

AODA – How to make Public Spaces Accessible: Outdoor play spaces

By law, you must make outdoor play spaces accessible if you are:

- a designated public sector organization or a business or non-profit organization with 50 or more employees; and
- building new public outdoor play spaces and planning to maintain them; or
- making major changes to existing spaces and planning to maintain them.

You do not have to change existing outdoor play spaces to comply with the [AODA](#).

Public outdoor play spaces include:

- play equipment and structures (for example, slides, swings and splash pads)
- natural features (for example, logs, rocks, sand or water intended for play)

How to comply

To meet the requirement, you must:

1. consult with the public and local people with disabilities before you design and build public outdoor play spaces (municipalities must also consult with their accessibility advisory committees)
2. enhance the play area with features that will allow children and caregivers with a wide range of abilities to play
3. make the surface of the play space firm and stable so people using mobility devices can move around easily and prevent injuries
4. ensure there is enough space around the play features; children and caregivers with disabilities should be able to move easily into the play areas and around play equipment

For example: a municipality is planning to build a new outdoor play space in their community. First, they consult with their accessibility advisory committee and community members about what they will need in the play space.

Based on these suggestions, the town decides to include an area with a sandbox and other tactile play features. This means that children can use different senses to enjoy the play space.

Additionally, the town decides to include an area for caregivers with disabilities to sit and comfortably watch the children play.