

## The Ansar Park

The Ansar park is a recreation area located in the town of Cartes, Cantabria, Spain. The park is made up of a playground, a sports zone, a park for the elderly and picnic and rest areas.

### The natural space

The main feature of the park is the place where it is built. The place is a completely natural space that has always been used by children from the area for their own enjoyment. Recently the town council decided to improve the area to create a safe place, enjoyable and respectful with the nature that was originally there.

In fact, the Ansar park receives its name from the group of birds that lives in it, geese from the species *Ansar*, and which currently have a protected area within the park. In addition, all the playground structures are surrounded by different tree species and waste containers destined for recycling.

To sum up, the park is a natural space where children have fun being in direct contact with nature, learning about the natural world that surrounds them and learning respect for the environment.

### Park accessibility

Not only the natural space makes this park a place where all people are welcome.

First of all, the city council has created a space in the car park for people with mobility impaired who may need it (there are 5 parking places).

Moreover, the access roads are wide, without potholes and renovated. There are several lines of buses that stop next to the park so they allow those who depend on public transport to go to the park.

Finally, one of the most important structures of the playground, is the recently added one, explained below, which allows the enjoyment of all children and that makes this park different from the rest ones in the city.



**The playground structure modified in order to make easier the access for all**



Photo taken on December 20, 2021

Colaboración entre la Universidad de Cantabria (España) y la Universidad de Catania (Italia) en el marco de la alianza EUNICE



## Inclusive structures

This playground is inclusive because it is a space designed for all children, regardless of their abilities. Everyone can enjoy the leisure elements that make it up. This is possible due to the fact that everything is designed to meet the children's needs. Especially highlighted is the construction of adapted structures so that any child has access to them without the need to be accompanied by another person, if it is the case, for example, a child with reduced mobility. As we can see in the pictures, the structure have ramps and enough space that favors the entrance to all.

Furthermore, we can find ping-pong tables or chess tables, valid to be used by all people. There is also a panel with sign language, which facilitates the relationship and communication between children because it is a point of unión between two different types of communication, available to all. This helps people who don't know sign language to learn it so that they empathize with those who can only communicate through them.

## Family areas

This park is not only enabled for the enjoyment of the little ones, the whole family can enjoy it. Currently, these areas have great possibilities and benefits for everyone. While the children play in the park, the adults can spend the afternoon strolling through the green areas next to the river and rest at the large wooden tables. The park for the elderly, the picnic áreas, and the sport zone are beneficial áreas for all the family members. Therefore, this space promotes mental health, help maintain a healthy and active lifestyle, even increases a sense of community.

## Conclusion

It is recommended to come and spend a fun and a pleasant time in this place, where you can enjoy a natural and sustainable environment and where you are welcome despite your conditions, since here there aren't barriers that prevent it. And if you come to accompany the little ones, you can also entertain yourself while they play.

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1. The Ansar protected area.
2. The inclusive playground structure
3. The access to the park
4. Family áreas





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Collaboration between the University of Cantabria (Spain) and the University of Catania (Italy)  
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