

1 **BOARD BILL NO.185 INTRODUCED BY ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE**  
2 **INGRASSIA**

3 An ordinance pertaining to all parks which are owned and maintained by the City of  
4 St. Louis; prohibiting any persons not accompanying a child from being in or upon the confines  
5 of areas designated as children’s play areas which are owned and maintained by the City of St.  
6 Louis; containing an emergency clause.

7 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS AS FOLLOWS:**

8 **SECTION ONE. Legislative Purpose.**

9 WHEREAS, play activity is vital to the beneficial development of children and research  
10 has indicated that outdoor play provides physical, emotional, social and cognitive enrichment  
11 and advancement for children; and

12 WHEREAS, many public parks in the City of St. Louis provide dedicated play space for  
13 children and minors enhancing child development, social interaction skills and the ability to  
14 engage in physical exercise; and

15 WHEREAS, certain play areas for young children are not intended for use by adults or  
16 older children, other than those persons accompanying children, and are intended to furnish age  
17 appropriate recreational play equipment and open space to accommodate child’s play when  
18 children are supervised by parents, guardians, caretakers or other appropriate adults. Appropriate  
19 recreational play equipment is often designed for children between the ages of two (2) and  
20 twelve (12); and

1           WHEREAS, in order to provide for the safest play areas for children and minors in the  
2 City of St. Louis, and to maximize play area equipment availability, the St. Louis City Revised  
3 Code should be amended and allow for the designation of specific areas within City parks by the  
4 Division of Parks to be designated a “Children’s Play Area” which shall be for the exclusive use  
5 of children twelve (12) years or younger and for persons accompanying such children; and

6           WHEREAS, it is the intent of this legislation to protect the safety, welfare and general  
7 well being of all children playing in St. Louis City parks.

8           **SECTION TWO. Definitions.**

9           For the purposes of this ordinance, the following terms shall mean:

10          “City” is the City of St. Louis and any of its duly created agencies.

11          “Child” is a person that is twelve (12) years of age or younger.

12          “Children” are a group of individuals of which no person is older than twelve (12) years  
13 of age.

14          “Division of Parks” is the Division set forth in Art. XIII § 14-B(b) of the Charter of the  
15 City of St. Louis.

16          “Park” is any area owned and maintained by the St. Louis Director of Parks, Recreation  
17 and Forestry, including any sidewalk immediately adjacent to such area but not extending past  
18 the curb line of such sidewalk.

19          “Children’s Play Area” is an improved area wholly located within a park, not including  
20 the entire park, owned and maintained by the City of St. Louis that is designed, equipped and set

1 aside for children to play therein and is designated by the Division of Parks as a children’s play  
2 area.

3 **SECTION THREE. Prohibition of Persons in Children’s Play Areas.**

4 Notwithstanding the provisions of any other ordinance to the contrary, no person older than  
5 twelve (12) years of age shall be in or upon the confines of a Children’s Play Area which are  
6 owned and maintained by the City of St. Louis, unless they are accompanying a child or group of  
7 children, between the time of 10:00 a.m. and the park curfew. It shall not be a violation of this  
8 ordinance for parents, guardians, caretakers or other appropriate persons to accompany a child or  
9 children in a Children’s Play Area. Nor shall it be a violation for authorized City employees or  
10 other authorized workers to be present in order to maintain the grounds and equipment.

11 **SECTION FOUR. Designation of a Children’s Play Area by the Division of Parks.**

12 For the purposes of this title and chapter, the Division of Parks must identify an area as a  
13 Children’s Play Area by clearly and conspicuously displaying signage and boundary markings  
14 with signage that reads as follows:

15 “CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA: Only persons twelve (12) years or younger and those  
16 accompanying such persons are permitted in this area. All other persons are prohibited from this  
17 area and subject to a citation and fine.”

18 **SECTION FIVE. Penalty for Violation.**

19 Any person violating the provisions of this chapter and title shall, upon being issued a citation by  
20 a police officer or park ranger of the City of St. Louis and found guilty thereof, be punished by a  
21 fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 per occurrence.

**September 20, 2013**

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**Sponsored by: Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia**

1 **SECTION SIX. Severability Clause.**

2 If any part of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent  
3 jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this  
4 ordinance.

5 **SECTION SEVEN. Emergency Clause.**

6 This being an ordinance for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety, it is hereby  
7 declared to be an emergency measure within the meaning of Sections 19 and 20 of Article IV of  
8 the Charter of the City of St. Louis and therefore shall become effective immediately upon its  
9 passage and approval by the Mayor.