Is this playground equipment accessible?
Yes – the playground equipment is accessible. Equipment installations comply with the Canadian Standards Association's (CSA) document "CSA Z614:20" where regulations are set for public playground equipment. Additionally, the playground equipment meets the CSA's Annex H specifications which include accessibility requirements so the equipment can be used by children with physical, sensory, or cognitive disabilities.

The CSA notes that "the level of challenge required and desired by children varies enormously with age, physical development, and emotional development; therefore, it is almost impossible to design a piece of playground equipment that meets the needs of all children."

How is this playground equipment accessible using these standards?
The playground equipment is accessible by having a combination of activities at the ground-level and activities that are elevated. CSA Z614:20 Annex H sets out minimum recommendations for the quantities of each. There are additional requirements that must be met including having a variety of play types (i.e., creative/cognitive, physical, quiet retreat, and social) that make the equipment fun and universally accessible to all children.

Equipment suppliers outline the number of required activities, the number of provided activities, and play types as shown in the table (below) to ensure the equipment meets or exceeds the standards. (Example: Red Wildfong Park).

ADA SCHEDULE	Total Elevated Play Activities: 5		
	Total Ground-Level Play Activities: 4		
	Accessible Elevated Activities	Accessible Ground-Level Activities	Accessible Ground-Level Play Types
Required	3	2	2
Provided	5	4	4

What is Engineered Wood Fibre?
Engineered wood fibre (EWF) is a surfacing material made from processed new wood products that is commonly used in playground installations. It meets CSA Z614:20 document Annex D for "Recommended Protective Surfacing." When installed and compacted well EWF is cost effective and provides a durable, clean, and more easily accessible, resilient surface in comparison to other approved surfaces such as mulch, sand, and pea gravel.

What are examples of accessible equipment?
Accessible needs vary and include a range of abilities that can be visible and invisible. Sometimes the support for people who identify as having a disability is not always obvious. *Saucer Swings* create rocking motions which can be very calming for children with sensory disabilities. Additionally, the shape of the swing makes it easier for children with physical limitations who may need assistance while swinging. *Slides with landings* provide a place to sit while transferring to a mobility device or waiting for assistance. *Cocoons and hammocks* allow children an opportunity to play alone if they prefer or if they become overwhelmed.

Sometimes accessible equipment can be as subtle as colour variation or texture. *Colour palettes* aid those who experience limited or reduced visibility to navigate the playground independently. While *tactile play and surfaces* are often enjoyable to children with sensory needs.

Why are ramps not included?
The City of Cambridge constantly strives to provide an enjoyable park experience for all participants. Ramps are added in situations where the required number of ground level activities cannot be met. On larger playground renovations ramps are used to connect participants to elevated activities. Play spaces with a variety of ground level activities provides multiple play opportunities which enhances the play value for everyone.

Why can't rubber surfacing be installed?
Unfortunately, rubber surfacing is cost prohibitive to be installing at the neighbourhood parks. It is also challenging to repair when vandalized. While rubber surfacing may be featured as part of larger community playgrounds, neighbourhood park replacements do not include rubber surfacing at this time.

Are there other Parks in Cambridge that have increased levels of accessibility?
Yes – the City of Cambridge has four parks that have an increased level of accessibility. They are Riverside Park, Victoria Park Hespeler, Churchill Park, and Victoria Park Galt.