



Espy Adaptive Sports Complex: Major Renovations for Accessibility and Inclusion

Location: Espy Adaptive Sports Complex (formerly Franklin Park Adventure Center)
1755 E. Broad St., 43203

Project Cost: \$1.03 million (Capital Budget)

Completion: August 2025

Project Overview

Columbus Recreation and Parks' Therapeutic Recreation program provides accessible, adaptive and inclusive experiences in aquatics, health and wellness, leisure education, sports and summer camps. The program also offers both competitive and recreational sports opportunities for people with disabilities across central Ohio.

Each year, the program serves approximately 5,000 residents and operates from the Espy Adaptive Sports Complex, while also providing activities at facilities throughout the city. As the hub of this work, the Espy Complex plays a vital role in creating space for recreation without barriers. Opened in 1978, the facility required major updates to ensure it fully reflects the department's commitment to accessibility, inclusion and community.

Renovation Highlights

- Adjustable front desk to improve customer service, accessibility, security and aesthetics.
- New, level non-slip flooring designed for adaptive sports.
- New court lines for basketball, rugby, boccia ball and pickleball.
- Expanded and redesigned restrooms with ADA- and ambulatory-accessible stalls, and a universally accessible restroom with adult changing station, lift and track system and roll-in shower.
- Safety upgrades including rubber wall matting and suspended basketball hoops.
- Family and caregiver seating area to encourage connection and community.
- Expanded storage and a moveable curtain system for more efficient programming.
- Removal of an overhead ropes course to provide more space for the second floor workout area.



Accessibility & Inclusion

The renovations go beyond ADA compliance, reflecting a commitment to respect, dignity and inclusion for all participants. Several restroom stalls have been sized beyond ADA standards to ensure access by motorized mobility devices.

Community Engagement

The project team gathered input through 311 requests, feedback from program participants and recommendations from staff.

Community Impact

With these improvements, residents can access programs without barriers, enjoy greater independence and dignity in restrooms and shared spaces, and participate more fully in adaptive sports and recreation.

Project Partners

- MA Design (design)
- Tyveco (construction)
- Franklin County Board of Developmental Disabilities (grantor)