

# Ozaukee PRESS

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## Run, Walk to benefit Possibility Playground

Organizers of Possibility Playground are calling on children, parents and adults of all ages to pitch in and help raise money next week for Ozaukee County's first universally accessible play area in Port Washington's Upper Lake Park.

The Possibility Playground Run, Walk and Roll on Saturday, May 31, is the final major fund-raiser for a playground that will cost \$450,000 to build.

"We are very grateful to the people who have already signed up to run, walk and roll with us, but we need hundreds to participate to make this event the success we envisioned," organizer Greta Schanen said. "This is going to be a day of fun for everybody and a great way to contribute to the first playground in the area that is truly designed for everybody."

The event will include a 3K walk and roll ideal for walkers with tots in strollers, children on bikes and people in wheelchairs, as well as 5K and 10K walks and runs that will take participants through scenic Port Washington.

The walks and runs begin and end at the future site of Possibility Playground in the middle of Upper Lake Park.

After the walks and runs, there will be plenty of fun at the children's carnival. There will also be live music by the Whisper System and a picnic.

On-site registration will begin at 9:30 a.m., with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. The runs and walks will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the carnival to follow.

Parking is in nearby Veterans Memorial Park just south of Upper Lake Park, as well as at the city marina and Ozaukee County Administration Center, 121 W. Main St. Shuttle buses will run from the lots to the park. Handicap parking will be available in Upper Lake Park.

Participants are encouraged to register by Saturday, May 24, to be guaranteed a T-shirt. The cost is \$40 for families, \$15 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3 to 17. Children younger than 3 are free. Participants are asked to raise money for the park by soliciting pledges. Prizes will be awarded to the top pledge-getters.

"Pledges are an important part of our fund-raising efforts, but the most important thing is that people just participate in the event and show their support," Schanen said.

Registrations will be accepted the day of the event, but the fees are \$50 for families, \$20 for adults and \$12 for children.

To register, visit [www.possibilityplayground.org](http://www.possibilityplayground.org) or pick up a form at Ozaukee Press, 125 E. Main St., Port Washington.

The rain date for the event is Sunday, June 1. The cancellation hotline is 284-7767.

Like other universally accessible parks, Possibility Playground is significantly larger than standard playgrounds and designed with all children in mind. Features such as extra wide ramps and Braille signs make the play area accessible to children who have disabilities, while the pirate ship, lighthouse and castle will appeal to all youngsters.

"This playground will have many features for children with disabilities, but I think there is a misconception that it will appeal only to these children," Schanen said. "This playground is going to be a highlight of the community for all children, as well as adults who might have trouble supervising their kids and grandkids on traditional playground equipment."

Organizers have raised about half the money needed for the playground, which is to be built by volunteers in September.



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