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park planning and landscape architecture

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## South Mill Creek Community Park

Batavia Park District, Batavia, Illinois

### **Universal Playground and Sensory Garden.**

Upland Design led a master plan process with the Batavia Park District for a new 32-acre community park site. As part of the public input process, the neighbors from Marklund Homes, a home for severely and profoundly disabled adults along with Fox Valley Special Recreation staff were included in the design process to create a universal playground where kids and adults of all abilities could enjoy the park together.

The final design incorporated both a playground and an adjacent sensory garden. The playground includes table height sand play, lots of ramps and decks for above ground play along with numerous ground level play events. The sensory garden incorporated colored concrete paving for easy navigation around a series of play areas with drums, panel play, sensory signage, and raised planting beds. Plants encourage the use of touch, vision and smell with fun textures and herbal scents. The sounds of nearby cars and families playing add to the sensory garden experience. Stonework, flowers, shrubs, seating and shade trees further enhance the experience of being within the playground and sensory garden.