



**WATER ODYSSEY™**  
BY FOUNTAIN PEOPLE

A PLAYCORE Company

# SPLASH PAD CONSIDERATIONS

KEY ELEMENTS FOR CREATING INCLUSIVE  
AQUATIC PLAY ENVIRONMENTS





# SPLASH PAD CONSIDERATIONS

## KEY ELEMENTS TO TRANSFORM YOUR VISION INTO A REALITY



### BUDGET

- The first key to implement an aquatic playscape is assessing available funding.
- Seek available grants and donors.
- Work with manufacturers and/or consultants to help understand the costs.



### DESIGN

- Establish intent, goals, audience & community needs for the design.
- Consider community heritage unique to the city for the theme.
- Have fun developing your vision!



### INCLUSIVITY

- Offer an engaging experience for all ages and abilities.
- Ensure accessible routes to and from the play area.
- Offer quiet places, a variety of water shapes, features that promote teamwork and encourage movement.



### AMENITIES

- Park design should include accessible, comfortable & safe amenities for all ages & abilities.
- Recommendations include features such as shade structures, benches, restrooms, trash receptacles, lighting & parking.



### MAINTENANCE

- Maintenance of a spray park is key to continual park health.
- Based on system type and feature selection, understand what it will take.
- Have a plan, budget, and staff to support your facility.



# EVERYONE CAN PLAY

## ALIGNING WITH UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR INCLUSIVE AQUATIC PLAY



## Designing for Safe Aquatic Play

Water Odyssey takes age appropriate play into careful consideration. When designing for all ages and abilities, we use distinctive play zones to promote safer travel patterns, and place age appropriate products in these zones to promote a safer play experience. These zones are broken out into three primary categories:



### Toddler/Kinder Zone

Play elements for this zone typically spray up, and are gentle on the skin. We do not recommend features that dump water for this zone.



### Transition Zone

Elements for this zone are taller, tend to spray up and/or outward, and creates the space for children to seek greater thrills and interact with other age groups.



### Family/Youth Zone

Elements in this zone attract children who seek greater thrills. Common features include the ability to dump, spin, aim, and redirect the flow of water.



# MAKING WATER PLAY EASY

## HOW TO ADDRESS ACCESSIBILITY FOR AQUATIC PLAY

### Turn On the Park Intuitively with Ease



The incorporation of activators is important for the operation of an aquatic play area. They keep you water usage under control by turning on the system only when activated by a patron. There are different types of activators available. Activators should be intuitive, give visual clues for turning the park on, and be accessible from a mobility device.



#### Bollard Activation

Bollard activators should meet ADA requirements and be reachable from a mobility device. Vibration sensitive activators require less effort & minimal dexterity to turn on the spray park.



#### Foot Activation

Foot activators should be vibration activated so stepping on or rolling over the activator will activate the spray pad.



#### Motion Activation

Any movement on the play surface turns on the spray pad during operating hours.

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## Designing for Accessible Aquatic Play

Spray features should be designed to accommodate patrons of all abilities. Elements that encourage patrons to pass through have a minimum 32" width and accommodating height for head clearances.



#### Interactives

Spray features that twist, turn, and aim are designed to accommodate all abilities. Handles are designed to be reachable from a mobility device.



#### Accessible Routes

Take careful consideration in the design process of park layout. Play events should be appropriately spaced apart for easy travel between elements to create a safer play environment.



#### Accommodating Features

Play elements that encourage routes through or under the feature should be designed to allow easy passage with a mobility device.



# APPEALING TO THE SENSES

## HOW TO ADDRESS AQUATIC PLAY FOR THE SENSES



### Water Effects for **Discovery & Stimulation**

Be sure to incorporate a wide variety of spray effects in our products and layouts to bring a wealth of discovery to the splash pad. Patrons discover how they can manipulate water by redirecting and plugging orifices to force the water to spray further. A variety of effects such as aerated streams, solid arching streams, fans, mist, and intermittent sprays create stimulating textures with water when patrons interact with sight, sound & touch.



### Colors & Textures **Delight the Senses**

Various textures stimulate the sense of touch. This includes water textures from mist, to soft aerated water effects. Different spray features can have different textures. This encourages patrons to move and interact with all the play elements.

Depending on the design intent, vivid and natural colors can enhance the play experience. Bright colors tend to attract young children filling them with excitement, while natural colors tend to blend in more with the environment and appeal to a broader range of patrons.



#### Ground Sprays

Ideal for toddler areas, ground sprays offer different textures of water



#### Themed Features

Theming can encourage imaginative play and enhance the experience.



#### Essentials

Basic play elements should incorporate a variety of spray effects.



#### Interactive Sprayers

Heightened interaction occurs with the ability to aim, turn, and spray.



#### Light and Shadow Play

Modern materials such as acrylic accents can cast colorful shadows for exploration in color theory.



#### Centerpieces

Centerpieces create a visual draw to your facilities attracting a broad range of ages.



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