Join City club for a tour of the Arc Park on August 20. In June, the ARC of Lane County opened phase 1 of its Arc Park. This is the culmination of a long effort that began when parents of differently abled children approached The Arc concerned about the lack of safe, accessible park spaces in our community. Local parks and schoolyards are often not fenced — a particular problem given the tendency of many special needs kids to wander off. Add concerns over the fact that most public play areas are not easily accessed by physically disabled youth: think muddy. As the Arc describes it, The Arc Park will foster friendships and provide learning and fun for people of all ages and abilities. It will be a park to play in and have fun! A park to meet new friends! A park to explore and be outside in the great outdoors!

This destination playground is for children of all abilities because it removes the barriers that keep many families from frequenting other local parks. grounds, woodchip surfaces, and minimal walkways.  On August 20, City Club will have an opportunity to tour the new park and learn how it reflects notions of “universal design” — a core concept that frames the park as a resource for all community members regardless of age or disability status. The space is intended for youngsters, adults, and seniors alike. This will be an in-person only event and City Club will require registration for the program so that the number of attendees can be managed. Registration will open on August 13, when an email invitation to register will be sent.

June’s Phase 1 opening of Arc Park celebrates the establishment of several impressive park elements like Toddler Town and Lane Forest Products’ donation of stunning Northwest-themed landscaping using premium artificial turf plus wood fencing enclosing the entire park. And then there’s the fully accessible, two-

story, Comcast Amphitheater, where this summer's entertainment includes movies, theater, and musical performances.

Over the next two years, the park will add a wealth of other features like the Community Village's water play areas, accessible sand boxes, and "hiding holes." A basketball court, picnic grounds, fitness area, Pirate's Cove, and other themed play areas will offer swings, a zip line, and a "sensory wall" featuring animal sounds and images.