPlay®
Outdoor Musical Instruments

Outdoor Musical Instruments for
Parks & Recreation

Perks of a Percussion Park

Many people do not have access to musical instruments on a regular basis, so it's an exciting possibility to be able to bring music-making on real instruments to people in their neighborhood public spaces. These everyday locations can become inclusive, inspiring, and musically creative environments accessible to all members of the community.

Here are some of the known benefits:

- ♪ Arts and music education are in crisis with school time and budgets under pressure. Music parks and playgrounds hold the key to securing their long-term availability.
- ♪ Music parks provide space for communities of all ages and abilities to meet and interact with each other. They're also great spaces for concerts and musical events to help develop a sense of community.

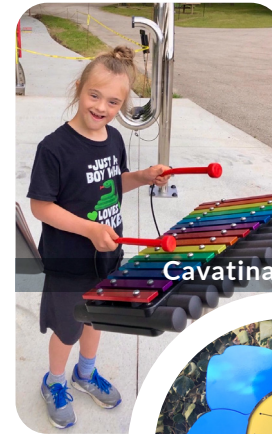


- ♪ Pocket music parks or mini music stations are a relatively low-cost, easy way to revitalize otherwise forgotten areas and turn them into spaces with real potential for interactive and creative experiences.
- ♪ Music can bring a diverse group of people together in the community simply because it transcends language limitations. It provides its own language of rhythm and melody to enable its players and users to communicate with each other non-verbally.
- ♪ A simple installation can bring music-making on real instruments to people in the public spaces where they live, work, and commute.
- ♪ A music park is a tremendous catalyst for engaging people in play, learning, healing, and innovation.
- ♪ Musical elements can bridge international gaps and positively impact a community for a relatively low cost. They can also be catalysts for meaningful interactions.

“The addition of outdoor musical instruments greatly enhances our park and marks our city as a welcoming and inclusive-play friendly destination.”

♪ **Rodney Kieke** ♪

Quitman City



Cavatina



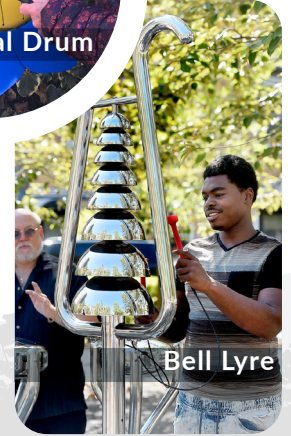
Tumbadoras



Petal Drum



Cajon

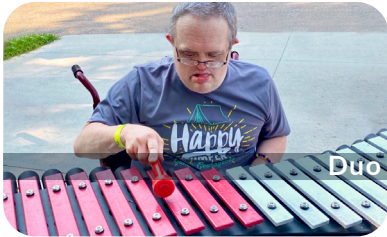


Bell Lyre

Increasing Accessibility Makes the Outdoors Open for All

It has been over 30 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed, which has had a huge impact on the millions of Americans who live with mobility, visual, hearing, cognitive, or other disabilities. The ADA played a key role in incorporating the concepts and practices of accessibility into playgrounds and outdoor public spaces. However, we still have a way to go, with many outdoor areas still not inclusive to all.

Creating accessible and inclusive local parks and playgrounds is especially important. Playgrounds allow family members to interact together outdoors and serve an important role in helping children develop their social skills. When public spaces are improved and made accessible, everyone benefits.



Duo



Papilio



Cavatina



Tubular Bells



Tropical Cyclone

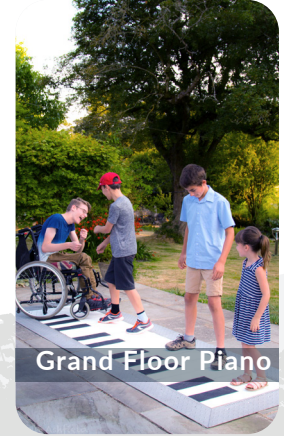
Outdoor musical instruments have become a regular feature within ADA-accessible and inclusive playgrounds. The creation of holistic, accessible outdoor music spaces, where many of the barriers that prevent a person from accessing music (whatever they might be) can be removed, allows all members of the community the opportunity to experience live music as both a performer and listener - building shared musical and play experiences and in turn an understanding that will only help inclusion to grow.

As ground-level play components, they enhance and help make play spaces meet the needs of children of all abilities, allowing them to have fun and create happy memories with their friends and families. Children with disabilities benefit from free, unstructured play just as other children do, and they have a right to equal opportunities. Truly, music is a wonderful gift for all of humanity that everyone should enjoy.

“Connecting with children of different backgrounds and abilities encourages empathy and helps develop social and emotional skills. It is magical to see this inclusive park with so many children playing alongside each other.”

♪ Alana Sagar ♪

Differently Abled Children of Marlborough Group



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.



Congas Pair



Cavatina



Calypso Chimes

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 been a joy to see children and adults discover the instruments in the park and play together. This space is helping children 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



Musical Makeover at Herz Playground in McLaren Park, CA

A San Francisco playground has received a musical makeover, including instruments from Percussion Play, thanks to Let'sPlaySF! - a public-private partnership that is currently modernizing playgrounds across the region. The makeover of Herz Playground in McLaren Park, which cost over \$3 million, now includes numerous outdoor musical instruments that children and adults of all ages can enjoy playing.

David Yosso, Owner of SpecPlay, worked with the landscape architects at MIG to help specify the Percussion Play equipment. The project was installed for the City of San Francisco Parks and Rec, and funded through public funds and philanthropic donations.

Feedback from park visitors has been overwhelmingly positive, with people of all ages expressing enthusiasm for these interactive musical installations. Users have enjoyed the opportunity to engage with one another with rhythm and sound outdoors in an unlikely setting. Parents have also commented on how the instruments encourage creativity, collaboration, and imaginative play in their children.



Alberta O.Jones Park, KY

Parks are often seen as places purely for play or sporting events, but a growing movement in Kentucky showcases how vital parks can be in underpinning a strong social fabric.

The Parks Alliance of Louisville is a charitable organization that drives equitable investment in the city's public parks to improve the health and well-being of the entire community. Their 'Parks For All' initiative champions equitable investment in public parks that have been neglected, most located in high-need neighborhoods.

Phase 1 of their first new park construction project, Alberta O. Jones Park, now serves as a blueprint for how public spaces can improve residents' quality of life, prioritizing wellbeing and connectedness. The park had to reflect the area's culture, and an influential community figure was chosen for the park to be named after. Alberta Odell Jones was one of the first black women admitted to the Kentucky bar, and in 1965, became Louisville's first female prosecutor.

The overarching theme of culture had to include music, which led to the alliance ordering the Street Quartet, which includes the [Large Babel Drum](#), the [Handpipes](#), [Emperor Chimes](#), and a [Cajon Drum](#).

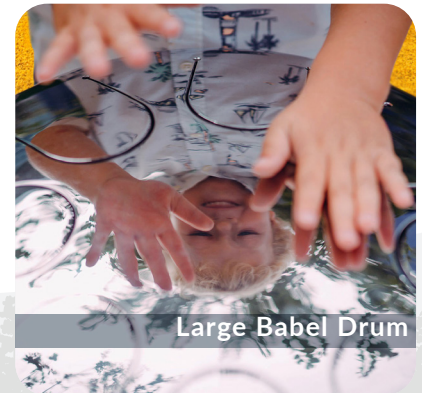
"It's a truly intergenerational product, and we continue to see both adults and children engage in play together."

♪ Alice Bridges ♪

The Parks Alliance Director of Special Projects



Handpipes



Large Babel Drum

Harris County Precinct 2 Inclusive Parks, TX

Precinct 2 encompasses nearly 560 square miles of East Harris County and is home to more than 55 parks and 27 miles of trails. These parks offer a haven for county residents to connect with nature, their community, and their families.

Percussion Play's instruments are featured in most of the parks with colorful [Rainbow Chimes](#), [Harmony Flowers](#) and [Harmony Bells](#), as well as [Rainbow Cavatinas](#), and [Petal Drums](#). They provide visitors with spaces to make music together, where no previous musical skills or knowledge is required to enjoy them. People of all ages and abilities can play alongside each other and experience the joy of spontaneous music-making in the outdoors.

Located in an underserved part of Harris County, the revitalized James Driver All Inclusive Park is the first fully inclusive park in Precinct 2 and Harris County. Commissioner Adrian Garcia's vision was to create a space for everybody regardless of limitations and challenges. The park now serves as a hub for the local community, providing a space for residents of all ages and abilities to exercise, socialize and play.



Harmony Flowers



Forget-Me-Not Petal Drum



Harmony Bells Major Bunch

Precinct 2 celebrated the opening of another project near and dear to Commissioner Adrian Garcia's heart and the Northside community. The Commissioner was honored to dedicate a new pocket park named after Josue Flores. Josue was tragically killed while walking home from school. He was only 11 years old.

The park is located across from the Leonel Community Center and includes STEM elements in honor of Josue's love for science. Percussion Play Partner fun abounds were honored to be involved in the project and supplied the Harmony Flowers and three musical [Stepping Stones](#). Each Stepping Stone hides a musical chord beneath it, which can be activated by stepping, jumping, pushing or wheeling across its top.

Precinct 2 parks illustrate the importance of accessibility, and soon more constituents will be able to create music with plans for Percussion Play's instruments to be installed in all playgrounds. The popularity of these parks will surely mean parks all over the United States will move to include accessible and inclusive areas for play.

“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



Harmony Flowers Minor Posy



Sunflower Petal Drum

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 and intergenerational activity where children and adults could 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 happening across the United States to re-build '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 sound of the instruments is really pretty and has a lovely tone. I also love how the instruments are aesthetically pleasing."

♪Holly Wehr♪

Director of Community Development for the Town of Versailles



Small Babel Drum



Cadenza

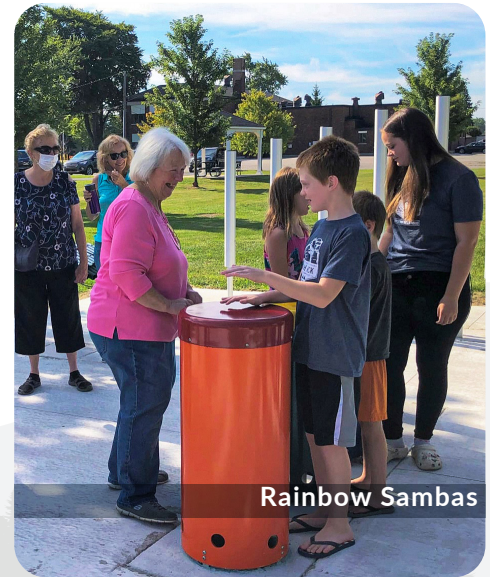
Bridge to Bay Musical Parklet, MI

The trail's purpose is to connect trail users to downtown, neighborhoods, parks, museums, beaches, and lighthouses. Upon reaching Marine City, trail users can stop to carry out any essential bike repairs, relax, and make music in new musical projects located along the trail.

The Musical Parklet, located behind the Marine City Library, was a winner of the Play Everywhere Challenge, a grant-awarding contest from KaBOOM! and the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. The grant awarded funds for the city to install outdoor musical instruments, including a [Cherub](#), [Cavatina](#), [Tubular Bells](#), [Rainbow Sambas](#), [Akadinda](#), a seating area, bike racks and small repair stations, and a Bridge to Bay Trail information kiosk.



Sansa-Rimba



Rainbow Sambas

“The city wanted to connect the gap in the Bridge to Bay Trail system within the city limits with a renewed interest in promoting the trail system as an additional recreation choice for community members,” Goodrich said. “The musical parklet is located directly off the bike path, and we encourage visitors to utilize the countywide trail system to access the new parklet.”

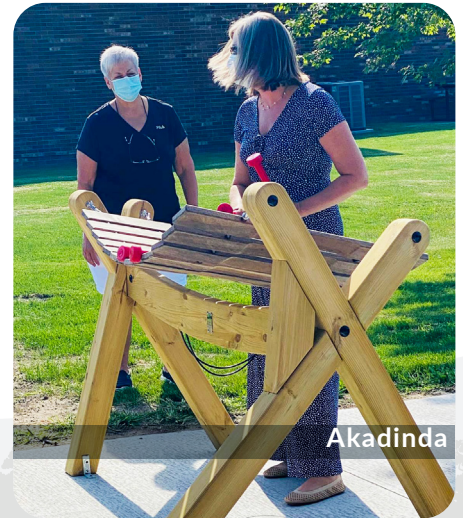
The park was designed as a community-build project, and several community members, city commissioners, and representatives from the Marine City Lions Club came out to assist the Department of Public Works employees in installing the project elements.

Clerk Kristen Baxter said. “We are excited to share this new, interactive park with our community. It will be fun to see both kids and families alike enjoying it.”

“The all-inclusive musical parklet will provide our residents of all ages and abilities with additional outdoor recreation opportunities, which is great for families who are spending so much time together right now”

♪ **Kristen Baxter** ♪

Marine City Clerk



Akadinda

Martinsville-on-the-Move brings Music to their Community, IL

Martinsville-on-the-Move is a local group of volunteers based in Martinsville, Illinois, that aims to support community development and activities. One of their latest projects was the development of a new park in Martinsville that is designed to be accessible to adults and children.

The group wanted to create a lasting memorial to Bob Hills, a former Martinsville resident. They thought outdoor musical instruments would be a fitting tribute to Bob, who loved music, established the Newcomers Swing Choir at Western Illinois University, helped with high school musical productions, and directed his church choir. The group created a beautiful walking path in “The Woodlands,” with the instruments as a focal point.

Money was raised to purchase the instruments through the Bob Hills Memorial fundraiser, a grant from the Hershey Foundation, a grant from the Linn Foundation, a contribution of \$5000 from an anonymous donor, and support from Martinsville-on-the-Move. The group chose to order an [Alto Quartet Ensemble](#), a [Capella](#) with [Music Book](#), and a pair of [Talk Tubes](#). A local music teacher said how great the musical instruments are for the community, and they plan to bring students to the park to create music.



Congas



Music Station



Capella

Hazen Arts Musical Play Space Keeps the Arts Alive, ND

Summer music and a Chalkfest were born out of a passion for the arts by the residents of Hazen, a prairie town in North Dakota, a state that borders Canada in the USA. The town holds weekly outdoor musical performances on its long northern summer evenings. Hundreds enjoy these hours with music in the air, and now the children love to chime in, playing Percussion Play's newly installed outdoor musical instruments.

The instruments were purchased to celebrate the life of a community member, Bonnie Johnson, who greatly supported the arts in Hazen. The dedicated group of friends decided to help enhance an area of the local park that had long needed to be utilized.

As a town with a solid link to the arts, Hazen has gone one step further and combined art and music with an annual Chalkfest. By inviting chalk artists from around the country, the town came to life last Summer with a portion of Main Street adorned with fascinating three-dimensional artworks. Artists encouraged children to chalk their own creations and help make it a truly memorable event. Musical entertainment and nightly meals added to the festival feeling. The festival was conceived as an opportunity to dedicate the instruments to Bonnie Johnson publicly.

“There was an open area near play equipment, so we chose to enhance it with outdoor musical instruments. Now, children and older people enjoy these instruments – it helps bring the community together”

♪ Lauren Donovan ♪

Chalkfest Organizer



Harmony Flower



Rainbow Sambas

Creating the Perfect Music Park or Trail

Outdoor music projects often start with a vision of an individual person or a small group of people who share a passionate belief that music is something that absolutely everyone in their local community should have the opportunity to access and enjoy. Here is a summary of our Guide to Creating a Community Music Park or Trail.

- ♪ **Seek Advice:** Community or service groups will have experience in managing this type of project and could share that expertise with you.
- ♪ **Teamwork:** You'll need a collaboration of like-minded individuals with various skill sets including; fundraising, PR, construction, and finance management to bring different perspectives to your project and design.



- ♪ **Location:** Look at what facilities already exist to determine how best to develop an existing play area, local-park or open space into your communal music park or trail. Building within an existing park can often cut project costs dramatically.
- ♪ **Selection:** With technical information, photos, and videos our resellers are equipped with all the information you need to make choosing your instruments easy and enjoyable.
- ♪ **Funding & Finances:** Approaching and gaining the support of local businesses and organizations for sponsorships, donations, or volunteers can create partnerships with opportunities that benefit all involved.
- ♪ **Build:** Building a music park with volunteers will take time and effort, but the benefits go beyond saving money. Involving the local community is a great way for people to meet and for residents to get involved and create a space for everyone to be proud of.

“Watching people of all ages play the instruments reinforced the importance of musical instruments in providing a balance of play options in community areas”

♪ **Janine Johnson** ♪

Committee of Essex Playground





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