

The only outdoor space to have all five of PlayCores National Demonstration Site Designations



#### **NDS** Designations

Bennett Park meets the criteria of all five designations; Inclusive Play, Play On, Outdoor Adult fitness, Nature Grounds, and Pathways for Play.



#### Community Events

Bennett Park has an amphitheatre, pavilions, and educational signs throughout the space to foster community engagement. Public events hosted in the city invite everyone to come together while enjoying Bennett Park.



#### Inclusive Play

Bennett Park offers inclusive playground equipment that meet the 7 principles of inclusive design. Regardless of age or ability everyone has the opportunity to play.







# NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION SITE

#### WHY IS NDS IMPORTANT?

High-quality outdoor play and recreation environments are essential to community health and wellness. Research indicates that when evidence-based design best practices are implemented with the built environment, then positive and measurable outcomes occur.

PlayCore's National Demonstration Site program helps communities like Palos Hills, IL take advantage of this research to build meaningful environments. Then help measure their positive effect through data reporting and translation to help defend budgets and elevate outdoor recreation spaces.

#### **FIVE NDS DESIGNATIONS**

There are five design best practice programs that help communities turn research into practice.

- Inclusive Play
- Play On
- Outdoor Adult Fitness
- NatureGrounds
- Pathways for Play

#### WHY CHOOSE NDS DESIGNATIONS

National Demonstration Sites represent a commitment to communities and the outdoor spaces within them. The NDS design criteria ensures that your community can maximize the value of your investment by implementing best practice research to activate play and recreation destinations. NDS receive recognition, demonstrate impact through data services, and receive site-specific reports to share and showcase their impact on community health and wellness.

Designations like Inclusive Play ensure everyone regardless of age or ability have the opportunity to play. The NDS designations help ensure the community feeling welcomed and involved within outdoor recreation spaces. Not only getting more children outside playing but adults using outdoor fitness equipment.





### **BENNETT PARK**

In the heart of the Palos Hills, Illinois lies a one of a kind outdoor area created by Mayor George Bennett. Bennett Park is the only outdoor area to have all five GameTime/PlayCore National Demonstration Site ™ designations. The NDS program led by PlayCore's CORE (Center for Outreach, Research, Education) is truly an industry differentiator that recognizes communities for turning research into practice

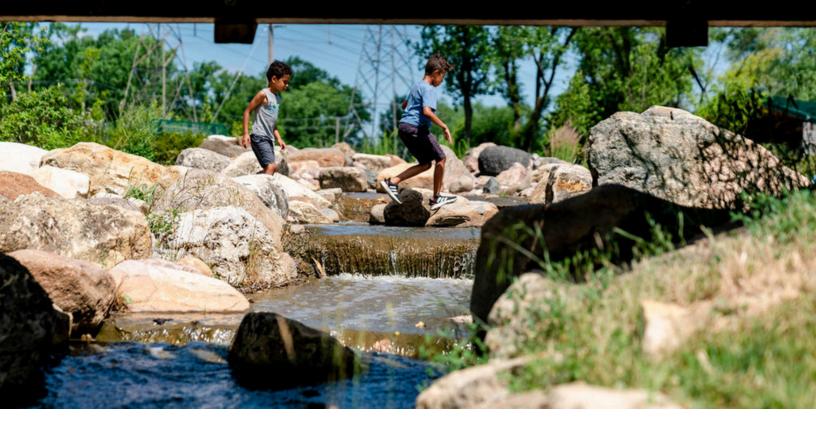
## NDS DESIGNATIONS

- 1 INCLUSIVE PLAY
- 2 PLAY ON
- 3 NATUREGROUNDS
- 4 OUTDOOR ADULT FITNESS PARKS
- 5 PATHWAYS FOR PLAY



Bennett Park opened in 2021 but is constantly being enriched and improved so that it has something for everyone. In collaboration with Cunningham Recreation and the city of Palos Hills, the park design features evidence-based research and scholarly best practices which led the park to become a National Demonstration Site. This sets Bennett Park apart from others and gives the community credit for turning research into practice. "Our park is unmatched with all the others. Gavin and Cunningham Recreation were instrumental in the vision coming together like it did," Mayor Bennett shared. The planning team agreed that Gavin played an integral part with help from a purpose driven company and recreational thought leader, PlayCore, to

making their vision a reality.





Bennett Park not only enhances the aesthetic appeal of Palos Hills but also promotes physical health, mental well-being, environmental consciousness and provides an educational setting for nature classes utilized by area school districts, libraries, and other groups. When it comes to the decision to attain all five NDS designations, Mayor Bennett responded that he liked the evidence-based approach and the data collection program to measure the usage. There are QR codes on signs to engage users to share feedback. Commissioner Violante said "why not?" when asked about going above and beyond in designs. "We want to provide our residents the very best out there."







# Bennett Park

Palos Hills, IL























#### **MAYOR BENNETT**

Our park is unmatched with all the others. Gavin and Cunningham Recreation were instrumental in the vision coming together like it did.

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE

Bennett Park is the only outdoor recreation space that has all five of PlayCores National Demonstration Site Designations (Inclusive Play, Play On, Outdoor Adult Fitness, Nature Grounds, and Pathways for Play.) Allowing everyone the opportunity to pick

their play. Whether its outdoor fitness or an inclusive playground, Bennett Park has it all.

