

Best Practices in Parks & Playground Safety

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Challenges Impacting Parks & Playground Safety

Short Staff—Where did all our
staff go?

Prioritizing

Multiple projects

Do you have support from upper
management?

Insufficient funding

The amount of use

**School playground equipment
in the year 1900.**



**Apparently in 1900 only the strong
survived recess**

How It All Started

Safety Concerns to Look For

Playgrounds

- ◇ Broken or burnt slides
- ◇ Chains or ropes tied to the structure
- ◇ Is the surfacing adequate?
- ◇ Missing bolts
- ◇ Worn “S” hooks

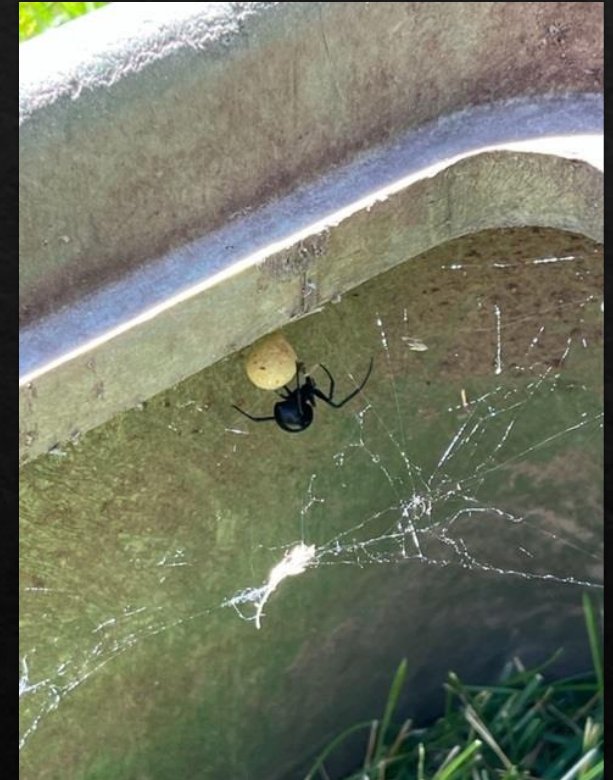
Parks

- ◇ Broken/missing valve box lids
- ◇ Water blow outs around irrigation heads
- ◇ Broken/hanging tree branches
- ◇ Trip hazards along sidewalk
- ◇ Missing electrical outlet covers

Playground Examples



Park Examples



Playground Injury Statistics

- ◇ 200,000 children ages 14 and younger end up in the hospital with injuries associated with playground equipment.
 - ◇ These injuries include:
 - ◇ Severe-fractures
 - ◇ Internal injuries
 - ◇ Concussions
 - ◇ Dislocations
 - ◇ Amputation
- ◇ More than 20,000 of these children are treated for traumatic brain injury.

Tips to Stay S.A.F.E.

- ◇ S=Supervision
 - ◇ Make sure signage is update explaining “supervision required.”
- ◇ A=Age Appropriate Equipment
 - ◇ Every play structure is rated for a specific age group. 2-5 year old children or 5-12 year old children. Make sure your signage clearly states the age group for that play structure.
- ◇ F=Fall Surfacing
 - ◇ Fall heights are different for each play structure. The amount of surfacing needed is based off of the highest designated playing surface.
- ◇ E=Equipment Maintenance
 - ◇ Frequently maintained playground equipment will significantly reduce the chances of a child being injured on the play structure.

Clearfield City Playground Inspection Form		
Playground Name:	Inspection Date:	
Inspectors Name:	Inspection Time:	
General Site		
Inspection Task	Compliant	Non-Compliant
Free on Trash		
No Broken Glass		
Adequate Trash Receptacles		
No Low Branches, Wires, etc		
Fences/Perimeter in good condition		
Acceptable Lighting		
Park Sign and Rules Posted		
No Insect or animal Problems		
Proper drainage		
Adequate Use Zones (6' or 72" for most purposes)		
Free of Vandalism		
Surfacing		
Inspection Task	Compliant	Non-Compliant
Adequate, Even Depth		
Adequate Cushioning/ Not Packed		
Heavy Use Areas Covered Well		
No Trip Hazards/ No Foreign Objects		
Anchors/ Footings Covered		
Equipment		
Inspection Task	Compliant	Non-Compliant
No Entanglement or Entrapment Hazards		
No Sharp edges or Portusion (< 1/8")		
No Loose Bolts, Skrews, Equipment		
No Deteriorated, Rusted, Warping Parts		
No Worn Bearings (check all moving parts)		
Moving Parts Lubricated		
No Unstable/ Loose Equipment		
All Equipment in Service		
Swing S hooks, Chains in good Condition (< .04" g		
No Forgin Objects in Play Area		
Ropes in good Condition/ No frays		
Corrective Actions		
Description of Deficiency	Corrective Measures	Date Fixed
Notes:		

Weekly Playground Maintenance Safety Inspection Form			
Playground Name:	Inspection Date:		
Inspector's Name:	Inspection Time:		
The Site		Compliant	
		Yes	No
Area free of standing water			
Trees pruned properly			
Walkways around play area free of debris			
Litter picked up			
Safety surface material adequate for play			
Loose fill			
Check for foreign objects above and below grade			
Material maintained to minimum 10 inch depth			
Rubber tiles/poured in place			
Surfacing secure & free of depressions/voids			
Check use zones around overhead, traverse/climbing elements, slide regions, beneath swings for wear			
The Playground Equipment		Compliant	
		Yes	No
Check for foreign objects on play surfaces, missing hardware, or other vandalism			
Check climbers, rails, steps, rungs, seats, & respective attachment hardware are secure and intact			
No chains, ropes, strings attached to equipment			
Signage			

Playground Inspection Sheets

Park Checklist

Park Inspection Checklist/Grade sheet

Park Name: _____ Date: _____ Crew: _____

Score: 1=Needs Attention 2=OK N/A

<p><u>GARBAGE – DAILY</u> M T W TH F</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Garbage picked up _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Garbage cans emptied and liner in place _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Large cans rolled to street for pick-up _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Dog stations refilled with liners _____</p> <p><u>RESTROOMS – DAILY</u> (If applicable) M T W TH F</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms cleaned and stocked _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti checked and removed _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All fixtures & lighting work properly _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drinking fountains working _____</p> <p><u>TURF</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Turf mowed _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Turf edged and trimmed (As <u>needed</u>) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Turf is free of weeds _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Turf is free of potholes _____</p> <p><u>PARKING LOT/STREETS</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gutters free of debris/weeds _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cracks free of debris/weeds _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cracks sprayed for weeds (As needed) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parking lot <u>lights</u> function _____</p> <p><u>WALKING PATHS</u> (If applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Free of debris/weeds _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cracks sprayed for weeds (As needed) _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Free of tripping/fall hazards _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Signs are in place and readable _____</p> <p><u>IRRIGATION</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation lids in place/not broken _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Heads checked for coverage _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation checked and repaired _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation schedule checked and adjusted (As <u>necessary</u>) _____</p>	<p><u>TREES</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trees free of suckers _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Broken/dead limbs removed _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tree rings free of weeds and debris _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tree canopy trimmed to appropriate height _____</p> <p><u>FLOWER/SHRUB BEDS</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Flower/shrub beds are free of debris/weeds _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Paths/walks are free of debris/weeds/dirt _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Beds are not overgrown on turf/sidewalks _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Plant material is healthy and not overgrown or dead _____</p> <p><u>PLAYGROUND</u> (If applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fall surface is raked _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Free of debris/weeds _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti removed _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visually inspected for cracked/broken/missing/loose parts _____</p> <p><u>PICNIC SHELTERS</u> (If applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Free of garbage _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Graffiti checked and removed _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tables are lined up and clean _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Concrete pad is clean _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shelter poles and roof in good condition _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Water and electrical operate correctly _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Picnic area is clean and fully operational (No graffiti, tables in place, electricity and water <u>function</u>) _____</p> <p><u>MISCELLANEOUS</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Storm water grates are free of debris/weeds _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <u>Overall park</u> appearance is neat, clean and professional _____</p>
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Misc. Notes: _____

Certified Safety Playground Inspector Course

- Provides comprehensive and up-to-date training on playground safety issues:
 - Hazard Identification
 - Equipment specifications
 - Surfacing Requirements
 - Risk Management Methods
- Those who complete the course will never view a playground the same again.



QUESTIONS?

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