

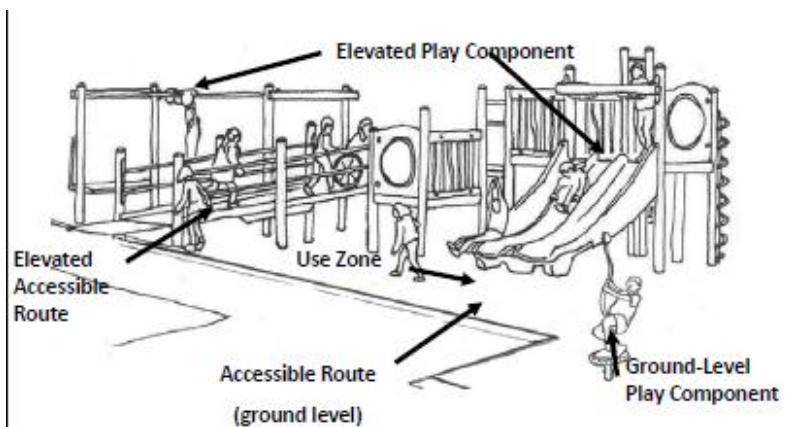
ZEAGER NEWS

Play Area Guidelines concerning ADA



The ADA guidelines effect what you should specify in a play area using loose fill surfacing such as engineered wood fiber. Here are a few things to remember and some helpful hints for your next school or park project.

First off, keep a few of these play area terms in mind & refer to the drawing to the right: Elevated Accessible Route, Use Zone, Accessible Route, Ground-level play component, Elevated Play Component.



- **Helpful hint #1:** Accessible routes are designed to provide access for individuals with disabilities. Be sure all entry and exit points of the accessible play components are accessible. To maintain an accessible route between these high use areas, specify Woodcarpet® wear mats. They come in a variety of sizes or can be customized to fit just about any type of equipment. Be sure to require installation above the surface with

Zeager's duckbill anchoring system so the wear mats stay in place for safety & accessibility.



Example of a customized wear mat for an older play piece connecting entry/exit.



Example of Woodcarpet pvc wear mats installed below swings keeping this area accessible.

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- Helpful hint #2:

A level, clear ground floor space (48"x30") is required at ground level components such as you see to the left. Specifying wear mats or a unitary surface like Bonded Woodcarpet® is a good idea to minimize maintenance in these areas. Bonded Wood-

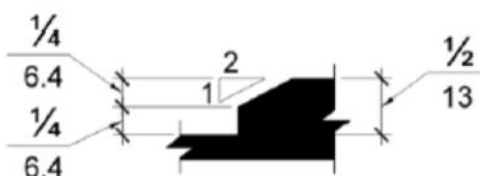


Carpet® binds the top 2" of the Woodcarpet® to make it more accessible. Note: Clear ground floor spaces apply to elevated components accessed by a ramp as well.

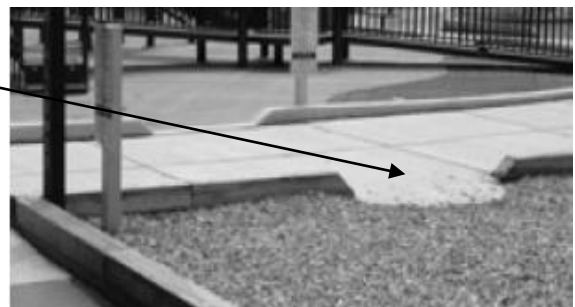
- Helpful hint #3: When using a unitary surface to create a pathway within a play area, be sure the clear width of the route is 60" minimum. The picture to the right shows a bonded Woodcarpet® pathway leading to an accessible swing. The pathway is ramped on each side down into the loose wood fiber.



- Helpful hint #4: Changes in level greater than 1/2" inch high must be ramped so specify a ramp down into the surfacing of a play area with loose

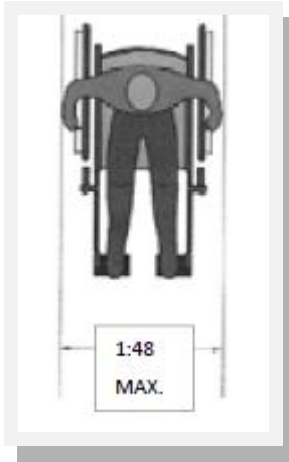


fill wood fiber to minimize maintenance at the entrance of the playground.

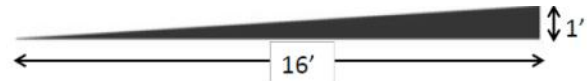


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- **Helpful hint #5:** Running slope and cross slope on accessible routes must be 1:16 (6%) & 1:48 (2%) respectively. Be careful to build on a relatively level site, recommend the installer use manufacturer's instructions to install the loose fill Woodcarpet® since properly compacting the surface will result in a firm, level surface.



- **Helpful hint #6:** Specify a proper drainage system which will extend the life of the wood fiber and limit problems with washout that leads to an uneven surface and limits resiliency during colder months. Zeager offers 2 types— the standard gravel system to the left or our Duradrain® system that utilizes a resilient foam panel that replaces the gravel layer saving time and money by limiting excavating and the the time it takes to spread gravel.



- **Helpful hint #7:** Require proper documentation proving the surfacing meets accessibility standard ASTM F1951 as well as impact safety standard F1292.
- **Helpful hint #8:** There are limits to the ADA requirements such as 50% of the elevated play components must be on an accessible route so use a combination of unitary surfaces and loose fill surfaces to give your customer the best of both worlds. A combination of bonded Woodcarpet® along with loose fill Woodcarpet® can save \$\$ as well as meet the needs for accessibility.

Zeager Bros. Inc. 2013



William Pava Elementary School
Harford County School District