

Case Study

Hazel Abel Park



Details

Location: Lincoln, NE

Description: 1,485-square-feet of Safari Ultra

Project Needs

Soft, safe surface for children to play

Quality

Easy to repair and/or replace, as needed

Wide variety of pattern and color options

Project Benefits

Attractive

Durable

Eco-logical



Hazel Abel gets a Facelift



Hazel Abel was a distinguished woman of her time. Born in the late 1800s, she graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1908, and went on to careers in education and business. Most notably, she was the first woman from Nebraska elected to the U.S. Senate in 1954. In 1982, her daughter, Alice Abel, decided to honor her mother's legacy by having a park created in her honor. Although the park has served the neighborhood well over the years, it underwent a major renovation in 2010 to address safety and maintenance concerns. One of these issues was the park's playground.

“Hazel Abel Park is about a city block in size,” said William Weddle, Park Planner for the City of Lincoln, NE. “It's in our inner city of Lincoln. It has a fountain, gazebo, a lot of ornamental plantings, an iron fence that goes around the perimeter, and a playground. The playground was originally located in the northeast corner, the most remote area of the park,” said Mark Canney, Designer and Architect for the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Planning & Design Team. “For visual, safety and functional purposes, we relocated it closer to the front of the park near the gated entrances.”

Although the playground had been resurfaced over the years, the existing surface was 15 to 20 years old and in need of replacement. Without hesitation, the City of Lincoln installed roughly 1,485-square-feet of PlayGuard.

“PlayGuard is the product we have used as our standard playground surfacing product for 10-15 years,” said Weddle. “It's a very long lasting, durable, low-maintenance, high-quality safety surfacing.”

Manufactured in the U.S.A. by Ecore, a company that transforms reclaimed waste into performance surfaces, PlayGuard tiles are designed to reduce the risk of serious injury associated with falls from playground equipment. Any design inspiration or playful color scheme can be implemented with PlayGuard's custom color and logo capabilities.

“The actual PlayGuard product we used was the Safari Ultra series,” said Weddle. “It's laid out in a checkerboard pattern – black and gray – for a little diversity, and kids can play tic tac toe or four square right on the tile. It's kind of an extra benefit to that pattern.”

The Safari Ultra series features complimentary and easily coordinated wear layer patterns with heightened recycled content. The collection's color options can be used alone to create a subtle design or applied as complimentary patterns with selections from the Carnival Ultra line.

“We usually just use standard black tile on most of our playgrounds, so this was a chance to use colors in a different setting,” said Weddle. “Since then, we have used PlayGuard color products in a couple of other sites and are pretty pleased with it.”

In addition to being attractive, PlayGuard is functional. “It's so easy to take care of and easy to install - it glues right to the concrete,” said Weddle. “It's just a real good product for us. We see wear in some of the high-use areas, like under swings; and, as those wear down, they can just be pulled up and replaced. It's pretty seamless and simple to do. The longest PlayGuard application we have is 12-years-old, and it's hanging in there very well.”

When Hazel Abel Park was created more than 30 years ago, it was inspired by Victorian style and intended to look old fashioned. The recent renovations were “an opportunity to pay respect to the original park, but to make it a little more functional for today's activities; to modernize without losing any of the historic components,” said Canney.

The people of Lincoln Nebraska are enjoying everything Hazel Abel Park has to offer, especially its playground. “Our crew installed it, and they liked the ease of installation, the patrons like it, and the kids like it,” said Weddle. “We've had a lot of good, positive feedback on the whole project, especially the playground. I think it fits in well for the area. It's been a real good, positive thing for the community.”

