

Town of Polares
Entity

PLAYGROUND SAFETY AUDIT CHECKLIST

Major Types of Playground Equipment

Park/Playground Name: Polares Community playground Inspector's Name: Anthony S.
Address: JRP Date: 10-24-22

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Climbing Equipment (12.1)				
1. Are all climbers free of interior climbing bars or other interior structural components onto which a child may fall from a height of greater than 18 inches? (12.1.2)	✓			
2. Is climbing equipment provided with alternative means of descent, such as platforms or stairways? (12.1.2)	✓			
3. Are flexible grid climbing devices, such as net and chain climbers or tire climbers, securely anchored at both ends? If connected to the ground, one end should be anchored below ground beneath the protective surface. (12.1.3)	✓			
4. Are connections between ropes, cables, chains and tires securely fixed and in compliance with entrapment criteria? (12.1.3)	✓			
5. Are alternative means of access to equipment other than flexible grid climbing devices provided for preschool age children? (12.1.3)	✓			
Arch Climbers (12.1.4)				
6. Are alternative means of access other than arched climbers provided to equipment?			✓	
7. Is the equipment area for preschoolers free of free standing arched climbers?			✓	
8. Do the rung and ladder spacing comply with the recommendations of the CPSC?			✓	
9. Are handgrips between 0.95 and 1.55 inches in diameter? 1.25 inches are preferred. (10.2.1)			✓	
Horizontal Ladders and Overhead Rings (12.1.5)				
10. Is the center to center spacing no more than 12 inches for preschool age children ages four and five, and no more than 15 inches for school age children? Overhead rings are exempted from this spacing recommendation.	✓			
11. Are horizontal ladders intended for ages four and five parallel to one another and evenly spaced?	✓			

Horizontal Ladders and Overhead Rings (continued)	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
12. Is the first handhold not directly above the platform nor directly above climbing rungs used for mount or dismount?	✓			
13. Are handgrips between 0.95 and 1.55 inches in diameter? 1.25 inches are preferred. (10.2.1)	✓			
14. Is the maximum height of the upper body equipment above the protective surface 60 inches for preschool age children and 84 inches for school age children?	✓			
15. Is the maximum chain length of overhead swinging rings 12 inches?		✓		
Sliding Poles (12.1.6)				
16. Is the preschool age children's play area free of sliding poles?	✓			
17. Is the pole free of protruding seams or welds ?	✓			
18. Is there no change in direction along the sliding portion of the pole?	✓			
19. Where a child is likely to reach, is the pole 18 to 20 inches from the platform ?	✓			
20. Does the pole extend at least 60 inches above the access area ?	✓			
21. Is the pole diameter 1.9 inches or less?	✓			
22. Is the pole and access structure located so that other activities will not cause interference with use ?	✓			
Climbing Ropes (12.1.7)				
23. Are ropes secured at both ends and not capable of creating a loop with an inside perimeter greater than 5 inches?	✓			
Balance Beams (12.1.8)				
24. Is the maximum height of balanced beams 12 inches for preschool age children and 16 inches for school age children?	✓		X	
Layout of Climbing Components (12.1.9)				
25. Is equipment located so users will not interfere with users on other equipment?	✓			
26. Are adjacent structures located so that climbing on the upper body equipment is not facilitated?	✓			
Merry-Go-Rounds (12.2)				
27. If the merry-go-round is not circular, is the difference between the minimum and maximum radii less than 2 inches?			X	
28. Are all components such as handgrips within the perimeter of the platform?			X	
29. Is the underside of the platform no less than 9 inches above the protective surfacing?			X	
30. Is the maximum height of the standing surface 14 inches above the protective surface?			X	

Merry-Go-Rounds (continued)	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
31. Are handgrips between 0.95 and 1.55 inches in diameter? 1.25 inches are preferred. (10.2.1)			X	
32. Is the undercarriage free of shearing or crushing mechanisms?			X	
33. Is the platform surface free of sharp edges and continuous? There should be no openings between the axis and periphery 5/16 inch or greater.			X	
34. Is the speed of rotation limited to a maximum of 13 feet per second?			X	
35. Is the platform free of up and down motion?			X	
Seesaws (12.3)				
36. Are all seesaws in preschool age children's play areas equipped with spring centering devices ?			X	
37. Are the fulcrums of fulcrum seesaws free of pinching or crushing hazards ?			X	
38. If not equipped with spring centering devices, are tires or some other shock absorbing material embedded in the ground underneath the seats or secured to the underside of the seats of fulcrum seesaws to reduce impact?			X	
39. Are handholds which do not turn or protrude beyond the seat sides provided at each seating position?			X	
40. Are handgrips between 0.95 and 1.55 inches in diameter? 1.25 inches are preferred. (10.2.1)			X	
41. Are fulcrum seesaws free of footrests unless the seesaw is equipped with a spring centering device ?			X	
42. Do handholds and footrests comply with the entrapment guidelines?			X	
43. Is the maximum attainable angle of fulcrum seesaws 25 degrees?			X	
Slides (12.4)				
44. Does the slide comply with the access dimensions recommended by the CPSC? Is it free of entrapment hazards? (10.1-10.4)	✓			
45. Do platforms on free standing slides have a minimum length of 22 inches? (12.4.3)	✓			
46. Is the platform horizontal and at least as wide as the slide? (12.4.3)	✓			
47. Do guardrails or protective barriers surrounding the platform comply with the height requirements stated in the General Conditions audit? (11.1-11.6)	✓			
48. Is the slide free of spaces or gaps between the platform and the start of the slide chute? (12.4.3)	✓			
49. Are handholds provided at the slide entrance to facilitate the transition to a sitting position? (12.4.3)	✓			
50. Are handgrips between 0.95 and 1.55 inches in diameter? 1.25 inches are preferred. (10.2.1)	✓			
51. Is there a means (guardrail, hood or other device) to channel the user into a sitting position at the entrance to the chute? (12.4.3)	✓			
52. Are all spans on the slide chute 50 degrees or less? Refer to the CPSC handbook. (12.4.4)	✓			

Slides (continued)	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
53. Are all metal sliding surfaces located out of direct sunlight or north facing to help prevent burns? (8.3)			X	
54. Do straight slides with open chutes have sides at least 4 inches high along the entire length of the inclined sliding surface? (2.4.4)	✓			
55. Are the sides an integral part of the chute with no gaps between the sides and sliding surface? This does not apply to roller slides? (12.4.4)	✓			
56. Do the sides of circular, semicircular or curved slides comply with the CPSC recommendations for side height when evaluated by the chute width? (12.4.4)	✓			
57. Is the exit region horizontal and parallel to the ground with a minimum length of 11 inches? (12.4.5)	✓			
58. For slides no more than 4 feet in height, is the exit region no more than 11 inches from the protective surfacing? For slides over 4 feet in height, is the exit region at least 7 but not more than 15 inches above the protective surfacing? (12.4.5)	✓			
59. If spiral slides are used in preschool age children's play areas, are the slides one turn (360 degrees) or less? (12.4.7)	✓			
60. Are tube slides provided with barriers or surfaces to prevent sliding on the top (outside) of the tube? (12.4.8)	✓			
61. Is the minimum internal diameter of the tube slide no less than 23 inches? (12.4.8)	✓			
62. For roller slides , is the space between adjacent rollers and between the ends of the rollers and the stationary structure less than 3/16 inch? (12.4.9)			X	
63. Are more frequent inspections conducted to ensure there are no missing rollers or broken bearings ? (12.4.9)			X	
Spring Rockers (12.5)				
64. Is the seat area designed to be used only by the intended number of users?	✓		✗	
65. Are handgrips between 0.95 and 1.55 inches in diameter? 1.25 inches are preferred. (10.2.1) 64.	✓		✗	
66. Do handholds and footrest comply with the entrapment and protrusion guidelines?	✓			
67. Do the springs of the rocking equipment minimize the possibility of children pinching hands or feet?	✓			
Swings (12.6)				
68. Is hardware used to suspend the elements to the swing seat and to the supporting structure removable only with tools? (12.6.1)	✓			
69. Are S-hooks pinched shut or closed with a gap no greater than 0.04 inch? The gap should not admit a dime. (12.6.1)	✓			
70. Do swing supporting structures discourage climbing? A-frame structures should not have the horizontal cross-bars. (12.6.1)	✓			
71. Are swings not suspended with fiber ropes ? (12.6.1)	✓			

Swings (continued)	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
72. Are swing use zones separated so that they do not overlap others piece of equipment? (5.1.3 & 12.6.2)	✓			
73. Are swing bays limited to no more than 2 single axis swings? (12.6.2)	✓			
74. Are single axis swings detached from composite structures to discourage climbing? (12.6.2)	✓			
75. Are swing seats designed to accommodate only one user and constructed of lightweight rubber or plastic? (12.6.2)	✓			
76. Do the swing seats comply with the protrusion requirements as recommended by the CPSC? (12.6.2)	✓			
77. Is the vertical distance from the underside of an occupied swing seat to the protective surfacing no less than 12 inches for preschool age children? Is it no less than 16 inches for school age children? (12.6.2)	✓			
78. At the five foot level, is there a minimum distance of 30 inches between the side supporting frame and the swing chains? (12.6.2)	✓			
79. At the five foot level, is there a minimum distance of 24 inches between chains used to suspend swings? (12.6.2)	✓			
80. Are swing hangers on the top horizontal pole spaced at least 20 inches apart for each swing? (12.6.2)	✓			
81. If single axis swings are intended for preschool age children, are the pivot points no greater than 8 feet above the protective surfacing? (12.6.2)	✓			
Tot Swings (12.6.3)				
82. Are full bucket tot swings used?	✓			
83. Do bucket swings comply with the CPSC head entrapment/strangulation requirements?	✓			
84. Are tot swings suspended from structures which are separate from those for other swings, or at least suspended from a separate bay of the same structure?	✓			
85. Is the vertical distance from the underside of an occupied swing seat to the protective surfacing no less than 24 inches?	✓			
Multi-Axis Tire Swings (12.6.4)				
86. Is the tire swing suspended in a separate bay from other swings?	✓			
87. Is the tire swing not attached to a composite structure?	✓			
88. Are truck tires not used?	✓			plastic fake wheel
89. If steel-belted radials are used, are the steel belts concealed?			✓	
90. Do drainage holes exist in the underside of the tires?	✓		✓	
91. Is the hanger mechanism free of accessible pinch points?	✓			
92. Is the minimum clearance between the seating surface and the uprights of the supporting structure at least 30 inches when the tire is in the closest position to the support structure?	✓			

Swings Not Recommended For Public Playgrounds (12.6.5)	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
93. Animal Figure Swings: Is the playground free of animal figure swings? Rigid metal framework is heavy presenting a risk of impact injury.	✓			
94. Multiple Occupancy Swings (excluding tire swings): Is the playground free of multiple occupancy swings? The greater mass presents a risk of impact injury.		✓		
95. Rope Swings: Is the playground free of rope swings? Free swinging ropes may fray or otherwise form a loop presenting a potential strangulation hazard.	✓			
96. Swinging Dual Exercise Rings and Trapeze Bars (excluding overhead hanging rings such as those used in a ring trek or ring ladder): Is the playground free of swinging dual exercise rings and trapeze bars? These are considered items of athletic equipment.	✓			
Trampolines (12.7)				
97. Trampolines: Is the playground free of trampolines?	✓			

Additional Comments