PRIMA'S 2018 RISK MANAGEMENT
WEBINAR SERIES

Parks – The Risks Beyond Slides and Swings

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Focus Today

The physical park

- Beyond playgrounds
- Beyond entity sponsored sports programs
- Beyond association sports teams on your fields
- Beyond swimming pools

All of these topics have had webinars completed

At the conclusion of today's webinar you will have the major topics to evaluate your park.

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits discrimination by public entities in services, programs and activities. Your ADA coordinator can help evaluate:

- Access to physical locations
  - Parking lot/sidewalk/playground/fields/restrooms…
    - No barriers to access
- Access to participate in activities/programs
  - Need to be open to reasonable accommodation
    - Move the location to an area that is accessible

Park Signs – Setting Expectations

Park signage sets expectations and reflects ordinances

- Park Use Rules
  - The rules are as posted
  - Hours, prohibited activities, hazards - lightning, repair #
  - Symbols are effective
- Each park should have similar signs and rules
- Ideally, design specs developed for park development/redevelopment
  - Signs
  - Sidewalk widths, amenities…



Park Signs – Setting Expectations

Unsupervised/Use At Your Own Risk Locations (park within a park)

- Skate park signs
  - Rules, recommended safety equipment., inclement weather use
  - Contact us - phone/email
- BMX track
- Spray pads
- Trails
- Sledding Hills





Security

Know what the crime situation is in the area

- Obtain law enforcement's crime activity report
- Law Enforcement often suggest alterations:
  - Place (lighting, shrub/tree trimming…)
  - Rules
  - Additional rounds
- Make changes as practical

Water Hazards

Ponds, Rivers and Reservoirs

- Sign for Hazards? Yes
  - No skating, no diving, water quality, obstructions…
- Fence the "elevated (prominent) hazards"
  - canals, drop offs, quarry (attractive nuisance)…
- Swimming area – designated (non-pool)
  - State rules: Buoy/rope, rules, No Lifeguard On Duty
  - Water Quality
    - Water quality tests done per state requirements
    - Closures/signage

Slip/Trip/Fall

- Typical parking lot & sidewalk - holes/raised edges
- Landscape cut-through
- Trails –
  - Erosion causing unstable or dangerous conditions
  - Protruding rebar
  - Improper/deteriorated handrails
- Sports fields
  - Sprinkler valve covers, water meters, gophers
- Bleachers

Bleachers

- Falls from bleachers; >30”
- Many built/installed when building codes were silent on opening sizes.
- Many are being given away and replaced with new instead of retrofitting
  - Beware of old free gifts

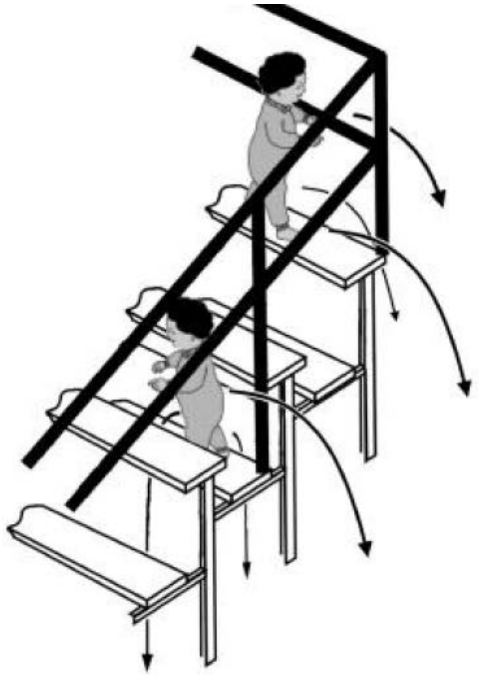


Figure 4: Inadequate guardrails and openings that permit falls from bleachers

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Pub. #330 Guidelines for Retrofitting Bleachers

Dead Trees

Need a process to ID dead trees/branches & remove

- Intent is to be proactive – remove before injury
  - Injury issue is severity rather than frequency
- All areas; anywhere public walks near trees
- Evaluate trees during the park evaluation

Resource - American Public Works Association

- Urban Forest Management Plan
  - Tree Risk Reduction Plan

Events In Your Park

- Internal vs. outside promoter (contractual)
- Permit/Authorization
  - Event characteristics, hazard level, duration…
    - Participant waivers per local legal counsel
  - Vendors: food, alcohol, performers, goods…
    - Contractual with insurance requirements + H.H.
  - Support: Entity or contractors (security, streets…)

Donated Art

- Artists donate sculptures and expect it to be displayed in a park or public space.
- Make sure you have a review process to evaluate hazards prior to accepting.
- If it looks like play equipment; it will be used that way.

What If It Looks Like This?



Inspections

Inspection frequency depends on intensity of use

- Infrequent use - No less than two per year
- Moderate use – At least 3-4 per year
- Heavy use – Monthly? Weekly?

Documentation is essential to:

- Keep track of locations you have/have not inspected
- Helps initiate work orders and maintains quality
- Helps prove you are not negligent

Maintenance

If the public visits the site…inspect it & maintain it or get rid of it.

Reasons for poor maintenance outcomes:

- Not installed correctly
- No schedule for inspections
- No defined levels of acceptable conditions
- No documentation of inspection, maintenance or repairs
- Poor supervisory follow-up/oversight

Park Challenges









Park Challenges









Park Challenges



