

Foxlease Park Risk Assessments



Location:	Foxlease Park	Assessor:	Alison Dixon
Date of Assessment:	20/04/2026	Date of review:	20/04/2027
Description of area or activity:	Raft Building	Technical Advisor:	Alison Dixon
Equipment used:	Logs for 2 rafts, rope and barrels		

Hazard	Discription of potential accident/injury/loss	Who is affected	Precautions/controls already in place	Risk S	Risk L	Risk F	Further control measures applied	Action by	Net S	Net L	Net F	Comment
Paddle / log hitting head	Head injury	All participants	The group will be briefed at the start of the session to be aware of others around them. Participants are to be warned about the dangers of striking another participant with equipment. Demonstrations by the instructor on how to move the logs, assemble/disassemble the rafts. If deemed necessary, helmets should be worn by participants/ instructors at all times. Paddles will be given to participants after everyone has boarded the raft.	3	2	6	Minimum qualification required is an in-house training with a paddlesports safety and rescue qualification. See the activity policy for further information on instructor training/qualification and equipment checking.	Instructor	2	2	4	
Entrapment - afloat	Drowning	All participants	Participants will be instructed not to stand up on the rafts. Participants will be instructed to sit down on the raft as soon as possible. The instructor will brief participants on what to do if they end up in the water before going afloat. All participants must wear a personal floatation device.	5	2	10	Instructors will carry a knife to use to cut ropes if required. The use of knives will be covered in staff training.	Instructor	1	2	2	
Equipment failure	Rafts may sink, entrapment, drowning	All participants	All instructors trained in procedures and methods of checking equipment. Equipment is checked before use in addition to inspections at least every 6 months by qualified instructors.	5	1	5		Foxlease Park Lead Activity Instructor	3	1	3	

Adverse weather: lightning	Hit by lightning possible death	Customer/ Instructors	If there is thunder and lightning the activity is stopped and the 30/30 rule is followed (if the flash to bang is 30 seconds in length or less you should seek shelter. Staying inside this shelter is advised until 30 minutes past the last clap of thunder) Weather forecast to be checked at the start of the day by Activity Manager or Duty Manager.	5	1	5		Instructor/Activity Manager	2	2	4
Effect of cold water	Hypothermia. Cold water shock, panic, drowning	All participants	Participants told to wear suitable clothing for weather conditions—instructor to check that participants are adequately dressed. Participants will be instructed to wear flat-soled shoes, trainers, or wet boots. An appropriately sized personal floatation device must be worn at all times and correctly adjusted before the group goes afloat. No planned capsizes will take place. Any participants who capsize in cold weather are rescued quickly, monitored for signs/symptoms and sent off the water to change/warm up if needed.	4	2	8	Demonstration and checks to be made by instructor prior to going afloat	Foxlease Park Lead instructor & instructors on the day	3	1	3
Multiple rafts fail	Many people in the water adding to time in potentially cold water	All participants	A minimum ratio of 1:10 instructor to participants. Any weak or non-swimmers will wear a 100-newton lifejacket and will be visible to the instructor. Instructors to keep the group in the same area and to be within easy reach of all participants. If multiple participants are in the water, the instructor will ask that they make their way to the nearest bank. Instructor to complete a head count.	2	3	6	Group control should always be maintained by the instructor. All instructors are to have completed the in-house Rescue Safety Training. The instructor will be in a canoe for safety and rescues. The instructor will brief the participants the the session is not a swimming session and will end the session if deemed unsafe.	Instructor	2	2	4
Injury from carrying and storing equipment.	Back injury	Participants/ instructors	Instructors will receive training in how to safely move equipment on and off the water. Minimum 2 persons to carry a log or barrel. Ensure surrounding area is kept clear.	2	2	4	In-house training will explain how to operate a raft-building session. Equipment is stored with easy access to avoid injuries.	Instructor	2	1	2
Lone working	Unable to get help	Instructors	All instructors to carry radios on water sessions in waterproof bags	3	1	3	The duty manager/Activity Manager will check in with the instructor during the day. All instructors will be confident in leading a session and know what procedures to take if assistance is required.	Instructors	2	1	2

Contact with / ingestion of blue / green algae	Skin rashes, nausea, vomiting, stomach pains fever and headaches. Occasionally it can cause more serious illness such as liver and brain damage	Customer staff	Low levels of algae: warn participants of the hazard, run sessions away from bloom(s), don't play wet games, provide fresh water to rinse off with after the session. Mid-levels of algae: run all sessions as rafted canoe sessions, run sessions away from the bloom(s), don't play wet games, provide fresh water to rinse off with and showers back on site after the session. High levels of algae: Cancel all sessions.	5	2	10		Instructor Group leader	3	2	6
Finger entrapment whilst building the raft and whilst afloat	Injuries to fingers	Everyone	Participants are briefed at each stage of building the raft. The instructor will ensure each stage has been completed and the knots are secure before moving to the next stage. Warnings will be given to participants on where not to place their fingers. If the raft begins to fall apart on the water, the instructor must make the decision to remove the raft from the water to retighten the ropes.	4	3	12	Instructors will take part in in-house training. Instructors will retie any loose ropes and barrels before going afloat if participants are struggling.	Instructors	3	2	6
Launching from jetty	Jetty's can become slippery when wet or when participants have wet shoes. Participants slipping into the water whilst climbing aboard rafts. Slips, cuts and potential bone injuries on hard surfaces.	All participants and onlookers	All participants are to wear a personal flotation device when on or around the water. Instructors will brief participants on the hazards of the launch areas. Jetty to be cleared and cleaned at the start of the season and after high water over the jetty area—monitor throughout the season	2	2	4		Instructors	2	1	2
Launching from bank	Slips, trips and fall injuries whilst launching the rafts. Muddy banks and roots are causing participants to injure themselves or fall into the water.	Participants /instructors	Launching places are inspected regularly for hazards. Participants and instructors will be wearing a personal flotation device before launching raft. Clear instructions on launching techniques will be explained to the participants before going afloat.	4	2	8	Helmets will be worn by participants.		3	2	6
Rafts floating into out-of-boundary areas	Many people in the water adding to time in potentially cold water	All participants	Clearly instruct participants on boundaries, and stagger them as they get onto the water at the start of the session, as this will be the point of least control. Wind direction and water levels will have an impact—liaise with more qualified on-site instructors regarding the suitability of the water conditions.	2	2	4	Bouyage in the lake to define boundaries. Instructors will receive in-house training on the best way to get participants on the water and how to deal with nervous/struggling participants.	Instructors	1	1	1
Entrapment within reeds / plants	Lots of aquatic plants with deep roots potential entrapment issues	All participants	Boundary and hazard areas explained before getting on the water. Lake is assessed on a regular basis and 'gardening' to be performed when necessary.	3	3	9	If required, a weed cutter will be brought on-site to cut back or uproot the plants.	Instructor / Maintenance team	2	2	4

Loose jewellery	Entrapment injuries such as fingers, ear injuries from long earrings	All Participants	All participants advised to remove or tuck out of the way all jewellery before the start of the session	4	1	4		Instructors	2	1	2	
Insufficient adult supervision	Crowd control causing the instructor to need to intervene. Group behaviour causing instructor to intervene, Child protection level is higher due to only one staff member present	All users	Group leader / supervising adult is responsible for the behaviour and pastoral care for the group, however on occasion the leader may need to step away from the activity.	3	1	3	Staff have had Safeguarding training and are aware of their position within the group. Staff are aware that, if needed, they can end/pause the session or have participants sit out. Staff can radio or contact other staff members or office/senior staff for backup.	Foxlease Park	2	1	2	
Water borne infections	Nausea / vomiting / upset stomach	All participants	Provision for participant to wash hands in clean water before consuming food. Anyone who suffers from an open wound (Bleeding) must have it washed and dressed immediately. Only if the wound can be covered by a waterproof dressing may the participant continue the activity. Group leaders are to be aware of any illnesses after the activity and seek a doctor's advice immediately.	5	1	5	Prevention measures against water-borne infection groups leaders are advised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters.</li> <li>• that participants need to wear footwear to avoid cutting the feet.</li> <li>• that participants shower soon after the activity, especially if they have capsized.</li> <li>• that participants, always wash your hands after paddling and before eating or drinking.</li> </ul>	Group leader	3	1	3	