



RECREATION COMMISSION

Jeanine H. Shaw
Chairwomen

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Children who have special needs and may rely on wheelchairs or walkers will soon have a playground in the new Day Road Park where they can play side by side with other kids.

The Town of Lockport is the recipient of a very generous donation from the Grigg Lewis Foundation, a name that is synonymous with philanthropy in the Lockport Community. The Town and the Grigg Lewis Foundation believe that when children of all abilities play together, they experience more similarities than differences. In most cases differences fade into the background and become unimportant.

The new playground structure will be supplementary to the present playground at the Day Road Park. It will have features for a barrier free playground such as slides reached by entrance ramps wide enough to hold wheelchairs. And ramps which will take them to the highest play decks, as well as elevated sand tables that kids can walk or roll up to. Swings will be suspended above a rubbery surface that a wheelchair can roll across and would provide a soft landing if necessary.

Town Supervisor Marc Smith is gratified by this wonderful addition to the community. "It's very important for kids to know there are other kids out there that have different abilities than themselves. This enhancement will create an extraordinary and unique playground where all children, with or without special needs, can develop essential skills for life as they learn and grow together through play. This project will distinguish our community from other communities by showing our willingness to seek and serve the unique needs of our children."

Councilwoman, liaison and past Chairperson of the Town Recreation Commission, Cheryl Antkowiak agrees, "All kids should be able to develop friendships and be able to play together. What we specifically focused on was removing the barriers; both sociological and architectural that impedes children from playing. Children like to discover things and make judgments for themselves. We believe every child, regardless of ability, deserves a place to play and dream."

This "Every Child Matters" project will be the first barrier-free playground built by Miracle Recreation Equipment in Western New York, and one of only four in NYS.