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Iroquois Park Opens State of the Art Playground in Louisville, KY

September 12, 2007 by **Stephanie Raney**

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One of the Many New Playgrounds Designed with Children of Disabilities in Mind

With its scenic overlooks, [horseback riding](#) trails, hiking trails, walking path, and amphitheater, Iroquois Park has always been one of Louisville, Kentucky's most popular parks. Famed landscape designer Frederick Olmsted, who has been

referred to as "the father of American Landscape Architecture", designed the park in 1893, but in recent year's visitors to the park have been severely disappointed in the state of disrepair that the one hundred and fourteen year old park seemed to be falling into. [Louisville Parks](#) Officials heard the outcries of the park's visitors, and instituted a plan to restore Iroquois Park to its former glory. One of the biggest parts of the plan is the improvements to the Sunnyhill Pavilion and Playground Area, of which the first phase, the playground area, was completed this August, with the opening of the new state of the art playground and water play area.

The new playground is designed with children with [disabilities](#) in mind. The playground is completely handicap accessible, and allows children with all levels of ability to play together in one area. The DREAM [Foundation](#) and the Olmstead [Parks](#) Conservancy were both major contributors to this project, with the DREAM [Foundation](#) contributing \$500,000 and the Olmstead [Parks](#)

Conservancy contributing \$350,000, in addition to the \$575,000 provided by the [Louisville](#) Metro Government. The Sunnyhill Playground features an elaborate play area for children ages five to twelve years of age, complete with rope bridges, slides, and a swaying boat, there is also a fenced playground for [toddlers](#) ages two to five, three swing sets, a 2,500-square foot water play area that contains no standing water, and multiple jets and misting devices, and four shade structures with benches to keep park visitors cool. The entire play area is comprised of a rubberized surface to help prevent injuries and keep children safe in case of falls. There is also a new restroom facility that features four handicap accessible restrooms, and a newly designed parking lot that features additional handicap parking spaces.

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