**Public Spaces Tool  
Melissa McCay**

Record the place you visit (name/identification) **Haverford College, Haverford, PA**

Day and time visited: **Saturday 11/5, 10:30 AM**

To assess your public space, use these categories to analyze the different aspects, and respond as indicated.

1. Places to sit
   1. How many chairs/benches/tables? **Upwards of 20 benches, 10 Adirondacks, tons of flat grassy areas to put a blanket, four sets of bleachers near sports fields**
   2. Are they spread out throughout the space, or clustered together? **Spread**
   3. Height
      1. No higher than average waist? **Yes**
   4. Barriers to seating **No**
      1. Any stones or slants?
      2. Is there a way to adapt to the barrier? **N/A**
   5. Width
      1. Is there space for people on either side of the seating areas? **No**
   6. Are there movable seats? **Yes**
      1. Do people willingly move the seats? **Yes**
      2. How many people can sit in the moveable seats? **10**
2. Water **Yes**
   1. Is it permissible to play in the water? **No**
   2. Is it permissible to wade in? **No**
   3. Does it provide a soothing “sound effect?” **When fountain is on in main pond and the stream in the woods flows freely after a storm.**
3. Public art **Yes**
   1. Is it interactive? **No**
   2. Are you able to sit on it / touch it? **No**
   3. Is it accessible? **Yes**
      1. Is it no more than 3 feet elevated or recessed by stairs from ground level? **Yes**
4. Open Space
   1. Is there a fair amount of open space? **Yes, 200 acre campus total**
   2. Is there lots of green space/ hard space? **Yes**
      1. Some people may be drawn for certain activities in certain areas **Frisbee, sports, track**
   3. Are there areas for sporting? **Yes**
   4. Are there areas for picnicking? **Yes**
   5. Are there areas for small children? **No/Yes – there is a duck pond where there are little kids**
5. Trees: Rate each on a scale from 1-10.
   1. Are they older? 1=very young “stick’ trees; 5=about two stories tall; 10 very tall, providing shade to street and yards. **1-10 (The college is consistently planting new trees to enhance its campus)**
   2. Are they organized into groves or bunched? 1= just a few places; 10=virtually everywhere. **8 (almost everywhere, but plenty of open green space with grass and a meadow with reeds)**
   3. Do they provide shade and cover in hot weather? 1=no; 3=for front yards; 5=for walkers; 7=for walkers and parked cars; 10=everything in shade **7-10**
   4. Aesthetically pleasing? **10**
   5. How much of the space is shaded by trees? 1=part of yard; 5=sidewalk; 10=whole street. **8**
6. Food / Vendors during most usage periods? **No**
   1. Absent Present for “events” Present seasonally Mostly present
   2. Seating for the vendor?
   3. Seating (formal and informal) for the public (whether purchasing food or not)?
7. Accessibility **Yes**
   1. Is it easily accessible to the public? **Yes**
   2. Can you walk to the public space? Is transportation nearby? Bike accessibility? **Yes, within a block there are bus stops and a train station. Many bike racks present.**
   3. Is it a high traffic area? **Yes (located on an arterial street)**
   4. Is it easily visible from street? **Yes, but because of it’s size only a portion of it is near the busy street**
      1. Does the public space seem open, well lit, and visible enough to feel safe? **Yes, but it is closed after dark, still well lit, but not open to public**
   5. Is the public space occupied by people? **Yes**
      1. People like to go where other people are **Only if their meeting**
8. Sociability. Rate on a scale from 1-10.
   1. Can you enjoy the space either alone? 10=quickly incorporated into conversations; 1=nobody talked to you except employees. **3-5**
   2. Can you enjoy the space in groups? **10**
   3. Are people socializing? 10= everyone; 5=if they came in groups; 1=most silent. **2 most people are working out / in motion**
   4. Do groups of people tend to stay close to each other or are they far apart? **Groups who meet there or come together stay close; it isn’t awkward or noticeable if you are located near another group but a lot of people are in motion**
   5. Do people seem to be meeting one another there? 1=no; nobody arrived alone; 10=common **5**
   6. Does it show signs of inaccessibility to different groups? **Yes** 
      1. Are there signs of racism, sexism, social-class exclusion? **Based on acceptance rate, the students are fairly homogeneous in social-class, but the public vary and there are no barriers in their way**
      2. Are there signs of exclusion by physical abilities? **Yes. Wheelchair bound people and struggling walkers would have to stay on paved places / roads.**
9. Time of Day
   1. When are people most likely to be in the public space?
      1. Night (after dark) or **daytime**?
      2. **Morning, Afternoon, or Evening**?
   2. Does the public place “close” **Yes and no, the nature trail closes at dusk but the campus is always open and well lit**
10. Vicinity
    1. What is around the space? Classify (circle) and Describe.  
       **Houses** **Apartments** **Small Businesses** **School** Factory/Big shopping ctr  
       Church **Public Bldgs Private land without houses** Warehouses

**Dorms, post office, dry cleaners, dentists, CVS, restaurants, train station, high speed line stop, bus stops, banks, spa, nail salon, frozen yogurt shop, bagel shop, coffee shop**

1. Are there areas to play and exercise? **Yes**
   1. Large grassy areas? **Yes**
   2. Play equipment?
      1. Interactive: basketball courts, tennis courts, chess boards, other **X: track, nature trail (2 mile loop), baseball field, field hockey / lacrosse field**
      2. Solo: areas to **run, fitness “trail,”? Yes**
2. Cleanliness:
   1. Is the place clean? 1=dirty/unhygienic, 10=surgically clean **10**
   2. Is it being actively cleaned (do you see people cleaning it)? **Yes** No
   3. How accessible are the trash cans? None Few, far apart **Many**, scattered throughout.
   4. How bad a problem is litter? 1=lots of litter, everywhere; **10=no litter**
   5. Are there “Park adopted by…” signs? Yes **No**
      1. Is there evidence that adoption is active? Is trash picked up, etc.? Yes No
3. Decorations within public space?
   1. Banners, flags, flowerbeds, etc? **College banners, upcoming events, gardens**
4. Threats and problems diminishing use? (homeless, gang, or threatening people using it? Dangerous or unpleasant spaces, etc.) **No**