

Policy Name: Play Area Safety
Section: 3000 Operational: 3500 Parks
Policy Number: 0000

Purpose: To ensure safe play areas for the public by stipulating standards for playgrounds and play areas in parks.

Reference: None applicable

Policy:

The Park District is committed to providing high quality, well maintained, clean, and safe play areas for public use. Due to the many injuries related to public playground use, the District recognizes the importance of providing safe play areas for the public.

This policy is not intended to eliminate the need for adult supervision nor is it intended to eliminate the risk factors involved in play elements and events. The intent of this policy is to minimize the likelihood of life-threatening or debilitating injuries occurring from public playground use.

The Park District will ensure that play area design, construction, equipment, surfacing, and maintenance follows current best management practices and recommended guidelines as established in the following sources:

- Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook
- ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use
- ASTM Standard Guide for Playground Surfacing
- Other relevant ASTM standards (ASTM: American Society for Testing of Materials)

Play Design and Construction

The District will utilize the Consumer Product Safety Commission Handbook for Public Playground Safety in the design and construction of park play areas, and thereby ensure that playground design meets current standards and guidelines for public access by establishing age appropriate equipment, adequate space, adequate safety surfacing, and quality equipment.

Play Equipment & Surfacing

The District will meet the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use. The District will ensure that custom equipment or play elements have been initially audited by a National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) certified third party inspector and that an official written report has been filed stating the equipment meets all current standards and guidelines.

When utilizing equipment from playground manufacturers the District will ensure purchased equipment is compliant with the International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA) certified playground equipment program.

Playground surfacing installed in new play areas or used to replace existing surfacing will meet, or exceed, the minimum standards for fall zone protection as described in ASTM Standard on Playground Surfacing.

Play Area Maintenance

BIMPRD will utilize current best management practices as established in the Consumer Product Safety Commission Public Playground Safety Handbook in developing a specific Park District Play Area Maintenance Program for staff to follow in the field. Staff training will include play area safety, maintenance and construction, including the National Playground Safety Institute (NPSI) course for all pertinent staff.