

# Public Spaces Tool

Record the place you visit (name/identification) Little Peoples Park

Day and time visited: 10/29/2016 5:00 pm 50°F

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

## 1. Places to sit

- a. How many chairs/benches/tables? 2 benches, 1 picnic table
- b. Are they spread out throughout the space, or clustered together? Dispersed
- c. Height
  - i. No higher than average waist? knee-high
- d. Barriers to seating
  - i. Any stones or slants? NO
  - ii. Is there a way to adapt to the barrier? NO
- e. Width
  - i. Is there space for people on either side of the seating areas? yes
- f. Are there movable seats? picnic table is
  - i. Do people willingly move the seats? yes
  - ii. How many people can sit in the moveable seats? 6

## 2. Water

- a. Is it permissible to play in the water? N/A
- b. Is it permissible to wade in? N/A
- c. Does it provide a soothing "sound effect?" N/A

## 3. Public art

- a. Is it interactive? N/A
- b. Are you able to sit on it / touch it? N/A
- c. Is it accessible? N/A
  - i. Is it no more than 3 feet elevated or recessed by stairs from ground level?

## 4. Open Space

- a. Is there a fair amount of open space? Small open space
- b. Is there lots of green space/ hard space? "
  - i. Some people may be drawn for certain activities in certain areas
- c. Are there areas for sporting? NO
- d. Are there areas for picnicking? yes
- e. Are there areas for small children? yes

## 5. Trees: Rate each on a scale from 1-10.

- a. Are they older? 1=very young "stick" trees; 5=about two stories tall; 10 very tall, providing shade to street and yards. 7
- b. Are they organized into groves or bunched? 1= just a few places; 10=virtually everywhere. 3
- c. 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 5
- d. Aesthetically pleasing? 8
- e. How much of the space is shaded by trees? 1=part of yard; 5=sidewalk; 10=whole street. 7

## 6. Food / Vendors during most usage periods?

- a. Absent Present for "events" Present seasonally Mostly present
- b. Seating for the vendor? N/A, NO
- c. Seating (formal and informal) for the public (whether purchasing food or not)? N/A

7. Accessibility

- a. Is it easily accessible to the public? *yes*
- b. Can you walk to the public space? Is transportation nearby? Bike accessibility? *yes*
- c. Is it a high traffic area? *No*
- d. Is it easily visible from street? *yes*
  - i. Does the public space seem open, well lit, and visible enough to feel safe?
- e. Is the public space occupied by people?
  - i. People like to go where other people are

8. Sociability. Rate on a scale from 1-10.

- a. Can you enjoy the space either alone? 10=quickly incorporated into conversations; 1=nobody talked to you except employees. *1*
- b. Can you enjoy the space in groups? *10*
- c. Are people socializing? 10= everyone; 5=if they came in groups; 1=most silent. *1*
- d. Do groups of people tend to stay close to each other or are they far apart? *Far apart, 10*
- e. Do people seem to be meeting one another there? 1=no; nobody arrived alone; 10=common *1*
- f. Does it show signs of inaccessibility to different groups? *1*
  - i. Are there signs of racism, sexism, social-class exclusion? *1*
  - ii. Are there signs of exclusion by physical abilities? *2*

9. Time of Day

- a. When are people most likely to be in the public space?
  - i. Night (after dark) or daytime? *Daytime*
  - ii. Morning, Afternoon, or Evening? *Afternoon, Evening*
- b. Does the public place "close" *No*

10. Vicinity

- a. 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

Homogeneous residential area, Average middle class, low - medium income

11. Are there areas to play and exercise?

- a. Large grassy areas? *No*
- b. Play equipment?
  - i. Interactive: basketball courts, tennis courts, chess boards, other typical playground components
  - ii. Solo: areas to run, fitness "trail,"?

12. Cleanliness:

- a. Is the place clean? 1=dirty/unhygienic, 10=surgically clean 9
- b. Is it being actively cleaned (do you see people cleaning it)? Yes No
- c. How accessible are the trash cans? None Few, far apart Many, scattered throughout.
- d. How bad a problem is litter? 1=lots of litter, everywhere; 10=no litter 9
- e. Are there "Park adopted by..." signs? Yes No
  - i. Is there evidence that adoption is active? Is trash picked up, etc.? Yes No

13. Decorations within public space?

- a. Banners, flags, flowerbeds, etc? None

14. Threats and problems diminishing use? (homeless, gang, or threatening people using it? Dangerous or unpleasant spaces, etc.) None