Case Study
NEW INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND CULTIVATES UNITY AND CONNECTION FOR THIS COMMUNITY
ELLIS PARK  
Salisbury, North Carolina

THE CUSTOMER & THEIR CHALLENGE: The playground at Ellis Park in Salisbury, N.C. had served the community for over 25 years. While it provided ramp access, there was not anything else that encouraged inclusive play. Many elements were outdated and replacement parts were no longer available. The mulch surfacing was not ideal for wheelchairs and other mobility devices. Additionally, Ellis Park is home to the Therapeutic Recreation Program, which ensures the availability of recreation programs for individuals with disabilities. According to 2014 data, Rowan County has 12-15 children with disabilities per 1,000 residents. Needless to say, this playground was in need of an upgrade. Thanks to a grant won in 2017, Rowan County Parks and Recreation was able to upgrade this outdated playground into one that children of all abilities can use.

THE SUPERIOR SOLUTION: Our SRP Certified Partner, Superior Recreation of the Carolinas, worked with the Rowan County Parks and Recreation Department to design a themed inclusive playground. The design includes a large ramped structure with access to meaningful play activities, swing set with accessible seats, Inclusive Orbit, and poured-in-place surfacing. Out of the many inclusive play items, the Inclusive Orbit was a community favorite.

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-Vernice Clyburn  
Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor

"This piece of equipment is like a magnet to our guests in the park. It is truly an all-inclusive piece of equipment and I would include [it] on any future projects that we will have," Director of Parks and Recreation for Rowan County Don Bringle said.

The playground is surrounded by beautiful trees, which was the inspiration for creating a nature theme. The tree post toppers and green and brown color scheme were added to match the natural surroundings.

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More that just access, this playground allows children of all abilities to be included. All children are able to engage in their right to play and they are able to develop crucial physical, social, and emotional skills. From the multiple access points to integrated play events, this inclusive playground was designed for children of all abilities.