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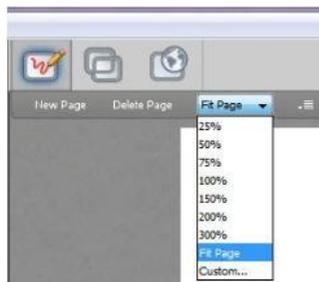


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Accessible Play Areas “Advanced Session”

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Presenters



Peggy Greenwell



Bill Botten

“Advancing Full Access and Inclusion for All”

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Session Agenda

- Coverage
- Referenced standards
- Alterations
- Clarifying terms and application of standards
- Ground level scoping provisions
- Technical provisions
- Playground surfaces
- Soft contained play structures

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Current ADA Standards

Department of Justice's 2010 Standards

March 15, 2012



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Covered

- State and local governments – schools, municipal parks and recreation departments, state parks, etc.
- Places of public accommodation - privately run day care, private schools, quick serve restaurants, shopping malls, etc.

Not Covered

- Child care centers that are actually run by religious entities such as a church run day care which includes religious instruction
- Private residential – HOA

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Existing play areas

- What about “grandfathering” and “safe harbor”? Are there requirements to address existing play areas that are covered by the ADA?
- What if we don’t have the budget to make changes?

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What about Existing ADA Play Areas?

- **Title II — Program accessibility**
- **Title III — Readily achievable barrier removal**

*For more information,
contact DOJ @ 800 514-0301*

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Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Standards



- Buildings and facilities constructed, altered or leased by or on behalf of the federal government and facilities constructed with Federal financial assistance allocated for the construction
- Employee day care centers, federal parks, other Federal leased facilities
- Play area accessibility standards effective May 8, 2006 - GSA

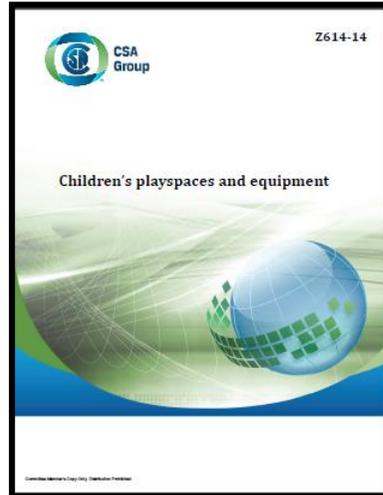


U.S. General Services Administration

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Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

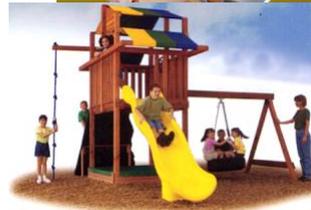
- CAN/CSA Z614, Annex H
- Annex H - requirements for Children's play spaces and equipment developed by the CSA Technical Committee.
- New construction and alterations.



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The play area standards also do not apply to:

- Play areas designed for children under 2 years old
- Family childcare facilities where the proprietor resides
- Amusement attractions



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Referenced Standards

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Referenced standards



- **ASTM F 1487-01** - Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use.
- **ASTM F 1292- 99 or 04** - Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment.
- **ASTM F 1951-99** - Standard Specification for Determination of Accessibility of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment
- Use of “Equivalent facilitation” for more recently published versions of these standards

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ASTM F 1487-01

- Defines the use zone as the ground area beneath and immediately adjacent to a play structure or play equipment .

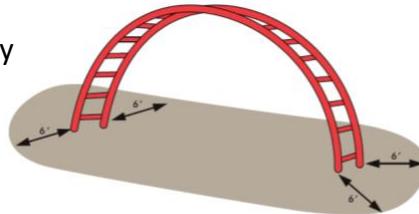


Figure 8. Use zone surrounding a freestanding arch climber

- Provides for unrestricted circulation around the equipment and on whose surfaces where it is predicted that a user would land when falling from or exiting play structures or equipment

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ASTM F 1292-99 or 04



- If located within the use zone, the accessible ground surfaces must also be impact attenuating
- No values shall exceed:
 - 200 g-max
 - 1000 HIC

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ASTM F 1951-99

- Wheelchair Work Test Method
- A lab test in a controlled environment
- 7% ramp used as baseline
- Measures work per sq. ft. for straight propulsion and turning.
- Records data applied to push rim over 6 ½ ft. distance



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Alterations

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Alterations vs. Maintenance

Normal maintenance activities such as replacing worn “S” hooks or topping off ground surfaces are not considered alterations.



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Alterations

- Actions that affect, or could affect, the usability of the play area.



- Examples include removing a climbing play component & replacing it with a spring rocker, or changing the ground surfacing.



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Alterations

Additional Requirements

- **When altering a “primary function area”**
 - Area altered must be in compliance with ADA or ABA Accessibility Standards
 - Provide “path of travel” to the altered area
- **20% Disproportionality Rule**



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When altering the play component...not the surface



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Replacing the entire ground surface...



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Clarifying Terms and Application of Play Area Standards

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Applying the standards

Play Area

- A portion of a site containing play components designed and constructed for children.



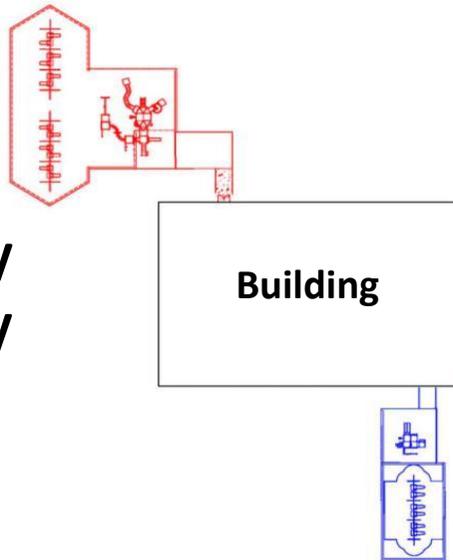
Area of Sport Activity

- That portion of a room or space where the play or practice of a sport occurs.



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Geographically Separated Play Areas



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Multiple play areas on same site



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What is a Play Component?

A play component is an element designed to generate specific opportunities for play, socialization, and learning.



Natural feature play components



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What is a Play Component?



What is not a Play Component?

- Transfer Systems
- Steps
- Decks
- Roofs

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Ground level play components

Approached and exited at ground level



Elevated play components

- Approached from elevated level
- Attached to composite play structure
- Components (counted once)



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Determining Ground or Elevated

Ground-Level Play Component



Elevated Play Component



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Can a free standing slide still be considered a ground-level accessible play component if it has another play component attached to one of its' posts, such as a play panel or a post climber?



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Ground Level Scoping Provisions

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Ground-level Requirement One of Each Type



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Ground-Level Requirements



More than one — integrated in the play area



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Minimum number based on the number of elevated play components provided

Number and Types of Ground Level Play Components Required to be on Accessible Route

- Minimum quantity of ground-level play components
- Minimum number of different types

Number of Elevated Play Components	Min. Number of Ground Level Components Required to be on Accessible Route	Min. Number of Different Types of Ground Level Components Required to be on Accessible Route
1	Not applicable	Not applicable
2 to 4	1	1
5 to 7	2	2
8 to 10	3	3
11 to 13	4	3
14 to 16	5	3
17 to 19	6	3
20 to 22	7	4
23 to 25	8	4
More than 25	8 plus 1 for each additional 3 over 25, or fraction thereof	5

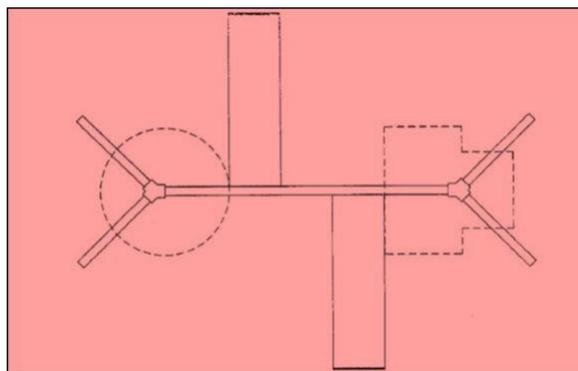
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Technical Provisions

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Vertical clearance

- 80 inch vertical clearance required on ground level routes, clear floor spaces, and maneuvering spaces.



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Ground Level Accessible Routes



- Surface
- Clear width
- Clear width reductions
- Changes in level
- Running Slope
- Cross Slope
- Openings
- Protruding Objects

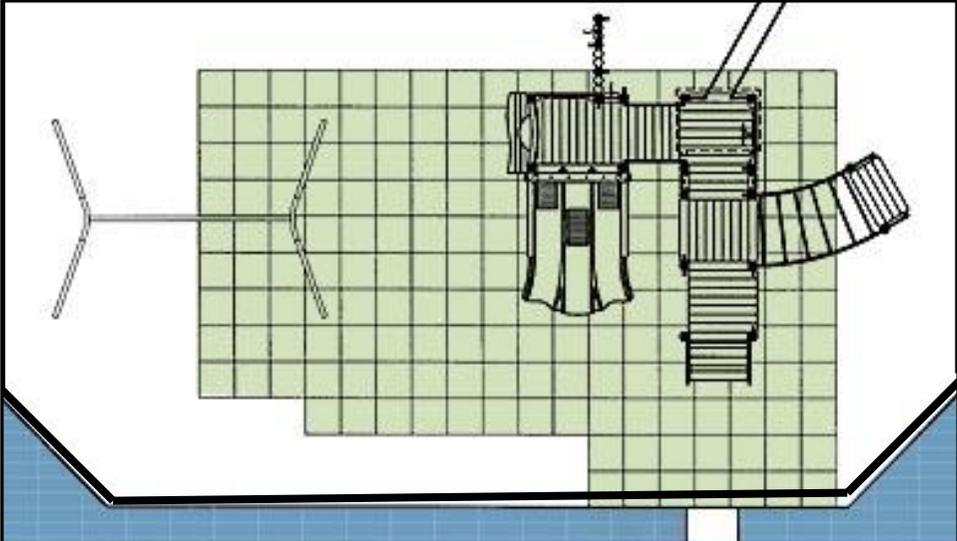
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Ground-level Accessible Route



Clear width 60 inches minimum

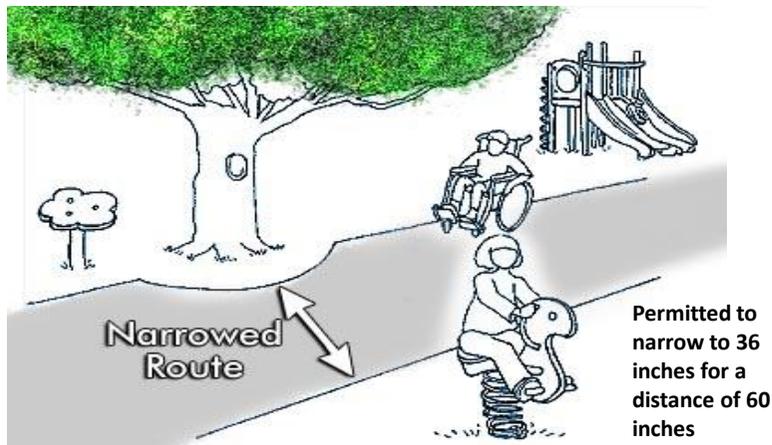
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Smaller Play Areas < 1000 sq.ft. must have:

- Ground accessible routes that are 44 inches in width
- Wheelchair turning space if route exceeds 30 ft. in length.

Clear width reductions



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Playground Surfaces

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5 Categories of Surfaces

1. Engineered wood fiber product
2. Shredded rubber / crumb rubber
3. Unitary rubber mat / tile surfaces
4. Unitary rubber “poured in place” surfaces
5. Combination or hybrid surface systems under development

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Longitudinal Assessment
NCA Playground Surface Study



**Longitudinal
 Study on
 Playground
 Surfaces**

Surfacing the Accessible Playground

7 Things Every Playground Owner Should Know About the Accessibility of Their Playground Surfaces

2016 A publication of the U.S. Access Board and the National Center on Accessibility

Selecting an Accessible Play Surface Is One of the Most Important Decisions

- 1** Start with comprehensive planning and site selection.
- 2** Follow the Accessibility Standards for Play Areas.
- 3** Review the research findings about accessibility issues for play surfaces.
- 4** Assess during the planning, installation and maintenance phases.
- 5** Compare surface options.
- 6** Recognize that proper installation of play surface systems is key.
- 7** Commit to ongoing maintenance of accessible playground surfaces as a responsibility of ownership.



prohibit adult caregivers with disabilities from engaging with their children and/or responding when a child is in need of assistance.

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2014) estimates there to be 2.8 million school-aged children with disabilities in the United States. The Census Bureau (2009) estimates that one in every seven American families is affected by disability. For children with and without disabilities, the community playground can facilitate a positive environment for physical activity and inclusion. Today, lack of physical activity is considered one of the leading factors contributing to poor health among children. The neighborhood playground fulfills a critical role in community wellness, enabling children to play with friends and burn calories at the same time.

Recreation professionals and playground owners are confronted with questions of how to install and maintain safe and accessible public playgrounds that are fun, promote inclusion and physical activity, are cost effective and able to withstand a full life cycle of public use.

Choosing play surfaces that are accessible and that can be maintained as accessible surfaces, becomes one of the most important decisions during the playground planning and design phases. The purpose of this guide is to provide practical information that every public playground owner should know about the accessibility of their playground surfaces.

When the playground has barriers prohibiting use by a child with a disability, the opportunity for play and physical activity is lost. Inaccessible surfaces can pose barriers for children with disabilities who may use canes, crutches, walkers or wheelchairs from amputating through the play area. Pushing a wheelchair over loose gravel or sand requires tremendous physical effort. When so much effort is exerted, little to no energy is left for play.

The presence of physical barriers can prevent children with disabilities from accessing all play elements on the playground. Most significantly, inclusive play between children with disabilities and children without disabilities is threatened when the playground does not have accessible equipment and surfaces. Physical barriers also

Engineered Wood Fiber



COMMON ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Improper installation and maintenance resulting in undulation across the surface

Material often displaced at heavy use areas

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Poured in Place Rubber



COMMON ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Cracking or flaking on the top layer

Divots and openings greater than ½ inch

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Rubber Tiles



COMMON ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Puncture holes and shifting seams creating openings and changes in level

Seam separation

Settling of subsurface

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Hybrid Surface Systems



COMMON ACCESSIBILITY ISSUES

Seams may separate or detach from border

Shifting of loose fill in base layer

Static electricity

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Field Testing



ASTM F1292-99/04
Impact Attenuation
Field Test: TRIAX



ASTM F1951-99
Wheelchair Work Force
Field Test: Rotational
Penetrometer

Soft Contained Play Structures

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Soft Contained Play Structure Entry Points

A play structure made of one or more components where the user enters a fully enclosed environment that utilizes pliable materials, such as plastic, netting, or fabric.



Transfer system permitted



▪ 3 or fewer entry points = 1 on accessible route

▪ 4 or more entry points = 2 on accessible route

Access Board Resources

- TA Guide
- FAQ's
- Webinars
- *Access Currents*
- Completed Research



Online Guides to the ADA /ABA Standards

Questions?

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Next session: March 5, 2015

“Open Question and Answer Session”

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AIA Provider Number: I017

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Course Title: Accessible Play Areas-Advance Session

Course Number: GL20150205

Date: February 5, 2015



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