COMMUNITY PARK AUDIT TOOL

Instructions

Before you begin, try to locate a map of the park. Next, review the CPAT training guide and audit tool. It is important to make sure each question and response is clear when you are marking your answer. Then, go to the park and fill out this audit tool. The tool (6 pages) is divided into four sections that focus on different parts of the park. Further instructions are at the top of each section.

Tips for Using the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)

- Drive, bike, or walk around the park to get a feel for what's in the park and the neighborhood around the park.

- Questions on the CPAT are grouped in sections in the order that you might come across them in a park. However, you may need to switch between sections or pages as you complete the park audit. Therefore, it is important to look through the tool before you begin.

- When you are finished, go back and make sure you have completed all the sections and questions.

- There is space at the end of each section where you can write down comments as you complete your audit. The margins or back of the page can be used to take notes, but make sure to transfer your comments into the answer spaces.

- If you see anything that requires immediate attention, contact the local parks department.

Section 1: Park Information

Park Name: _____ **Observer Name or ID:** _____

Park Address/Location: _____

Were you able to locate a map for this park? ❏ No ❏ Yes

Was the park easy to find onsite? ❏ No ❏ Somewhat ❏ Yes

Date (m/d/yr): ___ /___ /_____

Temperature: ___ °F **Weather:** ❏ Clear ❏ Partly Cloudy ❏ Rain/Snow

Start Time: _____ am or pm (circle) **End Time:** _____ am or pm (circle) **Length of visit:** ____ min

Comments on Park Information:

Section 2: Access and Surrounding Neighborhood

This section asks about accessing the park and about the neighborhood surrounding the park. Several questions include follow-up responses if you answered yes. There are spaces for comments at the end of the section. **When thinking about the surrounding neighborhood, consider all areas that you can see from inside of the park**.

When rating the access and surrounding neighborhood, please use the following definition:
- **Useable**: everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use (e.g., sidewalks are passable)

1. Can the park be **accessed for use**? (e.g., not locked/fenced, available for activity, etc.) ❑ No ❑ Yes

2. Are there **signs** that state the following (could be same sign)? *(check all that are present)* ❑ None present
   ❑ Park name ❑ Park hours ❑ Park contact information ❑ Park/facility rental information
   ❑ Park rules ❑ Park map ❑ Rental equipment information ❑ Event/program information

3. How many **points of entry** does the park have? ❑ More than 5 (or park boundary is open) ❑ 2-5 ❑ Only 1

4. Is there a **public transit stop** within sight of the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes

5. What types of **parking** are available for the park? *(check all that are present)*
   ❑ None ❑ Parking Lot ❑ On street parking ❑ Bike rack(s)

6. Are there **sidewalks** on *any* roads bordering the park? (could be on opposite side of road) ❑ No ❑ Yes
   If yes … Are they useable? ❑ All or most are useable ❑ About half ❑ None or few useable
   If yes … Are there **curb cuts and/or ramps** on *any* sidewalks bordering or entering the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes

7. Is there an external **trail or path** connected to the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
   If yes … Is it useable? ❑ No ❑ Yes

8. Are there **bike routes** on *any* roads bordering the park? *(check all that are present)*
   ❑ None ❑ Marked bike lane ❑ Bike route sign ❑ Share the road signs/markers

9. Are there nearby **traffic signals** on *any* roads bordering the park? (e.g., crosswalk, stop light/sign) ❑ No ❑ Yes

10. What are the main **land use(s) around the park**? *(check all that apply)* ❑ None present
    ❑ Residential ❑ Commercial ❑ Institutional (e.g., school) ❑ Industrial (e.g., warehouse) ❑ Natural

11. Which of the following **safety or appearance concerns** are present in the **neighborhood surrounding the park**?
    (check all that are present in the surrounding neighborhood within sight on any side of the park)
    ❑ Poor lighting (e.g., low or no lighting on surrounding neighborhood streets)
    ❑ Graffiti (e.g., markings or paintings that reduce the visual quality of the area)
    ❑ Vandalism (e.g., damaged signs, vehicles, etc.)
    ❑ Excessive litter (e.g., noticeable amounts of trash, broken glass, etc.)
    ❑ Heavy traffic (e.g., steady flow of vehicles)
    ❑ Excessive noise (e.g., noticeable sounds that are unpleasant or annoying)
    ❑ Vacant or unfavorable buildings (e.g., abandoned houses, liquor store)
    ❑ Poorly maintained properties (e.g., overgrown grass, broken windows)
    ❑ Lack of eyes on the street (e.g., absence of people, no houses or store fronts)
    ❑ Evidence of threatening persons or behaviors (e.g., gangs, alcohol/drug use)
    ❑ Other _____
    ❑ None present

Comments on Access or Surrounding Neighborhood Issues:

Section 3: Park Activity Areas

This section asks about the activity areas in the park. For <u>each</u> activity area type:

1. **First, mark the number (#) of areas that are present in the park** (if none, write "0").
2. Then, respond to questions about **up to three** of those activity areas. If there are more than three areas for a specific activity area type, **rate the first three you come across during the audit**. If there were no activity areas of that type present in the park, move on to the next type.
3. Finally, use the space provided to note any additional comments about each type of activity area.

When rating the activity areas, please use the following definitions:
- **Useable**: everything necessary for use is present (excluding portable equipment - rackets, balls, etc.) and nothing prevents use (e.g., are there nets up for tennis courts, goals for sport fields, are trails passable, etc.)
- **Good condition**: looks clean and maintained (e.g., minimal rust, graffiti, broken parts; even surface; etc.)

12. Activity Areas	# of Areas	Area 1		Area 2		Area 3	
a. **Playground**	(# :_____)						
Useable		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Distinct areas for different age groups		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Colorful equipment (i.e., 3+ colors)		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Shade cover for some (25%+) of the area		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Benches in/surrounding area		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Fence around area (i.e., half or more)		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Separation or distance from road		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Comments:							
b. **Sport Field** (football/soccer)	(# :_____)						
Useable		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Comments:							
c. **Baseball Field**	(# :_____)						
Useable		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Comments:							
d. **Swimming Pool**	(# :_____)						
Useable		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Comments:							
e. **Splash Pad**	(# :_____)						
Useable		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Comments:							
f. **Basketball Court**	(# :_____)						
Useable		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Comments:							
g. **Tennis Court**	(# :_____)						
Useable		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes	❏ No	❏ Yes
Comments:							

Activity Areas	# of Areas	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
h. **Volleyball Court**	(# :_____)			
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Comments:				
i. **Trail**	(# :_____)			
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Connected to activity areas		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Distance markers/sign		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Benches along trail		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
What is the trail surface? *(check one)*		❏ Paved ❏ Crushed stone ❏ Dirt/mulch	❏ Paved ❏ Crushed stone ❏ Dirt/mulch	❏ Paved ❏ Crushed stone ❏ Dirt/mulch
Comments:				
j. **Fitness Equipment/Stations**	(# :_____)			
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Comments:				
k. **Skate Park**	(# :_____)			
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Comments:				
l. **Off-Leash Dog Park**	(# :_____)			
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Comments:				
m. **Open/Green Space**	(# :_____)			
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Comments:				
n. **Lake**	(# :_____)			
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Is there a designated swimming area?		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Comments:				
o. **Other** (*fill in a type description for each*)		_____	_____	_____
Useable		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Good condition		❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes	❏ No ❏ Yes
Comments:				

Comments on Park Activity Areas:

Section 4: Park Quality and Safety

This section asks about factors related to comfort and safety when using the park. Several questions include follow-up responses if you answered yes. There are spaces for comments at the end of the section.

When rating the quality and safety features of the park, please use the following definitions:
- **Useable**: everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use (e.g., can get into restrooms, drinking fountains work, etc.)
- **Good condition**: looks clean and maintained (e.g., minimal rust, graffiti, broken parts; etc.)

13. Are there public **restroom(s) or portable toilet(s)** at the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    If yes …
    Are the restroom(s) useable? ❑ All or most are useable ❑ About half ❑ None or few are useable
    Are they in good condition? ❑ All or most in good condition ❑ About half ❑ None or few in good condition
    Is there a family restroom? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    Is there a baby change station in any restroom? ❑ No ❑ Yes

14. Are there **drinking fountain(s)** at the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    If yes …
    How many different fountains are there? (i.e., units, not spouts) _____
    Are the fountains useable? ❑ All or most are useable ❑ About half ❑ None or few are useable
    Are they in good condition? ❑ All or most in good condition ❑ About half ❑ None or few in good condition
    Are they near activity areas? ❑ All or most are near ❑ About half ❑ None or few are near

15. Are there **bench(es)** to sit on in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    If yes …
    Are the benches useable? ❑ All or most are useable ❑ About half ❑ None or few are useable
    Are they in good condition? ❑ All or most in good condition ❑ About half ❑ None or few in good condition

16. Are there **picnic table(s)** in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    If yes …
    Are the tables useable? ❑ All or most are useable ❑ About half ❑ None or few are useable
    Are they in good condition? ❑ All or most in good condition ❑ About half ❑ None or few in good condition
    Is there a picnic shelter in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    Is there a grill or fire pit in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes

17. Are there **trash cans** in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    If yes …
    Are they overflowing with trash? ❑ All or most overflowing ❑ About half ❑ None or few overflowing
    Are they near activity areas? ❑ All or most are near ❑ About half ❑ None or few are near
    Are recycling containers provided? ❑ No ❑ Yes

18. Is there **food/vending machines** available in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    If yes …
    Are fruits and/or vegetables available in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes

19. If the sun was directly overhead, how much of the park would be **shaded**? ❑ <25% ❑ 25-75% ❑ >75%

20. Are there **rules posted about animals** in the park? (e.g., dogs must be leashed)? ❑ No ❑ Yes

21. Is there a place to get **dog waste pick up bags** in the park? ❑ No ❑ Yes
    If yes … Are bags available at any of the locations? ❑ No ❑ Yes

22. Are there **lights** in the park? (not including neighborhood street lights) ❑ No   ❑ Yes

   If yes …

      How much of the park could be lit? ❑ <25%   ❑ 25-75%   ❑ >75%

      Are the activity areas lit? ❑ All or most are lit   ❑ About half   ❑ None or few are lit

23. Is the **park monitored**? (e.g., volunteer or paid staff, patrolled by police, cameras, etc.) ❑ Unsure   ❑ Yes

24. Are there **any emergency devices** in the park? (e.g., phone, button, emergency directions) ❑ No   ❑ Yes

25. From the center of the park, how **visible is the surrounding neighborhood**? ❑ Fully   ❑ Partially   ❑ Not at all

26. Are there **road(s)** of any type through the park? ❑ No   ❑ Yes

   If yes … Are there traffic control mechanisms on the roads within the park? (e.g., crosswalk, stop light or sign, brick road, speed bumps, roundabouts) ❑ No   ❑ Yes

27. Which of the following **park quality or safety concerns** are present **in the park**? *(check all that are present)*
   ❑ Graffiti (e.g., markings or paintings that reduce the visual quality of the area)
   ❑ Vandalism (e.g., damaged signs, buildings, equipment, etc.)
   ❑ Excessive litter (e.g., noticeable amounts of trash, broken glass, etc.)
   ❑ Excessive animal waste (e.g., noticeable amounts of dog waste)
   ❑ Excessive noise (e.g., noticeable sounds that are unpleasant or annoying)
   ❑ Poor maintenance (e.g., overgrown grass/weeds/bushes or lack of grass in green areas)
   ❑ Evidence of threatening persons or behaviors (e.g., gangs, alcohol/drug use)
   ❑ Dangerous spots in the park (e.g., abandoned building, pit/hole)
   ❑ Other _____
   ❑ None present

28. What **aesthetic (i.e., beautiful/pleasing) features** are present **in the park**? *(check all that are present)*
   ❑ Evidence of landscaping (e.g., flower beds, pruned bushes)
   ❑ Artistic feature (e.g., statue, sculpture, gazebo, fountain)
   ❑ Historical or educational feature (e.g., monument, nature display, educational signs, etc.)
   ❑ Wooded area (e.g., thick woods or dense trees)
   ❑ Trees throughout the park (e.g., scattered trees)
   ❑ Water feature (e.g., lake, stream, pond)
   ❑ Meadow (e.g., natural, tall grassy area)
   ❑ Other _____
   ❑ None present

Comments on Park Quality and Safety Issues:

Before you are finished, please make sure you have answered all questions in the tool.

About the Community Park Audit Tool
The Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) was developed in 2010 in Kansas City, Missouri by Andrew Kaczynski (Kansas State University) and Sonja Wilhelm Stanis (University of Missouri) in collaboration with the City of Kansas City Missouri Parks and Recreation Department. Development of the CPAT was supported by a grant from Active Living Research, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.