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2022 Summer Edition Newsletter: Parks and Playspaces

Summer is a good time to review and update past posts on the CUDA website. This edition focuses on the outdoors.

Playgrounds for all children

Inclusive play spaces are receiving more attention, but what equipment and design features are most suitable? Research in the US throws some light on this topic. Children, parents, teachers, landscape designers and equipment manufacturers all have a stake in the outcome. This means there are often gaps between what is required, what is available and what gets implemented. Building Playgrounds ...

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Parks Designed for Inclusion

When we talk of 'inclusion' and 'inclusive', have we thought of everyone? Older people and adults with disability are usually front of mind. But older people can have many different backgrounds and capabilities. Same goes for children and young people. The Parks and Recreation Report does an excellent job of covering just about everyone in terms of age, level of ...

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1000 Play Streets Toolkit

The play street movement is taking off and councils across Australia are starting to take

an interest. Play streets are run by residents for a few hours at quiet times of day. They can be weekly, fortnightly or monthly, or even one-off events. Regular times bring the best results for creating connection, and it's all explained in the 1000 Play Streets ...

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[Universal design and gardens](#)

COVID has shown us how important gardens are to everyday life. Whether it's a home garden or a park garden, they are good for our wellbeing. But not all botanical and park gardens are accessible to all. Applying the principles of universal design in gardens in the planning process is a good way to go. The American Society of Landscape ...

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[Canadian City Parks and Inclusion](#)

The amount of space required for physical distancing due to COVID-19 highlights how valuable our public space is. An important point raised in the 2020 Canadian City Parks Report. Parks form a critical backbone of community infrastructure particularly in times of stress. However, not everyone feels welcome and respected in public space. There are systemic inequities related to race, class, ...

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[Kindergartens: Inclusive spaces for all children](#)

What do children think of the play spaces designed by adults? Why not ask them? That's what a two Norwegian researchers did, and what an interesting result they found. They asked kindergarten children what they liked best and made them comfortable. Children with and without disability mostly wanted the same things, but there were a few differences. The researchers found ...

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"Let's go to the park"

The design of parks and playgrounds are often considered from the perspective of children and younger adults. But what about older adults? An Australian study by Stephen Gibson looked at this issue and found that the motivations to visit parks differed between older and younger adults. Natural environment, and park amenity was the strongest predictor of encouraging older adults to ...

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Quick tour of inclusive, creative and adventure play:

It's not often a conference presentation slide deck becomes a mini training course. But Mary and Sally Jeavons achieved this at the inaugural Australian Universal Design Conference. The slides show lots of different examples of inclusive, creative and adventure play. The title of the Jeavons presentation is, Designing Play Spaces for Inclusion: Devilish details that make a difference ...

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Taming the wilderness with inclusive design

The natural landscapes of Norway conjure up pictures of fjords and wilderness with steep slopes. For some people, walks and bike rides in this natural environment aren't possible. So one municipality of 1287 residents took up the challenge to create an activity park for everyone – locals and visitors of all ages. It was managed as a joint effort between the ...

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Sensory gardens: inclusive or segregated?

Sensory gardens are usually associated with people who are blind or partially sighted. But this strategy is not inclusive - everyone should be able to enjoy the experience. Gardens that are fragrant, colourful, create sounds, are nice to touch, and good to taste are for everyone. Together with accessible amenities, sensory gardens can be inclusive

rather than segregated. COVID has ...

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Bamboo playspace wins award

Dhaka, Bangladesh has an award-winning bamboo playspace. The collaboratively designed playspace is a venue for theatre and dance and a local gathering place for families. Bamboo artisans, children from the Peace Home and architecture students worked together throughout the project. The bamboo playspace brings together vulnerable children with local neighbourhood children. The International Union of Architects judged this project to ...

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Introduction to Universal Design

[Introduction to Universal Design](#)

You can do this one on your phone! Certificate at the end. covers principles, goals, stereotyping and diversity. A good overview for anyone. Takes less than an hour.

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