LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
AND SPECIFIER NEWS

THE INDUSTRY TRADE MAGAZINE FOR THE COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE SPECIFIER NATIONWIDE!

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Imagined a playground where children search for hidden artifacts in an archaeological dig, conduct a symphony, or launch to the moon in a spaceship.

Now imagine that all children can experience that kind of fun no matter what their ability level. Also imagine that children in wheelchairs or those with sensory, visual or cognitive disabilities can play side-by-side with their able-bodied peers.

That's Adventure Island, a universally accessible playground in Settler's Park, Meridian Idaho.

While more and more states are integrating accessibility into their playgrounds, Adventure Island is believed to be the first of its kind in Idaho and a model for other communities in the gem state.

Far Left: The tuned drums (Freenotes) area is a social setting for children of all abilities and ages. Constructed of painted vinyl the varied sizes and heights of the drums make distinctive pitches.

Left: The anodized aluminum chimes ("Swirl") deeply resonate by an ABS and PVC plate.
This is a community built playground, meaning hand-assembled by volunteers in Meridian.

Several of the parents who initiated Adventure Island Playground have children who attended JumpStart, a program of Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center for children with neurological disorders. Because JumpStart partners with other child development/education programs, JumpStart children play and learn with children who do not have neurological challenges. Such meaningful interactions and experiences is the mission of Adventure Island Playground.

The landscape architects of The Land Group, Inc., Matthew T. Adams, ASLA, principal, provided design work as an in-kind donation to the Adventure Island Group, working from initial concept through construction drawings and construction observation, including product selection and specification, community facilitation, permitting and bidding services. (Note: The landscape architects were contracted to prepare design documents for the 58-acre Settlers Park, of which Adventure Island is a part.)

Sound Garden

The Sound Garden is the most recent phase of Adventure Island. The "sound" refers to nine large-scale musical instruments that provide interactive play for children of all abilities. The Sound Garden is just adjacent to the climbing area—Little City of Rocks. These play elements, along with the existing