



**SPRINGFIELD**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Every Student, Every Day

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support The Arc Lane County's proposal for *Arc Park*.

Springfield Public Schools has made great strides to provide inclusive classrooms for children with disabilities. Inclusion teaches children to learn about each other as humans, and helps them to embrace differences and connect similarities. The concept of inclusion shows kids how to look beyond the physical exterior and get to know who someone is on the inside – as a whole person.

Our community can do more to be inclusive – going beyond classrooms, beyond schools, and to community playgrounds. Too often, children with disabilities are left on the sidelines to watch other children play. Parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all individuals regardless of ability.

The *Arc Park* will provide an opportunity for all children to play side-by-side, and feature accessible play equipment that exceeds ADA compliance requirements. This wonderful play space will allow children to experience the joy of outdoor play in a new dimension. Children will have the opportunity to think beyond labels and learn to play and grow together.

I fully support the *Arc Park*. It is important that we all work together – schools, government, private and nonprofit sectors – to increase access and improve the experiences of all children.

Sincerely,

Todd Hamilton  
Superintendent