



## **Parks and Playground Safety**

At RMI, we and fund members are responsible for creating safe, welcoming environments where families gather, children play, and communities thrive. Parks and playgrounds are meant to be places of joy, but without proper maintenance, they can quickly become hazardous.

This bulletin is a reminder that every inspection, every repair, and every safety check we conduct helps prevent injuries and protects the people who trust these spaces. From broken equipment and trip hazards to unsafe surfacing and missing signage, the risks are real. Whether you're a new crew member or a seasoned veteran, your attention to detail makes a difference.

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### **Park Rules**

- Post clear, visible rules at all entrances.
- Examples: No glass containers, adult supervision for children under 12, no alcohol, no profanity.
- Tailor rules to suit your community's needs.



### **Daily Inspections**

- Inspect parks and playgrounds daily.
- Document findings and corrective actions.
- Watch for:
  - Broken fences, benches, tables, signs
  - Trip hazards: exposed roots, stumps, rocks, uneven surfaces
  - Debris: glass, tree limbs, overflowing trash



*By: Nick McInnis  
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## **Equipment Safety**

- Check for rust, rot, cracks, splinters—especially at ground contact points.
- Ensure bolts/screws are capped and secure.
- Inspect moving parts (swings, merry-go-rounds) for wear.
- Verify all components are present: handrails, guardrails, steps, barriers.



## **Broken Equipment**

- Repair or remove immediately.
- Remove footings and level ground to eliminate trip hazards.



## **Use Zones & Fall Heights**

- Minimum 6 feet clearance around equipment.
- Larger zones for slides/swings based on height/type.
- Fall height = distance from highest play surface to ground.

## **Cushioning Material**

- Use approved surfacing: sand, mulch, wood chips, rubber mats.
- Maintain proper depth and coverage.
- Rake and inspect daily for foreign objects or hazards.

## **Accessibility**

- Must comply with ADA standards:



- Accessible parking, pathways, ramps, restrooms, fountains, and equipment.

## **Conclusion**

By staying alert to hazards, documenting issues, and following best practices for equipment, surfacing, and accessibility, we reduce liability and prevent injuries. Remember, the work you do today can prevent an accident tomorrow. Let's continue to take pride in our responsibility and stay committed to safety—not just because it's our job, but because it makes a real difference.

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