

# CHAPTER 6

## PLAYGROUNDS

Playground Site Considerations

Play Equipment

Play Equipment | Modular Structures

Play Equipment | Swings

Intentionally Blank

# PLAYGROUND SITE CONSIDERATIONS

## PURPOSE

Playground sites shall provide a safe, clean and comfortable environment for children and adults. Playgrounds generally serve children 2-12 years of age.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Playground sites shall be designed to comply with the most current CPSC and ASTM safety standards and guidelines.

Site layout and landscape elements shall comply with the most current ADA/ADAAG standards and guidelines.

Water bodies (of any depth), pools, drainage systems, athletic fields, parking lots, streets with heavy traffic, and grill stations may conflict with playground uses. Fence or other approved physical separation barriers shall be provided.

Trees located within the playground area shall have an appropriate root zone barrier and shall be located outside of use-zone areas. Height clearances from play equipment shall be maintained as specified by CPSC and ASTM standards and guidelines.

Playground areas shall receive a moderate amount of seasonal shade throughout the day.

Play equipment shall be located and oriented to provide clear site lines from within the playground and surrounding areas.

Age-separated playground areas are recommended, however multi-age equipment within one playground area is acceptable provided that the playground has been designed and/or reviewed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI).

Each playground shall have a permanent park playground sign posted at the playground entrance or other high visibility location.

Playgrounds shall have appropriate safety surfacing.

## FEATURES

Related Standards: Fences | Chain Link, Fences | Metal, Receptacle | Trash, Picnic Table | Standard, Picnic Table | ADA, Bench | Park, Signs, Play Equipment, Playground Safety Surfacing.

Equipment and amenities shall be located together, within one designated area.

Careful consideration shall be taken to maximize play value within the designated playground area.

The minimum size of a playground shall be 1,200 square feet. Playground minimum size is based on one tot swing set and one or two small play features, each intended for children 2-5 years in age.

Intentionally Blank

# PLAY EQUIPMENT

## PURPOSE

Playground equipment shall maximize play value and safety, while minimizing long-term maintenance.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Playground equipment shall be designed and manufactured to comply with the most current CPSC and ASTM safety standards and guidelines.

Components shall be International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association certified or equivalent.

Playground equipment shall meet the most current ADA/ADAAG standards and guidelines.

Playground equipment shall be reviewed and approved by the Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Play equipment shall have an approved safety surface.

Equipment shall reflect context and aesthetics. Equipment shall coordinate with other park and playground site furnishings.

Play equipment shall be designed for children 2-12 years of age. Typical age ranges include pre-school (2-5), school (5-12), and general (2-12) years of age.

Related Standards: Playground Site Considerations, Play Equipment | Modular Structures, Play Equipment | Swings, Safety Surfacing.

## MATERIALS AND FINISH

Play equipment shall be constructed of durable materials designed for frequent exterior use and high resistance to varied climates and vandalism.

Wood and wood products shall not be used as materials.

Products containing recycled materials shall be used.

Play equipment surfaces shall be slip resistant and drain efficiently.

Main structural components shall be one-piece construction, with a minimum of bolts and fasteners. Structures with excessive joints, rough welded corners, pinch points, or other sharp edges or points shall not be used.

Use of light or bright colors shall be minimized on components subject to frequent wear or contact.

Hardware and fasteners shall be stainless steel or treated with a rust proof finish.

Maintenance kits shall be provided for each play apparatus.

Manufacturer and/or identification number shall be clearly displayed on each apparatus.

Labels indicating the intended user age group shall be displayed on each play apparatus. Labels shall be located at transfer stations or other well visible areas. Large play structures may require multiple labels.

## FEATURES

In addition to play equipment that has been recalled or not recommended by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the following equipment shall not be used in park playgrounds: clear bubble window panels, activity panels with small loose moving parts, roller slides, and log rolls.

The use of the following items shall be minimized: cables, ropes, HDPE panels and PVC coated components.

Crawl tubes, tube slides and enclosed play features shall have clear openings for viewing, and be no greater than 4 feet in length.

PVC or other plastic coatings shall not be used on flexible components such as chains and cables.

Components with S-hook hardware shall not be used unless approved by the Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

# PLAY EQUIPMENT

---

Sand boxes and toys not anchored to the ground are prohibited.

The Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities shall prohibit use of any additional equipment determined incompatible with these standards.

## INSTALLATION

Install equipment consistent with manufacturer recommendations and industry safety specifications.

Equipment shall be permanently ground anchored, or surface mounted to an approved surface.

Equipment footings shall be installed within the existing subgrade. Top of footings shall not be exposed above the approved safety surfacing.

## LIFE CYCLE EXPECTATIONS

Replacement parts shall be readily available for the life of the play equipment.

A warranty of 10 years minimum is required.

Play structures are anticipated to require replacement after 15-20 years based on normal and ordinary use.



Activity panel



Freestanding equipment



Themed playground

# PLAY EQUIPMENT | MODULAR STRUCTURES

## PURPOSE

Modular structures consist of several play components that are structurally linked or physically connected to each other.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Modular structures shall comply with the most current CPSC and ASTM safety standards and guidelines.

Components shall be International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association certified or equivalent.

Playground equipment shall meet the most current ADA/ADAAG standards and guidelines.

Fully concealed areas are prohibited.

Deck dimensions and layouts shall not promote loitering or unintended use.

Related Standards: Playground Site Considerations, Play Equipment, Play Equipment | Swings.

## MATERIALS AND FINISH

Support posts shall be 3 ½ inch minimum diameter for preschool (2-5 years) age structures, and 5 inch minimum diameter for school (5-12 year) age structures.

Posts shall be structural steel or aluminum with double powder coated finish.

Deck clamp and play component connections to support posts shall be factory pre-drilled.

Clamp assemblies shall be one piece and rust resistant.

## FEATURES

Equipment decks shall be 6 feet maximum vertical height measured from the top of safety surfacing, unless approved by the Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Roofs may be provided for shade and visual articulation. Roofs shall be powder coated perforated steel or other approved weather resistant material.

Inclusive play features shall be incorporated to the maximum possible extent.

## INSTALLATION

Equipment shall be installed according to the manufacturers' recommendations and industry safety specifications.

Equipment shall be permanently ground anchored or surface mounted.

Equipment footings shall be installed within the existing subgrade. Top of footings shall not become exposed above the approved safety surfacing.

## LIFE CYCLE EXPECTATIONS

Replacement parts shall be readily available for the life of the play equipment.

A warranty of 10 years minimum is required.

Modular structures are anticipated to require replacement after 15-20 years based on normal and ordinary use.

Individual play features are anticipated to require replacement after 10 years based on normal and ordinary use.

# PLAY EQUIPMENT | MODULAR STRUCTURES

---



Modular play structure



Modular play structure



Modular play structure

# PLAY EQUIPMENT | SWINGS

## PURPOSE

Swing sets shall conform to this section.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Swing sets shall be designed and manufactured to comply with the most current CPSC and ASTM safety standards and guidelines.

Components shall be International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association certified or equivalent.

Playground equipment shall meet the most current ADA/ADAAG standards and guidelines.

The standard swing is an arch-style frame. The standard height is 8 feet. Freestanding preschool-age swings shall be 7 feet vertical height.

There shall be at least one swing bay with one accessible seat.

Swing bays shall be continuous as space allows.

Swings shall be located to minimize circulation conflicts and the probability of conflicts with moving swings.

T-frame swings shall be used where space is limited in preschool-age only play areas. T-frame swings shall have two enclosed infant seats.

Related Standards: Playground Site Considerations, Play Equipment, Play Equipment | Modular Structures, Play Equipment | Swings, and Safety Surfacing.

## MATERIALS AND FINISH

Posts and beams shall be 3 ½ inch minimum diameter with a powder coat finish.

Surfaces shall be sloped to shed water.

## FEATURES

Accessible seats shall include easily lockable non-flexible harness, or other rigid restraining device approved by the Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.

Swing hangers shall be anti-wrap design to prevent chains from becoming entangled.

Enclosed infant seats shall have a solid handhold extending from the top of seat.

Chains shall be welded with galvanized or other corrosion resistant finish. Chain grade shall be #80 or have openings no more than ¾ inch.

Seat and chain connections shall be a horseshoe type bolt link.

Swings seats shall be constructed of black ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM) to resist cracking.

## INSTALLATION

Swings shall be installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations and industry safety specifications.

Equipment shall be permanently anchored.

Equipment footings shall be installed within the existing subgrade. Top of footings shall not be exposed above the approved safety surfacing.

## LIFE CYCLE EXPECTATIONS

Replacement parts shall be readily available for the life of the play equipment.

A product warranty of 10 years minimum is required.

Structures are anticipated to require replacement after 15-20 years based on normal and ordinary use.

Swings and chains are anticipated to require replacement after 8 years based on normal and ordinary use.

# PLAY EQUIPMENT | SWINGS

---



Enclosed infant seat with solid handholds



Bolt through clevis



Anti-Wrap hangar



Belt Seat

# PLAY EQUIPMENT | SWINGS

CHAPTER 6: PLAYGROUNDS



T-Frame Swing; Use only with enclosed infant seats



Two-bay swing set, arch frame; Shown with accessible seat, enclosed infant seat and two belt seats

Intentionally Blank