

PARKS INSPECTION PROGRAM

One of Parks' principal missions is to keep the parks, playgrounds, and sitting areas of New York City clean and safe. How does the agency know whether it's doing its job? The **Parks Inspection Program**, or PIP, monitors the quality of maintenance and the general conditions of the City's public parks and recreational facilities. All parks and playgrounds are randomly inspected in two-week cycles that cover 205 different sites. Every site in the City is inspected at least once a year; on average, most sites are inspected twice a year. Sixteen features in three categories are inspected at each site (see below for a detailed list of all features):

Cleanliness	Structural Features	Landscape Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Litter ♦ Graffiti ♦ Glass ♦ Weeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sidewalks ♦ Paved surfaces ♦ Play equipment ♦ Safety surfaces ♦ Benches ♦ Fences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Trees ♦ Lawns ♦ Athletic Fields ♦ Horticultural Areas ♦ Trails ♦ Water Bodies

RATINGS STANDARDS

- ✓ A site is rated unacceptable for cleanliness if any two cleanliness features are unacceptable, or if a single feature is "very unacceptable."
- ✓ A site is unacceptable as a whole if any three features of the sixteen are unacceptable or any single feature is "very unacceptable."
- ✓ Criteria for determining whether a feature is unacceptable are based on both the degree of the problem and its extent.
- ✓ For example, moderate litter in one small area of the park is acceptable; moderate litter in multiple areas of the park is unacceptable. Heavy litter anywhere in a very small park, such as a triangle or Greenstreet, is very unacceptable.

RATINGS RESULTS

- ✓ Ratings results are reported to the park manager. Currently only the year-end, citywide reports are available to the public.
- ✓ Go to www.nyc.gov/parks and click on "About Parks" and then "Parks by the Numbers." Parks is working on making park-by-park ratings available soon.

PARKS INSPECTIONS & VOLUNTEERS

- ✓ Parks staff can't be in the park all the time; your park manager and supervisor welcomes your help in keeping the park safe and clean.
- ✓ Use the worksheet on the reverse to identify features that are in need of improvement or repair.
- ✓ Keep yourself, safe, too—you can help with cleanliness and landscape features, but you should report any structural problems or immediate hazards to your park manager.

CLEANLINESS

<p>Litter—Check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improperly discarded trash <input type="checkbox"/> Large quantities of natural debris (leaves, sand, ice) <input type="checkbox"/> Health hazards—condoms, syringes, feces, stagnant waste <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal dumping in natural areas <input type="checkbox"/> Overflowing trash cans/bags 	<p>Weeds—remove from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Along fence lines <input type="checkbox"/> In between cracks in sidewalks & safety surfacing <input type="checkbox"/> Through all structural features
<p>Graffiti</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Remove all graffiti (including stickers & posters) on all surfaces, horizontal <i>and</i> vertical (when possible remove rather than paint over) 	<p>Glass:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Remove all broken glass, especially from: <input type="checkbox"/> Play equipment & safety surfaces <input type="checkbox"/> Active areas
STRUCTURAL	
<p>Sidewalks & Paved Surfaces—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Missing drain covers <input type="checkbox"/> Impaling hazard of 4 or more inches <input type="checkbox"/> Trip hazards <input type="checkbox"/> Uplifted flagstones <input type="checkbox"/> Chipping or splitting 	<p>Fences—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rust <input type="checkbox"/> Cracking/peeling paint <input type="checkbox"/> Missing tiebacks and crossbars <input type="checkbox"/> Sneakholes or holes in safety fencing
<p>Play equipment—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Worn or open “S” hooks & swing yokes <input type="checkbox"/> Loose boards & guardrails <input type="checkbox"/> Entanglement hazards <input type="checkbox"/> Pinch hazards <input type="checkbox"/> Sharp or protruding bolts, or loose bolts <input type="checkbox"/> Splintering, damaged, or rotten timber 	<p>Benches (includes picnic tables)—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Missing slats <input type="checkbox"/> Protruding bolts <input type="checkbox"/> Cracking/peeling paint <input type="checkbox"/> Other structural deterioration
<p>Safety surfaces—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Missing pieces <input type="checkbox"/> Gaps 2 inches or wider <input type="checkbox"/> Exposed metal plugs 	
LANDSCAPE	
<p>Horticultural Areas—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Dead/dying plants <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds <input type="checkbox"/> Bareness <input type="checkbox"/> Generally unkempt appearance 	<p>Lawns & Athletic Fields (including tracks)—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrowth greater than 6 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Bare patches <input type="checkbox"/> Brown areas <input type="checkbox"/> Holes
<p>Water Bodies—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Debris <input type="checkbox"/> Algae <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive plant growth 	<p>Trees—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eye-level hanging limbs <input type="checkbox"/> Dead branches <input type="checkbox"/> Protruding stumps
<p>Trails—check for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Overgrowth <input type="checkbox"/> Rutted or uneven pathways 	

