



Anatomy of a Playground

Play Benefits



Cognitive Development



Problem Solving Skills



Social Skills



Physical Activity



Motor Skills

Nearby Restroom
(Optional)



Tots Play Area
(Under 5 years)



Adults Viewing Area



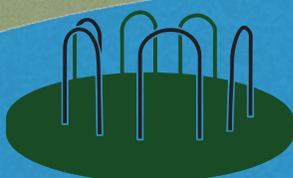
Drinking Fountain
(Optional)



Accessible Route 
60" wide minimum



Children's Play Area
(5-12 years)



Play Area Surface 
Protective surfacing for equipment access

SAN FRANCISCO
RECREATION
& PARKS

No Dogs 
No Adults
without Children

Standard Signage
According to park code

Fencing around Play Area
(Optional)

Accessible Gate 

Anatomy of a Playground

Created for the 2014 Failing Playgrounds Task Force

*All applicable state and city regulations for playground safety apply.
Infographic for illustrative purposes only.*

Always Present

- Play Area:
 - o Tots play areas include structures for infants (under 2) and pre-school aged children (2-4).
 - o Children's play areas include structures for children ages 5-12.
 - o There are currently no minimum number of required structures.
 - o Play structures typically contain elevated and ground-level play components. Most of today's structures are built with metal, fiberglass, wood and nets.
- Protective Surfacing: New playgrounds use rubber surfacing to provide adequate ADA access and fall zone for children.
 - o For a variety of reasons, the city does not approve of engineered wood fibers, wood chips, loose ground rubber, or sand.
- Adults Viewing Area: Seating area for adults to watch their children play.
- Standard Signage: Per park code
 - o RPD sign, No Dogs, No Adults without Children, Appropriate Age for Play Structures, No Smoking.
- ADA Compliance: Includes but is not limited to:
 - o An accessible gate at fenced areas with accessible hardware and 10" solid kick panel at the base of the gate with accessible lever hardware.
 - o An accessible route is 60" wide minimum with less than 5% grade.
 - o Contains accessible ground level play components and transfer tiers to upper level play components.

Sometimes Present

- Drinking Fountain
- Nearby Restroom
- Fencing around Play Area

Not Considered Part of Play Area

- Athletic Fields:
 - o Basketball court
 - o Soccer field
 - o Baseball diamond
- Clubhouse



Failing Playgrounds Task Force

www.sfrecpark.org/failing-playgrounds-2012-bond/

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