

Nature Play Spaces & Playground Safety Standards

Maryland Nature Play Space Workshop
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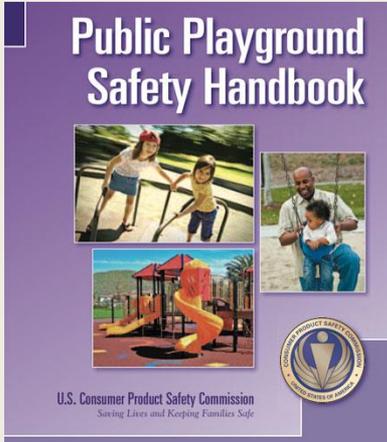
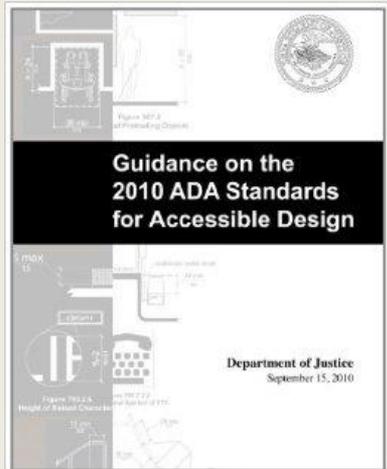
What is a public playground?

What applies & when?



- F1487-11
- F1292
- F1951
- others

What are we protecting for?



What is a CPSI?

Some Terminology



“Use Zone” vs. “Fall Height” & “designated play surface”

Major Hazard Types



**Head entrapment hazard
due to partially bounded
opening**



**Entanglement &
Crush/Shear
Hazards**



Protrusion Hazards

Safety Standards & Some Typical Nature Play Elements



Safety Surfacing Requirements

Table 2. Minimum compressed loose-fill surfacing depths

Inches	Of	(Loose-Fill Material)	Protects to	Fall Height (feet)
6*		Shredded/recycled rubber		10
9		Sand		4
9		Pea Gravel		5
9		Wood mulch (non-CCA)		7
9		Wood chips		10

* Shredded/recycled rubber loose-fill surfacing does not compress in the same manner as other loose-fill materials. However, care should be taken to maintain a constant depth as displacement may still occur.

CPSC p.11



Variety of surfacing

Terminology: “Critical Height”



Drainage layer below EWF



Surfacing Tragedy



About Plants



Poison Ivy



Thistle



Pokeweed berries

Plants complete nature play



Maintenance staff training and hand weeding will be necessary.
Plants are not included in the CPSI's scope of work.

Documentation

Terminology: “Audit” vs. “Inspection”

Labeling – manufacturer/designer

Inventory of elements and parts – designer should provide

Signage – age appropriateness, adult supervision recommended

Determine Routine inspection frequency

Designer should write a maintenance document for custom elements

Document inspections, repairs, routine maintenance, accidents

Time for Questions

