



PLAYGROUND STATEMENT ON:

WHEELCHAIR SWINGS

Recreation and Parks has been in the market for a wheelchair swing that is certified by the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for over two decades. This includes being in regular contact with commercial playground manufacturers awaiting the development of such a product as it is policy that any playground equipment in public parks must meet these standards.



Heavy metal swings with ridged framework presents numerous safety risks and concerns and are specifically mentioned as not recommended by both the [CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook](#) and the NRPA Daily Report [12 point playground safety checklist](#)

The swings currently available on the market, are marketed as therapeutic equipment vs. playground equipment and therefore do not have the certifications, thus, precluding us from installing one inside a playground.

To install a "therapeutic" piece of equipment it would need to be segregated from the play area, fenced in and locked when not in use. It would require being supervised to ensure safe use. Currently Recreation and Parks does not have a location that is fully staffed that would allow for this level of supervision.

We share your desire to provide this type of activity for citizens that utilize wheelchairs and are hopeful that a certified product becomes available soon.

See next page for specifics for the Lancaster Park Project.

**For more information Contact:
Christina Bishop, Project Manager**

 301-475-4200 x1811

 christina.bishop@stmaryscountymd.gov

Accessible Whirl

- Nontraditional whirl that provides a more accessible motion for kids of all ages and ability levels
- Fits up to two wheelchairs at a time with room for up to nine people in total
- Brings everyone together to experience a thrilling centripetal sensation
- Provides spinning, social and balancing play richness intents with 2 levels of challenge



At Lancaster Park, our current playground project, we have two pieces of accessible equipment designed for wheelchair use that will be installed. One that provides a swing like experience and one that provides a spinning experience.

AeroGlider

- Encourages cooperation and teamwork among children of all ages and abilities
- Unique stepping platform on both ends provides an opportunity for more kids to play and increases the swaying fun
- Provides physical and sensory play richness intents with spinning, tactile and a cozy space

