**Public Spaces Tool**

Record the place you visit (name/identification)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Day and time visited: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Are they spread out throughout the space, or clustered together? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Height
      1. No higher than average waist?
   4. Barriers to seating
      1. Any stones or slants?
      2. Is there a way to adapt to the barrier?
   5. Width
      1. Is there space for people on either side of the seating areas?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   6. Are there movable seats?
      1. Do people willingly move the seats?
      2. How many people can sit in the moveable seats?
2. Water
   1. Is it permissible to play in the water?
   2. Is it permissible to wade in?
   3. Does it provide a soothing “sound effect?”
3. Public art
   1. Is it interactive?
   2. Are you able to sit on it / touch it?
   3. Is it accessible?
      1. Is it no more than 3 feet elevated or recessed by stairs from ground level?
4. Open Space
   1. Is there a fair amount of open space?
   2. Is there lots of green space/ hard space?
      1. Some people may be drawn for certain activities in certain areas
   3. Are there areas for sporting?
   4. Are there areas for picnicking?
   5. Are there areas for small children?
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.
   2. Are they organized into groves or bunched? 1= just a few places; 10=virtually everywhere.
   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
   4. Aesthetically pleasing?
   5. How much of the space is shaded by trees? 1=part of yard; 5=sidewalk; 10=whole street.
6. Food / Vendors during most usage periods?
   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
   1. Is it easily accessible to the public?
   2. Can you walk to the public space? Is transportation nearby? Bike accessibility?
   3. Is it a high traffic area?
   4. Is it easily visible from street?
      1. Does the public space seem open, well lit, and visible enough to feel safe?
   5. Is the public space occupied by people?
      1. People like to go where other people are
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.
   2. Can you enjoy the space in groups?
   3. Are people socializing? 10= everyone; 5=if they came in groups; 1=most silent.
   4. Do groups of people tend to stay close to each other or are they far apart?
   5. Do people seem to be meeting one another there? 1=no; nobody arrived alone; 10=common
   6. Does it show signs of inaccessibility to different groups?
      1. Are there signs of racism, sexism, social-class exclusion?
      2. Are there signs of exclusion by physical abilities?
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”
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  
       \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
11. Are there areas to play and exercise?
    1. Large grassy areas?
    2. Play equipment?
       1. Interactive: basketball courts, tennis courts, chess boards, other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
       2. Solo: areas to run, fitness “trail,”?
12. Cleanliness:
    1. Is the place clean? 1=dirty/unhygienic, 10=surgically clean \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    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
13. Decorations within public space?
    1. Banners, flags, flowerbeds, etc? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
14. Threats and problems diminishing use? (homeless, gang, or threatening people using it? Dangerous or unpleasant spaces, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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