SAT-A08 : All Ages, All Abilities, All the Time: Designing Socially Sustainable Parks

Saturday, October 21, 2017 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Room: 151

Title: All Ages, All Abilities, All the Time: Designing Socially Sustainable parks

Session overview:
Parks today face the challenge of providing environments where all visitors can feel safe, secure and fully engage in play. Universal design increases usability, safety, health and social participation. In this presentation, participants will discover how applying the goals of universal design ultimately contribute to social equity and social sustainability.

Presenters:

Presenter: Greg Miller, FASLA

Greg is a landscape architect in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He specializes in the planning, design and implementation of parks and play areas that are fun and exciting for all users. Several of his recent projects have received design awards and serve as inspiration for the development of a city-wide system of greater inclusivity in parks. He recently gave a key-note presentation at the Landscape Structures annual sales meeting on the collaborative design process associated with projects of this type. Greg also teaches the materials and techniques class in the UNM MLA program, and is currently the national president-elect for ASLA.

Presenter: John McConkey

John serves as Market Research and Insights Manager at Landscape Structures. He brings over 15 years of experience in the healthcare field, and offers a unique perspective on inclusion, health, fitness and children's play on the playground. John researches and tracks societal and industry trends to help create innovative playground design solutions. John develops and delivers IACET and LACES accredited continuing education programs throughout North America and internationally. The focus of his recent programs include universal design and inclusion, designing playgrounds to maximize physical activity, reconnecting children with nature, and environmentally sustainable playground design.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the definition of Ability as defined by environmental conditions

2. Identify the concepts of social equity and social sustainability and how they are supported by Universal Design.

3. Articulate each goal and principle of universal design and how they contribute to a park design that goes beyond accessibility and encourages inclusion.

4. Explain why incorporating the concepts of social equity and social sustainability is important to the long term success of parks.

5. Learn practical application techniques and solutions through review of successful case studies.

Needs Identification:

Ultimately, the most successful parks and playgrounds are those that provide users of all abilities a sense of safety, security and inclusion. These are the environments where true inclusion happens and community ownership is strong, resulting in a community resource that all will cherish, support and protect. Participants will be provided with current data on how the world population is aging and encountering disabilities in all age groups. The presentation will show how this data supports the need for creating recreation spaces that support these community members in a greater way. In particular, the use of universal design principles will be embraced as a way to address this growing community need. Through illustrative examples and case study, participants will be introduced to the concepts of social sustainability as they apply in park and playground settings.

Take Aways:

Attendees will receive a set of "best practices" and strategies for incorporating the benefits of sensory play and inclusive play into a range of public projects. These include a full range of design practices from detail applications to broad site arrangement techniques. The list is fairly defined but loose enough to apply the principles on a case-by-case basis. These principles fit into 5 categories: site context and arrangement, side-by-side play, graduated challenges, mixed materials, and varied scale. Together all these factors comprise a paradigm shift toward creating play environments, not just play areas.

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Los Angeles
October 20-23

Course Outline:

1. Theory behind social sustainability
    a. Safety – presentation of current standards
    b. Security – defining what make a person feel secure in their environment
    c. Universal Design – principles and goals & the end user expert
2. The importance of embracing social sustainability now
    a. Stats on the world population – aging, variety of disabilities
    b. Defining ability/disability – World Health Organization
    c. Worldwide response/impact
3. Key to social sustainability – Universal design in the park & playground
    a. 8 goals
    b. The end user expert
4. Social sustainability design in reality - everyone to find a "just right" fit – Case study examples demonstrate the application of the principles previously discussed
    a. Basic necessities in the park & playground
    b. Variety, diversity and graduated levels of challenge
    c. Active recreation, quiet, and semi-private spaces
    d. Community ownership and enjoyment
5. Q&A

Sources:

Vavik, T & Keitsch M M. Exploring relationships between universal design and social sustainable development: some methodological aspects to the debate on the sciences of sustainability, Sustainable Development, 2010, 18 (5): 295-305.

Gossett A, Mirza M, Barnds AK, Feidt D, Beyond access: a case study on the intersection between accessibility, sustainability, and universal design, Disability Rehabilitation Assistive Technology, 2009 Nov;4(6):439-50.

World Population Prospects, The 1998 Revision, Volume II: Sex and Age. The Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Secretariat

Websites
Institute for Human Centered Design
http://www.adaptiveenvironments.org/index.php?option=Home