

Using the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) for Community-Based Advocacy and Environmental Change



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February 26, 2013

Workshop Agenda

9:00 Welcome & Introductions

9:15 Background

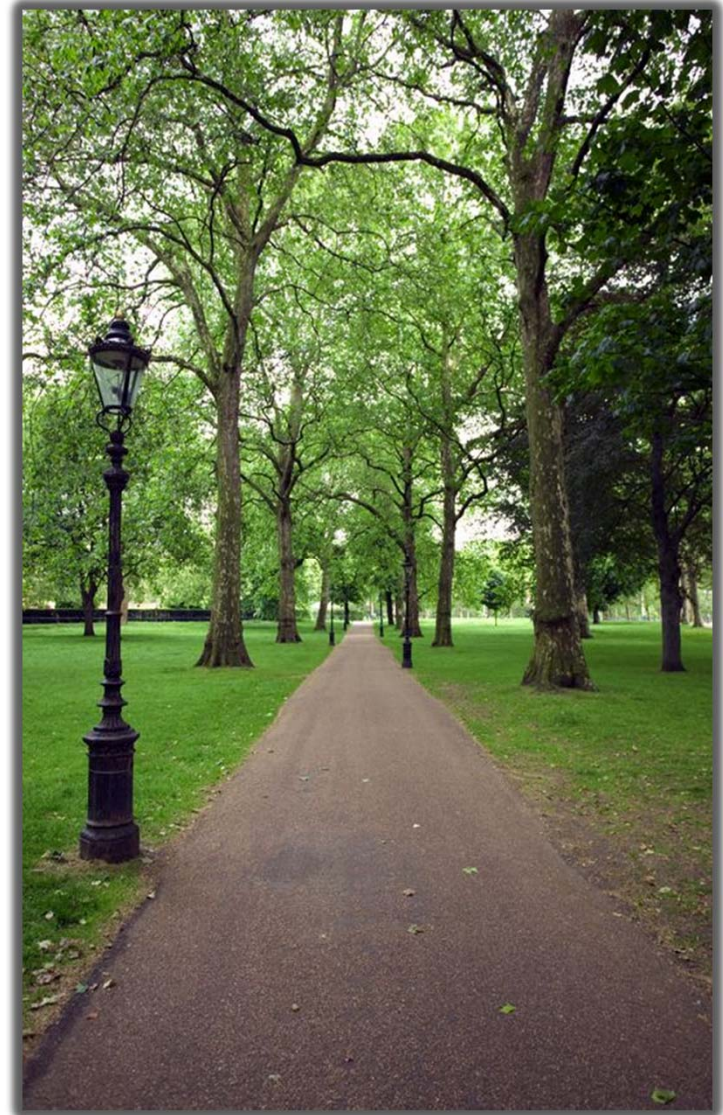
- Parks and physical activity background
- Development of the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)
- Details of the CPAT

10:00 Practice CPAT in a park

11:00 Reflection & Discussion

11:30 Action & Advocacy

11:45 Tips & Wrap-up



Participant Introductions

- Tell us about yourself!



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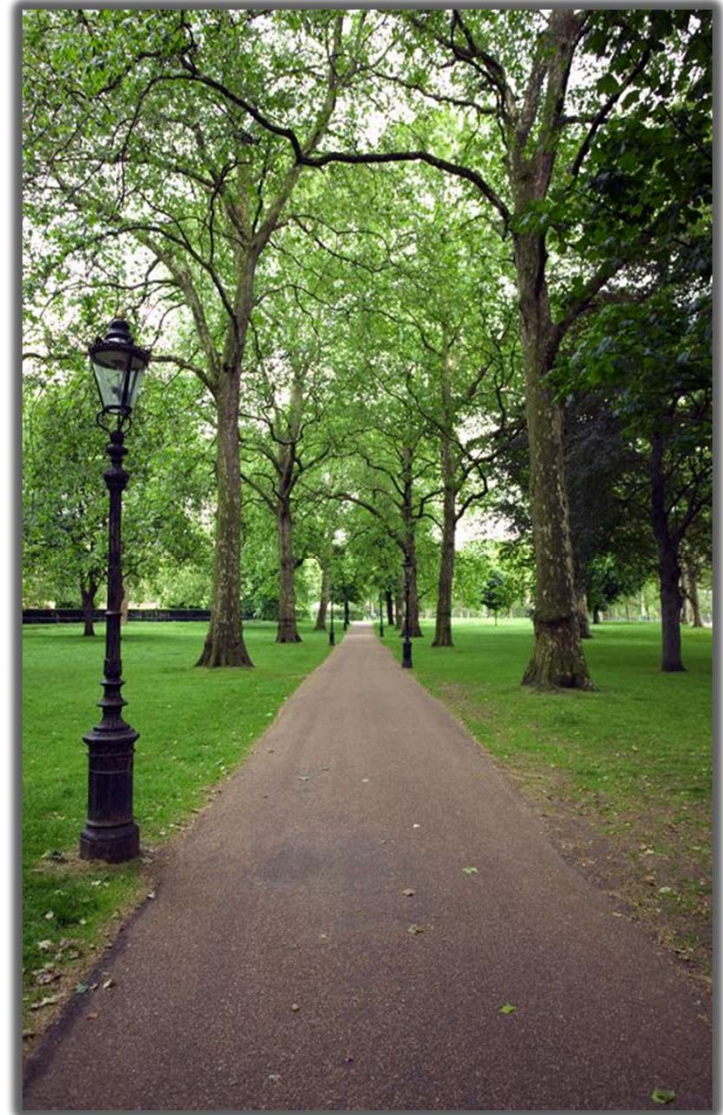
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Built Environment and Health

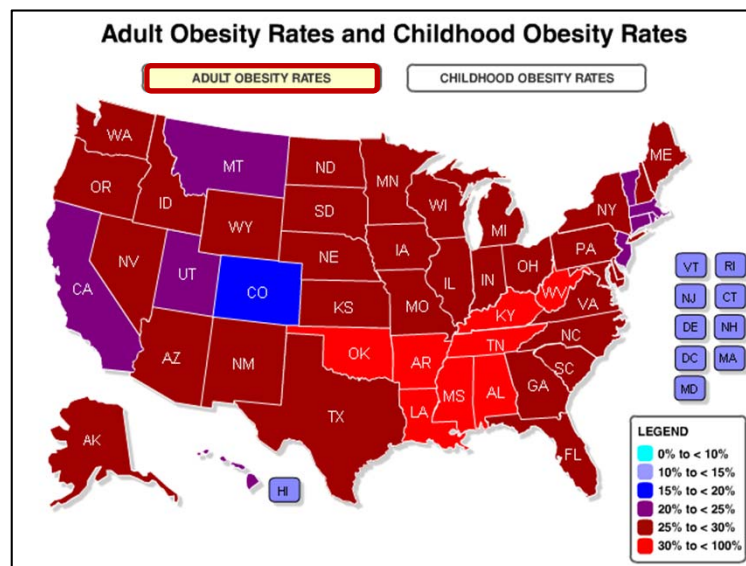
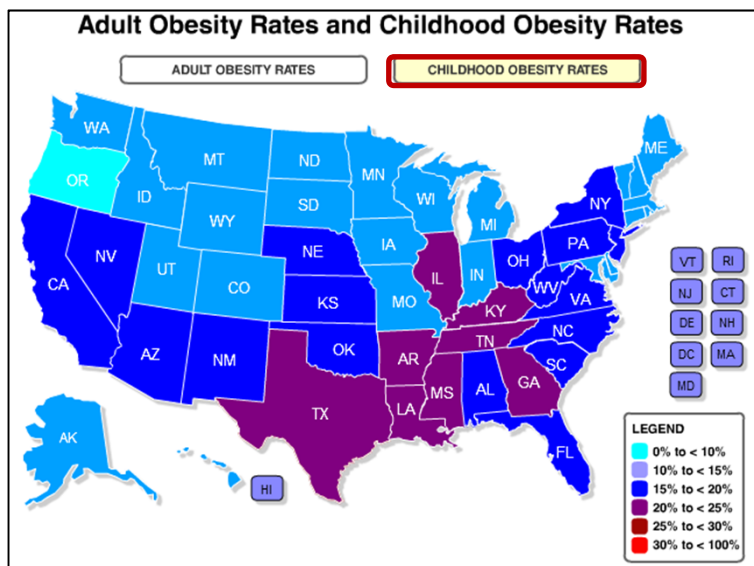
“Most of the communities where Americans live are important contributors to current public health problems. Simultaneously, they can also be the source of important solutions to these problems”.



Frank, L. D., Engelke, P. O., & Schmid, T. L. (2003). *Health and community design: The impact of the built environment on physical activity*. Washington, DC: Island Press.

2013 Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)

- **32%** youth (2-19) in US overweight or obese
- **63%** adults in US overweight or obese



- Health-related issues (mental & physical)
- Staggering costs of medical care
- Overweight children are more likely to be overweight or obese as adults (Ferraro et al., 2003; Freedman et al., 2001)



Environmental Influences on Active Living

- Housing mix (Population Density)
- Land use mix (Diversity)
- Street connectivity (Design)
- Sidewalks
- Public transportation
- Neighbourhood connectedness
- Aesthetics
- Safety (from crime, traffic)
- Parks, trails, recreation facilities



Some Broad-based Benefits of Parks

- Enhancing quality of life
- Attracting and retaining businesses
- Enhancing real estate values
- Protecting the environment
- Preventing youth crime/promoting youth development
- Facilitating community pride, connectedness, social capital
- Individual and community health – stress relief, spiritual restoration, reduced pollution, flood control, community connectedness, **physical activity**



Crompton, J.L. (2007). *Community benefits and repositioning: The keys to park and recreation's future viability*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

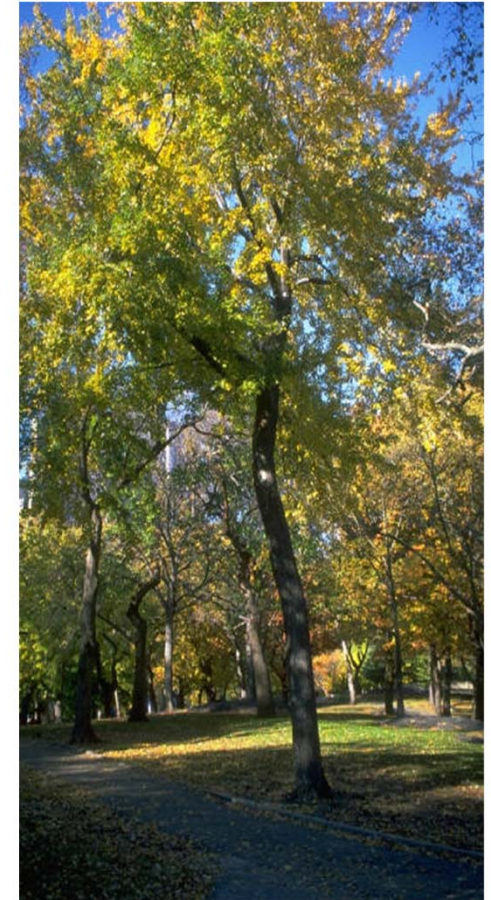
Parks as Important Community Physical Activity Resources

- Most local and state governments have some form of agency that oversees public open space
- Increasing interest among researchers and practitioners in the field(s) of leisure studies and recreation management in how parks contribute to community health
- Some have argued that much of the gains in physical activity are likely to occur in people's leisure time
- Parks provide important "behavior settings" in communities for both physical and social activity among residents across all demographics and abilities



Background: Parks and Physical Activity Research

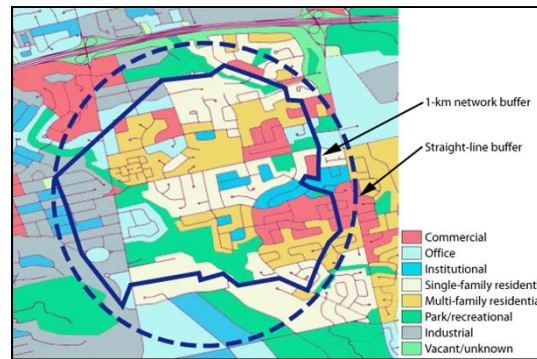
- **Living closer to park space** is associated with increased physical activity among adults & youth (e.g., Giles-Corti et al., 2005; Kaczynski & Henderson, 2007; Roemmich et al., 2006)
- **Park features & other characteristics** may be just as important as proximity in encouraging neighborhood & park-based physical activity (e.g., Cohen et al., 2006; Kaczynski et al., 2008; Timperio et al., 2008; Colabianchi et al., 2008)
 - Number & types of features (e.g., playgrounds, trails)
 - Quality of park and features (e.g., renovations)
 - Ease of accessing the park from surrounding neighborhood (e.g., street connectivity, traffic, crossings, public transportation)
- Park availability & park features and quality are generally **worse in low income and/or high-minority areas** (e.g., Crawford et al., 2008; Estabrooks et al., 2003; Moore et al., 2008; Vaughan et al., 2013)



Measuring the Built Environment

The primary methods used to measure characteristics of the built environment that may be related to physical activity include:

- Perceptions of residents
- Geographic databases
- **Direct observation (audits)**
 - More time-intensive
 - Best for capturing micro-scale features not included in geographic databases (e.g., specific features, quality ratings, etc.)
 - Useful for engaging residents in the research process
 - Can be tested for reliability



Audit Tools – Diversity of Applications and Settings

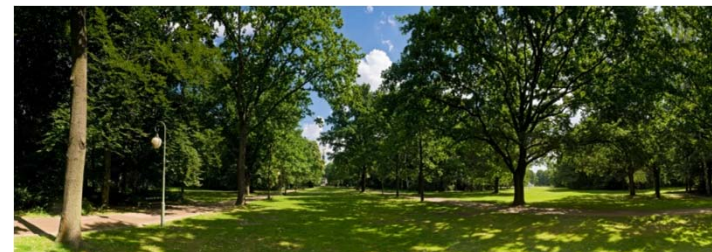
- **Neighborhood Environment**



- **Nutritional Environment**



- **Parks, Trails, Playgrounds**



Audit Tools – Diversity of Applications and Settings


• Neighborhood Environment

- Measure environmental features related to walking and active transportation

- Pedestrian Environment Data Scan (PEDS) Tool
- Active Neighborhood Checklist
- Systematic Pedestrian and Cycling Environmental Scan (SPACES)

• Nutritional Environment

• Parks, Trails, Playgrounds

Name: _____	Date: _____	Study Area: _____							
Segment Number: _____	Time: _____	Weather: _____							
0. Segment type Low volume road <input type="checkbox"/> 1 High volume road <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Bike or Ped path - skip section C <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
A. Environment 1. Use in Segment (all that apply) Housing - Single Family Detached <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Housing - Multi-Family <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Housing - Mobile Homes <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Office/Institutional <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Restaurant/Cafe/Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Vacant/Undeveloped <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> 8									
2. Slope Flat <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Slight hill <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Steep hill <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
3. Segment Intersections Segment has 3 way intersection <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Segment has 4 way intersection <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Segment has other intersection <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Segment deadends but path continues <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Segment deadends <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Segment has no intersections <input type="checkbox"/> 6									
B. Pedestrian Facility (skip if none present) 4. Type(s) of pedestrian facility (all that apply) Footpath (worn dirt path) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Paved Trail <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Sidewalk <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Pedestrian Street (closed to cars) <input type="checkbox"/> 4									
<i>The rest of the questions in section B refer to the best pedestrian facility selected above.</i> 5. Path material (all that apply) Asphalt <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Paving Bricks or Flat Stone <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Gravel <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Dirt or Sand <input type="checkbox"/> 5									
6. Path condition/maintenance Poor (many bumps/cracks/holes) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Fair (some bumps/cracks/holes) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Good (very few bumps/cracks/holes) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Under Repair <input type="checkbox"/> 4									
7. Path obstructions (all that apply) Poles or Signs <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Parked Cars <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Greenery <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Garbage Cans <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Other <input type="checkbox"/> 5 None <input type="checkbox"/> 6									
8. Buffers between road and path (all that apply) Fence <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Trees <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Hedges <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Grass <input type="checkbox"/> 5 None <input type="checkbox"/> 6									
9. Path Distance from Curb At edge <input type="checkbox"/> 1 < 5 feet <input type="checkbox"/> 2 > 5 feet <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
10. Sidewalk Width < 4 feet <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Between 4 and 8 feet <input type="checkbox"/> 2 > 8 feet <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
C. Road Attributes (skip if path only) 14. Condition of road Poor (many bumps/cracks/holes) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Fair (some bumps/cracks/holes) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Good (very few bumps/cracks/holes) <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Under Repair <input type="checkbox"/> 4									
15. Number of lanes Minimum # of lanes to cross <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Maximum # of lanes to cross <input type="checkbox"/> 2									
16. Posted speed limit None posted <input type="checkbox"/> 1 (mph) <input type="checkbox"/> 2									
17. On-Street parking (if pavement is unmarked, check only if cars parked) Parallel or Diagonal <input type="checkbox"/> 1 None <input type="checkbox"/> 2									
18. Off-street parking lot spaces <table border="1"> <tr> <th>D-E</th> <th>F-SE</th> <th>25+</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>				D-E	F-SE	25+	1	2	3
D-E	F-SE	25+							
1	2	3							
19. Must you walk through a parking lot to get to most buildings? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No <input type="checkbox"/> 2									
20. Presence of med-hi volume driveways < 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 1 2 to 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 > 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
21. Traffic control devices (all that apply) Traffic light <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Stop sign <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Traffic circle <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Speed bumps <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Chicanes or chokers <input type="checkbox"/> 5 None <input type="checkbox"/> 6									
22. Crosswalks None <input type="checkbox"/> 1 1 to 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 3 to 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 > 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 4									
23. Crossing Aids (all that apply) Yield to Ped Paddles <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Pedestrian Signal <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Median/Traffic Island <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Curb Extension <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Overpass/Underpass <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Pedestrian Crossing Warning Sign <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Flashing Warning Light <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Share the Road Warning Sign <input type="checkbox"/> 8 None <input type="checkbox"/> 9									
24. Bicycle facilities (all that apply) Bicycle route signs <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Striped bicycle lane designation <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Visible bicycle parking facilities <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Bicycle crossing warning <input type="checkbox"/> 4 No bicycle facilities <input type="checkbox"/> 5									
D. Walking/Cycling Environment 25. Roadway/path lighting Road-oriented lighting <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Pedestrian-scale lighting <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Other lighting <input type="checkbox"/> 3 No lighting <input type="checkbox"/> 4									
26. Amenities (all that apply) Public garbage cans <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Benches <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Water fountain <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Street vendors/vending machines <input type="checkbox"/> 4 No amenities <input type="checkbox"/> 5									
27. Are there wayfinding aids? No <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 2									
28. Number of trees shading walking area None or Very Few <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Some <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Many/Dense <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
29. Degree of enclosure Little or no enclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Some enclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Highly enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
30. Powerlines along segment? Low Voltage/Distribution Line <input type="checkbox"/> 1 High Voltage/Transmission Line <input type="checkbox"/> 2 None <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
31. Overall cleanliness and building maintenance Poor (much litter/graffiti/broken facilities) <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Fair (some litter/graffiti/broken facilities) <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Good (no litter/graffiti/broken facilities) <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
32. Articulation in building designs Little or no articulation <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Some articulation <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Highly articulated <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
33. Building setbacks from sidewalk At edge of sidewalk <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Within 20 feet of sidewalk <input type="checkbox"/> 2 More than 20 feet from sidewalk <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
34. Building height Short <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Medium <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Tall <input type="checkbox"/> 3									
35. Bus stops Bus stop with shelter <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Bus stop with bench <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Bus stop with signage only <input type="checkbox"/> 3 No bus stop <input type="checkbox"/> 4									
Subjective Assessment: Segment... Enter 1, 2, 3, or 4 for 1=Strongly Agree 2= Agree, 3=Disagree, 4=Strongly Disagreeis attractive for walking <input type="checkbox"/> 1is attractive for cycling <input type="checkbox"/> 2feels safe for walking <input type="checkbox"/> 3feels safe for cycling <input type="checkbox"/> 4									

Audit Tools – Diversity of Applications and Settings

- Neighborhood Environment
- **Nutritional Environment**
 - Assess food environments in schools, neighborhoods, restaurants, grocery stores, etc.
 - Nutrition Environment Measures Survey (NEMS)
 - Nutrition Environment Assessment Tool (NEAT)
- Parks, Trails, Playgrounds

Nutrition Environment Measures Survey (NEMS) RESTAURANT MEASURES--DATA COLLECTION			
Restaurant ID: <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/> - <input type="text"/>	Date: <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>		
Rater ID: <input type="text"/>	Month/ Day/ Year		
1) Type of Restaurant: <input type="text"/>	Code # <input type="text"/>		
2) Data Sources:	Site Visit/Observation	Take-Away Menu	Internet Interview
	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	<input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
3) Site Visit Information:	4) Take-Away Menu Features:	5) Internet Site Features:	6) Interview Information:
Take-away Menu <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Nutrition Information <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Menu <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Menu options <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Nutrition Information <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Identification of healthier menu items <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Nutrition Information <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Pricing <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Other: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Other: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Identification of healthier menu items <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Other: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no
Other: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Other: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Other: <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Comments (describe items above) _____
Comments: _____	Comments: _____	Web site URL _____	Comments: _____
7) Hours of operation: Data Source(s): <input type="radio"/> Site <input type="radio"/> Menu <input type="radio"/> Web			
Sunday <input type="radio"/> Open <input type="radio"/> Closed	Thursday <input type="radio"/> Open <input type="radio"/> Closed	Friday <input type="radio"/> Open <input type="radio"/> Closed	Saturday <input type="radio"/> Open <input type="radio"/> Closed
<input type="radio"/> B: 6:00 - 11:00am	<input type="radio"/> B: 6:00 - 11:00am	<input type="radio"/> B: 6:00 - 11:00am	<input type="radio"/> B: 6:00 - 11:00am
<input type="radio"/> L: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	<input type="radio"/> L: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	<input type="radio"/> L: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm	<input type="radio"/> L: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
<input type="radio"/> D: 5:00 pm to Close	<input type="radio"/> D: 5:00 pm to Close	<input type="radio"/> D: 5:00 pm to Close	<input type="radio"/> D: 5:00 pm to Close
<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="radio"/> PM	<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="radio"/> PM	<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="radio"/> PM	<input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> : <input type="text"/> AM <input type="radio"/> PM
<input type="radio"/> Open 24 Hours (If 24-hr, leave Hours of Operation section blank)			
8) Access: Drive-thru window <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	Parking onsite <input type="radio"/> yes <input type="radio"/> no	9) Size of Restaurant: <input type="radio"/> Seating capacity = <input type="text"/> OR <input type="radio"/> Number of tables = <input type="text"/>	
Comments: _____		Comments: _____	
		Page 1	6385533418

Audit Tools – Diversity of Applications and Settings

- Neighborhood Environment
- Nutritional Environment
- Parks, Trails, Playgrounds
 - Rate the physical & environmental characteristics of outdoor areas (facilities, amenities, quality, etc)
 - BRAT-Direct Observation (BRAT-DO)
 - Environmental Assessment of Public Recreation Spaces (EAPRS)
 - Path Environment Assessment Tool (PEAT)

BRAT - DO Instrument	TA Number 02-0-01	T A	Park ID
Target Area			
Study		Observer Initials	
Start Time* 02-0-03		Date of Observation 00-0-04	
02-0-05 Able to access the TA? If not, answer the questions in this section as best you can by observing from outside the TA. <input type="checkbox"/> 0. No <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Yes			
*The start time should be recorded when you first begin the observation of the TA, and the finish time should be recorded on the last sheet after all the TA and associated Activity Area and Street questions have been answered.			
02-A-01 Can the entire TA be locked? (If the Target Area is clearly not lockable (i.e. there is no fence or gate), mark "no." Note that an actual padlock does not have to be present for the TA to be lockable. Do not consider any buildings or restrooms in your assessment.) <input type="checkbox"/> 0. No <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Yes			
02-A-02 Are there any light sources in the TA? (Hint: Locate any lights first, then determine if they are intended for illuminating the target area. Do not count flood lights located on sports fields or courts.) <input type="checkbox"/> 0. No <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Yes			
Target Area - Esthetics and Condition			
02-B-01 Rate the appeal of the view from within the TA. (Stand somewhere central in the TA and look around. Base your rating on everything you can see, even if you see things not within the TA.) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Very unpleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Somewhat unpleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Somewhat pleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Very pleasant			
02-B-02 How attractive is the landscaping in the TA? <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Very Unattractive <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Somewhat Unattractive <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Somewhat Attractive <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Very Attractive <input type="checkbox"/> 96. Not applicable			
02-B-04 Rate the condition of the landscaping in the TA. <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Poor <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Below average <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Average <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Above average <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> 96. Not applicable			
02-B-06 What are the sources of shade in the Target Area? (Mark all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Trees <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Buildings <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Shelters <input type="checkbox"/> 96. No shade <input type="checkbox"/> 98. Other (specify) _____			
02-B-07 What sounds do you hear in the Target Area? (Mark all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Water <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Birds <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Traffic <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Constructions/maintenance noise <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Voices <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Music <input type="checkbox"/> 98. Other (specify) _____			
02-B-08 Rate the appeal of the sounds that you hear. <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Very unpleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Somewhat unpleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Somewhat pleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Very pleasant			
02-B-09 Rate the appeal of the smells in the TA. <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Very unpleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Somewhat unpleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Neutral <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Somewhat pleasant <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Very pleasant			
02-B-10 How much litter is present in the TA? (Litter consists of small trash, not in a can, that can be picked up by an individual. Rate without looking inside trash cans.) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. None <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Very Little <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Some <input type="checkbox"/> 4. A Moderate Amount <input type="checkbox"/> 5. A lot			
02-B-11 How much trash is present in the TA? (Trash consists of large items that take an organized effort to dispose of. Rate without looking inside the trash cans.) <input type="checkbox"/> 1. None <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Very Little <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Some <input type="checkbox"/> 4. A Moderate Amount <input type="checkbox"/> 5. A lot			
Form - BRAT-DO - General Use		Page 1 of 6	This is a reliability check <input type="checkbox"/>

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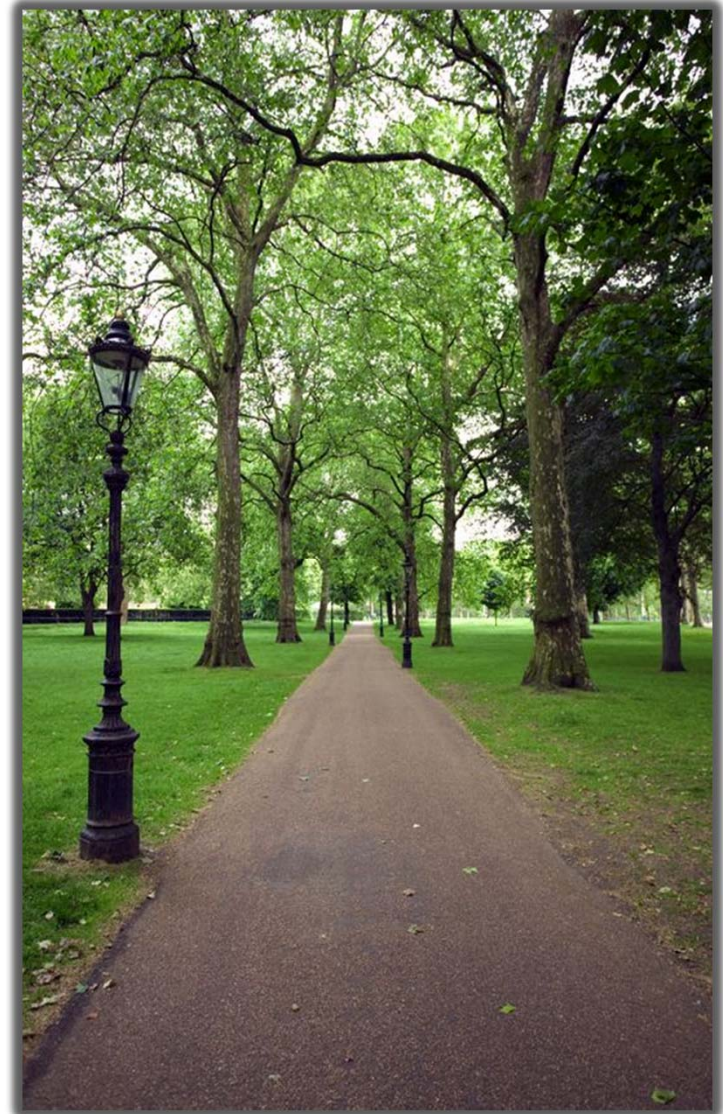
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Development of the Community Park Audit Tool

- Despite several park audit tools, lacking a comprehensive yet user-friendly park audit tool focused on physical activity.
- **CPAT was developed to enable diverse stakeholders to quickly and reliably audit community parks for their potential to promote youth physical activity.**
- Developed in Kansas City, Missouri through a series of three workshops and field testing with 34 unique community stakeholders representing organizations from around the KC metro area.
- The initial workshops addressed the following questions:
 - What is important to consider regarding an audit tool focusing on **park-based physical activity**?
 - What is important to consider regarding an audit tool focusing on **youth activities in parks**?
 - What is important to consider regarding a **user-friendly** audit tool?
 - Evaluation of **strengths and weaknesses of existing park tools**



Small Group Discussions

- What do YOU think is important to consider regarding park features or characteristics that could promote or hinder **park-based physical activity**?



Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)

- Tool developed based on findings from workshop, review of strengths/weaknesses of previous tools, and past studies
- 6 pages with 4 sections:
 - Park Information
 - Access and Surrounding Neighborhood
 - Park Activity Areas
 - Park Quality and Safety
- Comprehensive (key areas covered) yet user-friendly (length, format, etc.)
 - Mostly yes/no responses, but also some items with three options, as well as checklists and spaces for comments
 - Concerned with presence/absence and 'useability' & 'condition' of most park elements
 - Approximate completion time = 15-30 min
 - Instructions contained within tool or items themselves
 - Guidebook available with additional details and definitions



Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) – pages 1 and 2

COMMUNITY PARK AUDIT TOOL

Instructions

Before you begin, review the brief training guide and audit tool and try to locate a map of the park. Then, go to the park and proceed with filling out this audit tool. The tool (6 pages) is divided into four sections that focus on different aspects of the park environment. Additional instructions are provided within each section.

Tips for Using the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)

- Drive, bike, or walk around the park to get a feel for the contents and characteristics of the park and surrounding neighborhood.
- The CPAT is organized such that questions on similar topics are grouped into logical sections and the four sections are arranged in the order that you might encounter them during your audit. However, you may need to switch between sections or pages as you complete the park audit. Therefore, it is important to review and be familiar with all of the tool sections and questions before you begin your audit.
- It is also important that you check back through the full document (6 pages) when you are finished to ensure you have completed all the sections and questions.
- Space is provided at the end of each section (and some individual questions) where you can take notes or record comments as you complete your audit. The margins or back of each page (if copied single-sided) can also be used to take notes, but please be sure that all relevant information is transferred to appropriate places on the tool and that all questions are fully answered using the format provided.
- If you see anything during your audit 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): ___/___/___

Approximate 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 factors related to accessing the park and about features of the neighborhood surrounding the park. Several questions include follow-up responses if you answered yes. After completing all questions, provide any additional comments in the space at the end of the section. When thinking about the surrounding neighborhood, consider all areas that are visible from all sides 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)
 - 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 adjacent to 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
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 marked bike lanes on any roads adjacent to the park? No Yes
9. Are there nearby traffic signals on any roads adjacent to the park? (e.g., crosswalk, stop light/sign) No Yes
If yes ... Are they on heavy traffic roads? No Yes There are not any heavy traffic roads
10. What are the main land use(s) around the park? (check all that apply)
 - 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)
 - Inadequate lighting (e.g., absent or poor 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 _____

Comments on Access or Surrounding Neighborhood Issues:

Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) – pages 3 and 4

Section 3: Park Activity Areas

This section asks about the activity areas in the park. For each activity area type:

1. First, indicate the number (#) that are present in the park (if none, write "0").
2. Then, respond to several subsequent questions about up to three of those particular areas. If there are more than three areas for a specific activity area type, rate the first three you encounter 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	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Distinct areas for different age groups	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Colorful equipment (i.e., 3+ colors)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Shade cover for some (25%+) of the area	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Benches in/surrounding area	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Fence around area (i.e., 2+ sides)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Separation or distance from road	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				
b. Sport Field (football/soccer)	(# : _____)			
Useable	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				
c. Baseball Field	(# : _____)			
Useable	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				
d. Swimming Pool	(# : _____)			
Useable	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				
e. Splash Pad	(# : _____)			
Useable	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				
f. Basketball Court	(# : _____)			
Useable	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				
g. Tennis Court	(# : _____)			
Useable	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				

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

Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) – pages 5 & 6

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. After completing all questions, provide any additional comments in the space at the end.

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 a 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
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? 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. Is there evidence of threatening behavior or persons in the park? (e.g., gangs, alcohol/drug use) No Yes
26. From the center of the park, how visible is the surrounding neighborhood? Fully Partially Not at all
27. Are there road(s) 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
28. Are there any dangerous spots in the park? (e.g., abandoned building, pit/hole) No Yes
29. Which of the following park quality 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)
 - Other _____
30. What aesthetic 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
 - Trees throughout the park
 - Water feature (e.g., lake, stream, pond)
 - Meadow (e.g., natural, tall grassy area)
 - Other _____

Comments on Park Quality and Safety Issues:

Before finishing, please ensure you have answered all questions in the tool.

Audit Tool Field Testing

- 66 parks audited independently by 2 stakeholders each September-October 2010
- Parks audited represented a diverse mix of size, geography, neighborhood characteristics, and features and amenities
- Examined the inter-rater reliability of all of the questions within the CPAT
- For all variables except three, percent agreement was greater than 70% (considered good if 70% or better: Boarnet et al., 2006)
- Based on feedback from stakeholders, modifications were made to clarify questions within the tool and instructions within the guidebook



Process-Related Outcomes Among Stakeholders

- **Networking and community building**
 - “[The CPAT] provides a nice vehicle for engaging grassroots citizens and constituents in a reasonably manageable process by which to assess parks and what they offer.”
- **Awareness and knowledge**
 - “I personally have gained greater awareness of and appreciation for the range and types of variation in parks available.”
 - 86% of stakeholders reported their perceptions of the importance of both the built environment and parks for promoting physical activity had improved ‘moderately’ or ‘a lot’ over the course of the project
- **Planning and advocacy support**
 - “The CPAT can be a valuable resource for many organizations, specifically for me – a community collaborative working to prevent childhood obesity. This tool can help us inform families of places to be active, could help us identify areas of need related to physical activity, help guide our planning process, and help provide information to support advocacy efforts.”



Workshop Agenda

9:00 Welcome & Introductions

9:15 Background

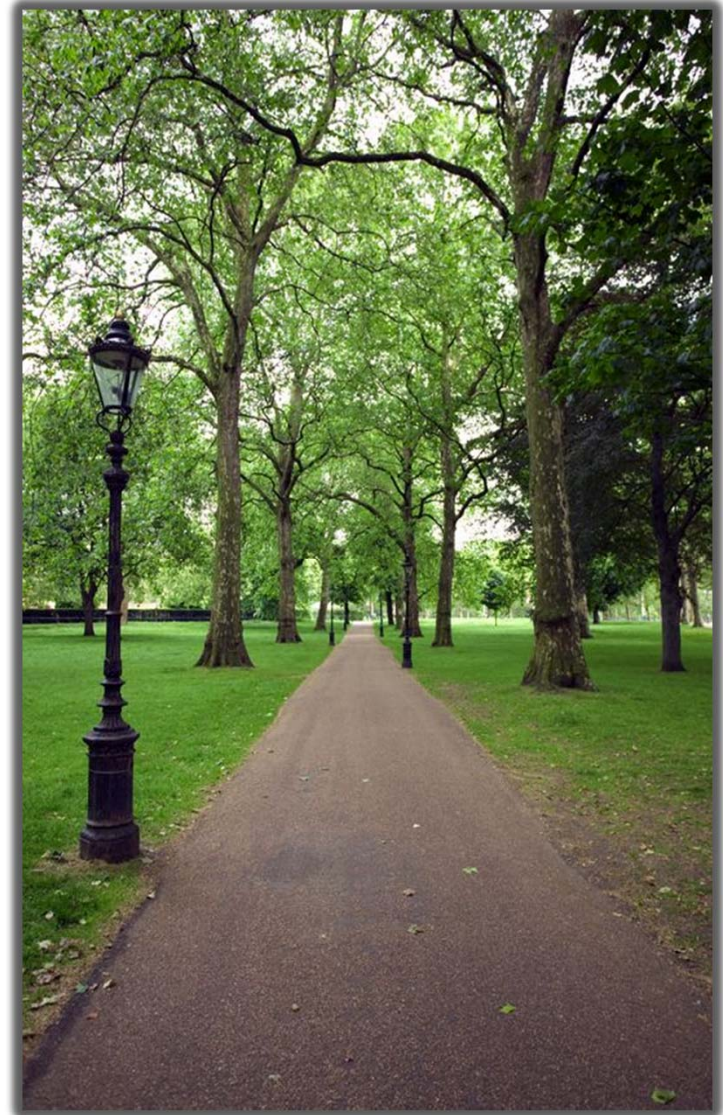
- Parks and physical activity background
- Development of the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)
- **Details of the CPAT**

10:00 Practice CPAT in a park

11:00 Reflection & Discussion

11:30 Action & Advocacy

11:45 Wrap-up



Community Park Audit Tool

Tips for Using the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)

- Drive, bike, or walk around the park to get a feel for the contents and characteristics of the park and surrounding neighborhood.
- The CPAT is organized such that questions on similar topics are grouped into logical sections and the four sections are arranged in the order that you might encounter them during your audit. However, you may need to switch between sections or pages as you complete the park audit. Therefore, it is important to review and be familiar with all of the tool sections and questions before you begin your audit.
- It is also important that you check back through the full document (6 pages) when you are finished to ensure you have completed all the sections and questions.
- Space is provided at the end of each section (and some individual questions) where you can take notes or record comments as you complete your audit. The margins or back of each page (if copied single-sided) can also be used to take notes, but please be sure that all relevant information is transferred to appropriate places on the tool and that all questions are fully answered using the format provided.
- If you see anything during your audit 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? No Yes

Was the park easy to find? No Somewhat Yes

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

Approximate 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 factors related to accessing the park and about features of the neighborhood surrounding the park. Several questions include follow-up responses if you answered yes. After completing all questions, provide any additional comments in the space at the end of the section. **When thinking about the surrounding neighborhood, consider all areas that are visible from all sides 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)



Section 2: Access and Surrounding Neighborhood

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)*
 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



Section 2: Access and Surrounding Neighborhood (continued)

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 adjacent to 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
- 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



Section 2: Access and Surrounding Neighborhood (continued)

8. Are there **bike routes on *any* roads adjacent to the park?** (*check all present*)
- None Marked lane Designated route sign Share the road signs/markers
9. Are there nearby **traffic signals** on *any* roads adjacent to 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*)
- Residential Commercial Institutional (e.g., school)
 Industrial (e.g., warehouse) Natural



Section 2: Access and Surrounding Neighborhood (continued)

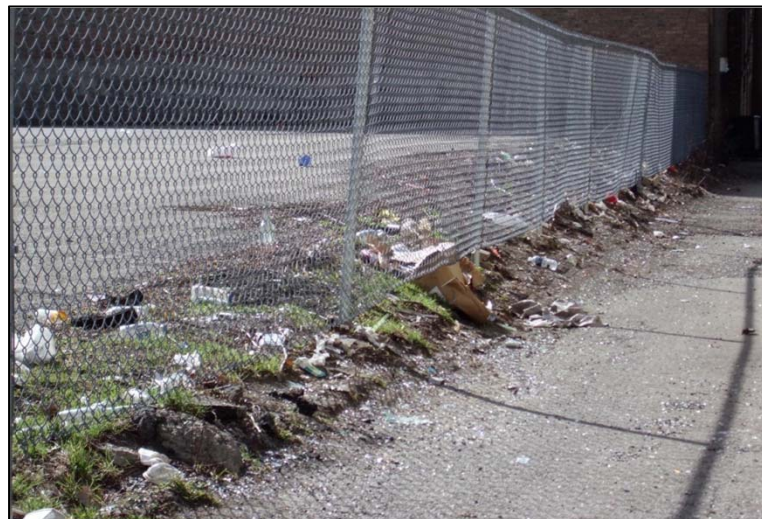
11. Which of the following **safety or appearance concerns** are present in the **neighborhood surrounding the park**? (*check all that are present in the surrounding neighborhood within sight on any side of the park*)

- Inadequate lighting (e.g., absent or limited 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 _____

Comments on Access or Surrounding Neighborhood Issues:

2013

Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)



Section 3: Park Activity Areas

This section asks about the activity areas in the park. For each activity area type:

1. **First, indicate the number (#) that are present in the park** (if none, write "0").
2. Then, respond to several subsequent questions about **up to three** of those particular areas. If there are more than three areas for a specific activity area type, **rate the first three you encounter 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.)

2013

Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)



Section 3: Park Activity Areas (continued)

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:



Section 3: Park Activity Areas (continued)

12. Activity Areas # of Areas

Area 1

Area 2

Area 3

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:



Section 3: Park Activity Areas (continued)

12. Activity Areas # of Areas

Area 1

Area 2

Area 3

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:



Section 3: Park Activity Areas (continued)

12. Activity Areas # of Areas

Area 1

Area 2

Area 3

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:

h. Volleyball Court (# :_____)

Useable

No Yes

No Yes

No Yes

Good condition

No Yes

No Yes

No Yes

Comments:



Section 3: Park Activity Areas (continued)

12. Activity Areas # of Areas

Area 1

Area 2

Area 3

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

Paved

Paved

Crushed stone

Crushed stone

Crushed
stone

Dirt/mulch

Dirt/mulch

Dirt/mulch

Comments:



Section 3: Park Activity Areas (continued)

12. Activity Areas # of Areas

Area 1

Area 2

Area 3

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 (# : _____)

Park

Useable

 No Yes No Yes No Yes

Good condition

 No Yes No Yes No Yes

Comments:

Section 3: Park Activity Areas (continued)

12. Activity Areas	# of Areas	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
m. Open/Green Space (# :_____)				
Useable		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments :				
n. Lake (# :_____)				
Useable		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Is there a designated swimming area?		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Comments:				
o. Other				
<i>(fill in a type description for each)</i>				
Useable		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Good condition		<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> 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. After completing all questions, provide any additional comments in the space at the end.

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.)



Section 4: Park Quality and Safety (continued)

13. Are there public **restroom(s) or portable toilet(s)** at the park? No Yes

If yes ... Are the restrooms 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



Section 4: Park Quality and Safety (continued)

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



Section 4: Park Quality and Safety (continued)

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
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



Section 4: Park Quality and Safety (continued)

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. Is there evidence of **threatening behavior or persons** in the park? (e.g., gangs, alcohol/drug use) No Yes



Section 4: Park Quality and Safety (continued)

26. From the center of the park, how **visible is the surrounding neighborhood**?
- Fully Partially Not at all
27. Are there **road(s)** 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
28. Which of the following **park quality 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)
 - Other _____

2013

Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)



Section 4: Park Quality and Safety (continued)

29. What **aesthetic 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
- Trees throughout the park
- Water feature (e.g., lake, stream, pond)
- Meadow (e.g., natural, tall grassy area)
- Other _____

30. Are there any **dangerous spots** in the park? (e.g., abandoned building, pit/hole)

- No Yes

Comments on Comfort and Safety Issues:

Before finishing, please ensure you have answered all questions in the tool.

Workshop Agenda

9:00 Welcome & Introductions

9:15 Background

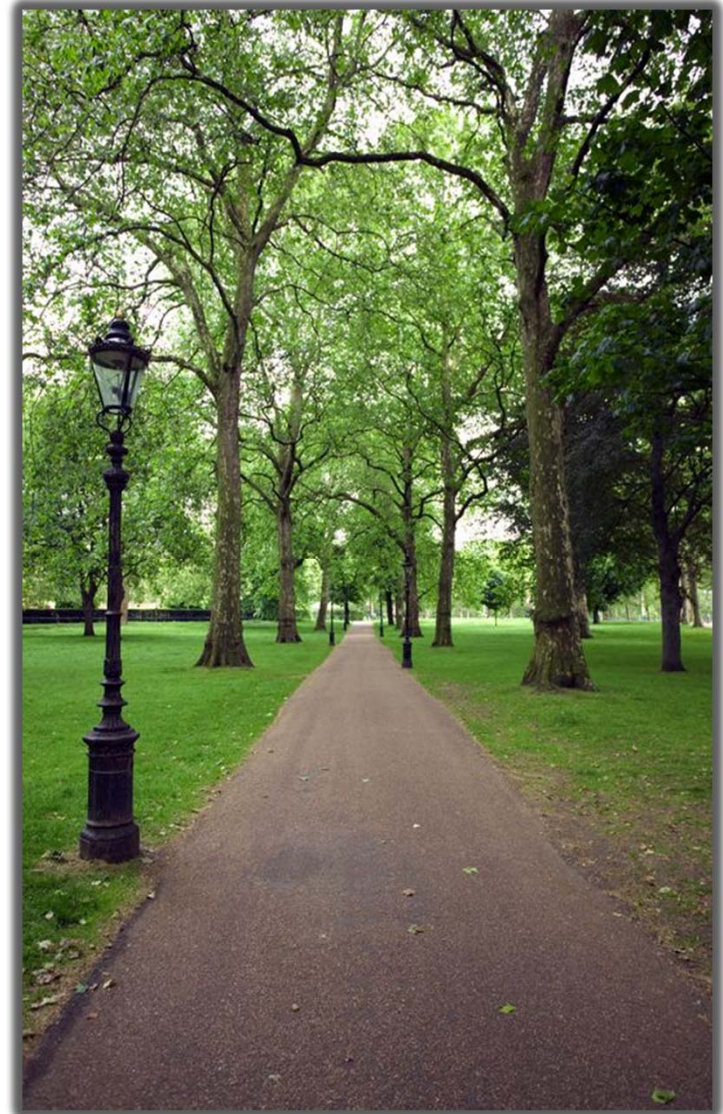
- Parks and physical activity background
- Development of the Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)
- Details of the CPAT

10:00 Practice CPAT in a park

11:00 Reflection & Discussion

11:30 Action & Advocacy

11:45 Tips & Wrap-up



Let's try out the CPAT in a local park ...

- Bring clipboard and pen/pencil. Grab coat, sweater, change of shoes if desired.
- We will meet briefly at the park before you begin
- Then, explore the park for 30 minutes to try out different sections of the tool
- We will then reconvene and return to the workshop to discuss any questions or issues that came up while using the tool.



Workshop Agenda

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9:15 Background

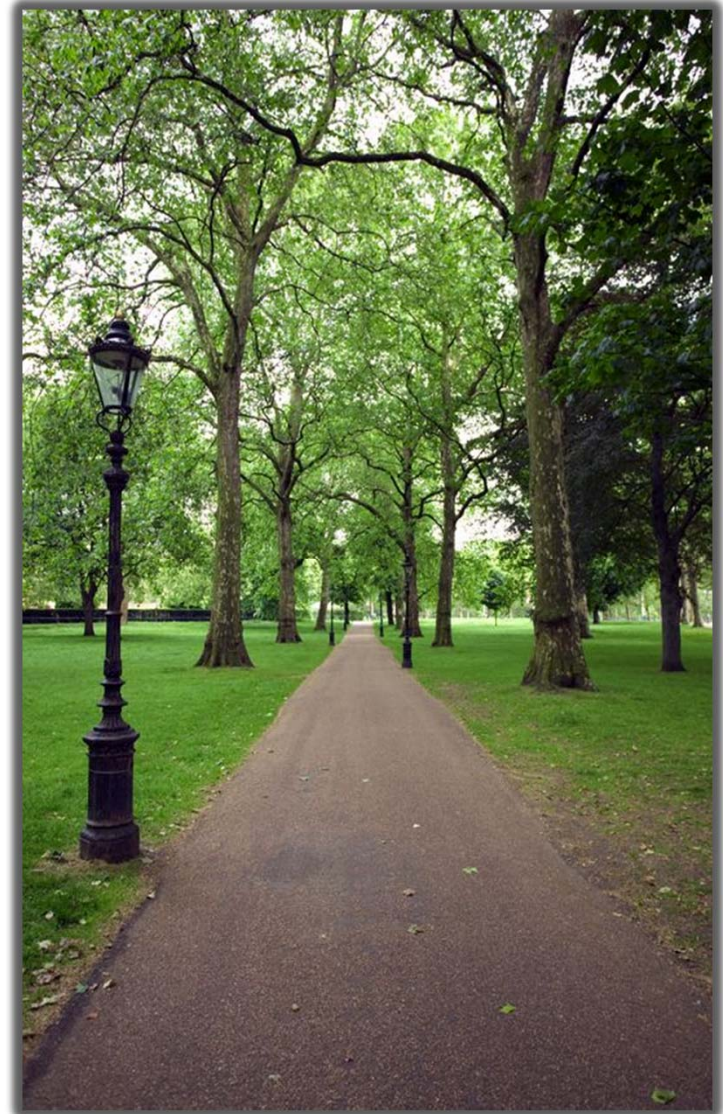
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CPAT Park Visit Discussion

- How did it go?
- Where there any sections/items you found challenging?
- Anything you would want to remember/consider for an actual park audit?
- Other questions/issues?



Workshop Agenda

9:00 Welcome & Introductions

9:15 Background

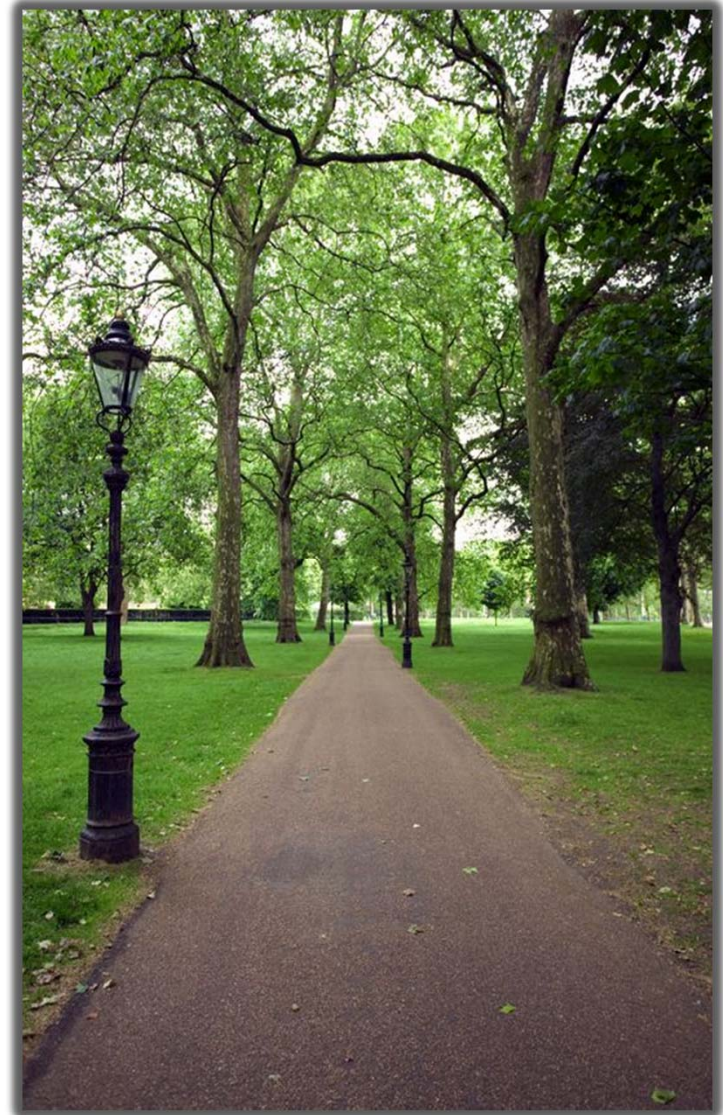
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Top 10 Uses of CPAT

1. Use the CPAT as part of a master planning process to assess what facilities and amenities are available – and needed – in local parks and the surrounding neighborhood (e.g., playground, picnic shelter, lighting, sidewalk).
2. Create a website or other forum where residents can download the CPAT and upload their ratings or comments about neighborhood parks. You can also develop a searchable database that will help citizens choose community parks that meet their wants and needs (e.g., tennis court, restroom, shade).
3. Engage youth in conducting park audits as part of an extra-credit or youth organization project (e.g., 4H, Scouts) and have them share this information with the community and local policymakers.
4. Use CPAT audits to engage residents in a discussion of whether available park resources are appropriate for various groups in the neighborhood (e.g., different ages, cultures, abilities and disabilities, etc.).
5. Use data collected via the CPAT as the foundation for grant applications to organizations focused on issues such as youth, the environment, social justice, and health.



Top 10 Uses of CPAT

6. Incorporate park audits in parks, recreation, and tourism, public health, and urban planning classes as a teaching tool, as well as with middle/high school youth to educate them about the importance of healthy community design.
7. Use the CPAT to research whether parks and their attributes (e.g., features, quality) are equally distributed across cities and states and whether such patterns have implications for physical activity levels, obesity, depression, rates of chronic disease, and other health-related outcomes.
8. Engage local law enforcement and other organizations in discussions about how to increase real and perceived safety from crime and traffic in and around parks.
9. Use the CPAT data to showcase park attributes within the community as an economic development tool, making the case that your town is a great place to live and work with safe, attractive, and health-promoting parks.
10. Use CPAT findings as an evidence base for advocacy groups lobbying for better parks and outdoor recreation facilities to the city/county commission, parks and recreation board, urban planning board, or other decision-making body.



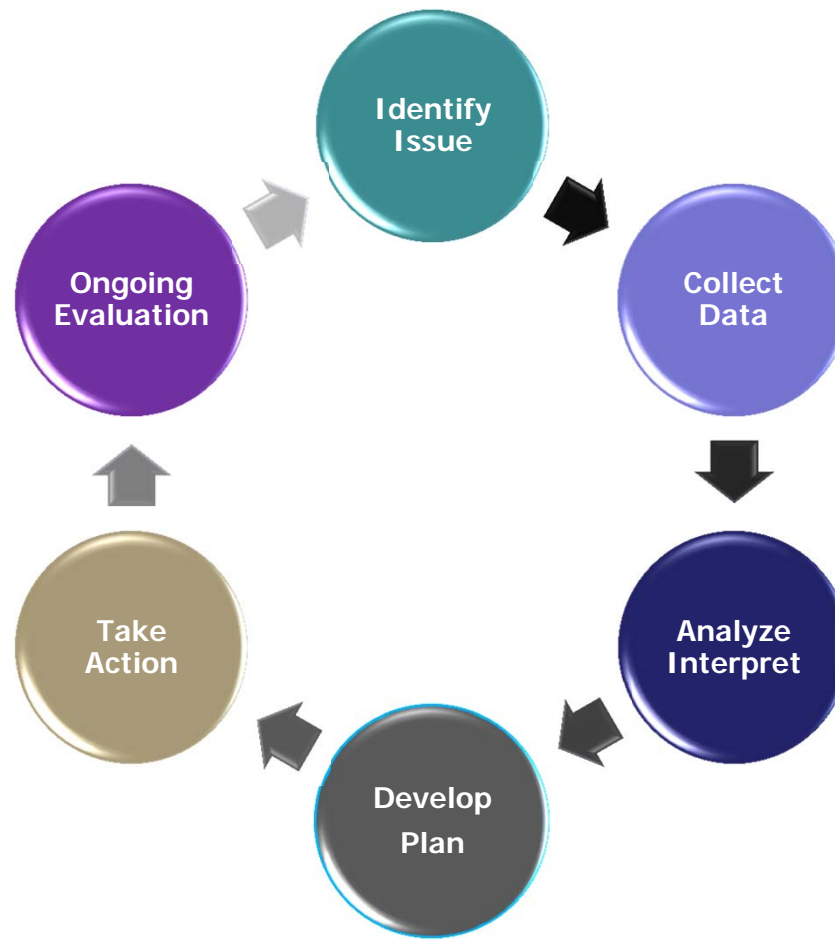
Participatory Action Research & Advocacy

- **Participatory Action Research (PAR)** - is “a methodology for an alternate system of knowledge production based on the people’s role in setting the agendas, participating in the data gathering and analysis, and controlling the use of the outcomes” (Reason 1994: 329).
- The accountability of participatory research is based on three components:
 1. Open participation in identification of issues, problems, and concerns by those involved or who would be affected by decisions
 2. Understandable knowledge to be used and developed through the interaction of researchers and the local group
 3. Stakeholders are *active researchers* rather than people made into passive objects of study.

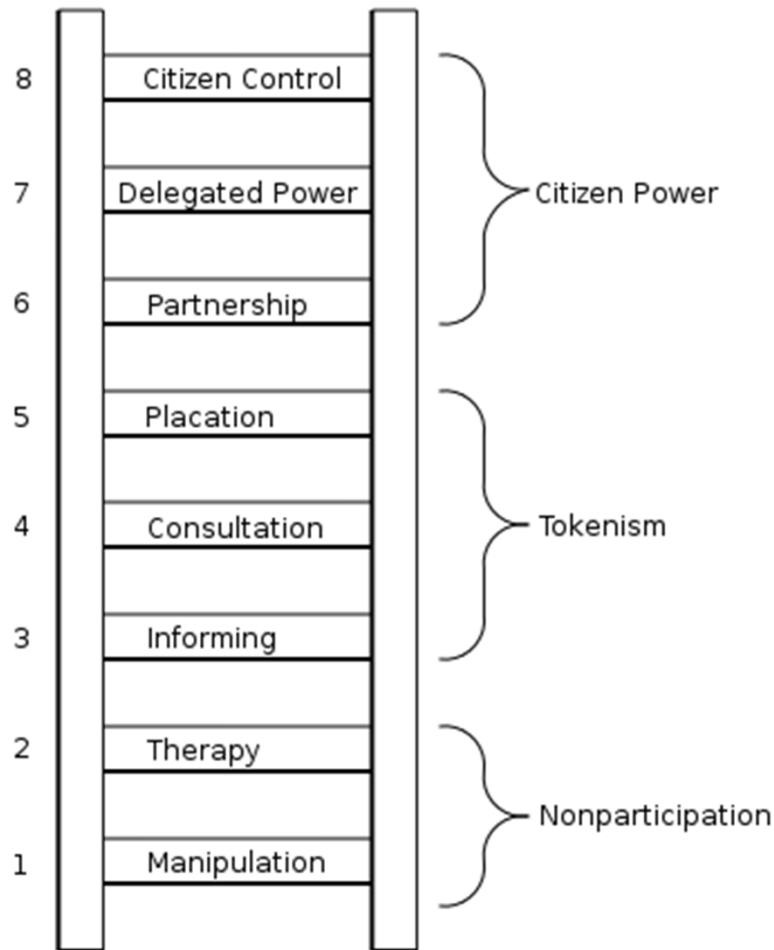
Kruger, Linda E. and Victoria E. Sturtevant. 2003. “Divergent paradigms for community inquiry: An argument for including participatory action research.” *Understanding Community-Forest Relations*. Kruger, Linda E., (ed). General Technical Report PNW-GTR-566, US Department of Agriculture Forest Service. Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, Oregon. February 2003.

Participatory Action Research & Advocacy

Participatory Action Research Model



Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation



8. Full community participation in governing.
7. Dominant citizen authority over certain plans/programs.
6. Negotiation between citizens and powerholders for planning and decision-making responsibilities.
5. Few "hand-picked" worthy citizens on boards (easily out-voted if necessary).
4. Inviting citizen opinions (survey) for appearance of participation.
3. Typically a one-way flow of information (lack of participatory options).
2. Fake form of group participation where focus is on curing their "pathology".
1. Being placed on advisory committee by powerholder.

Participatory Action Research & Advocacy

- **Advocacy** - is a political process by an individual or a group which normally aims to influence public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions.

Lobbying Versus Advocacy: Legal Definitions. NP Action retrieved 09-19-11



Participatory Action Research & Advocacy

Steps to Using the CPAT to Increase Advocacy in your Community

- 1. Create Awareness:** Identify the issue(s) important to your community (e.g. # parks, park quality, facilities/amenities available, park accessibility, safety)
- 2. Partnership:** Organize a team of stakeholders and resource providers (e.g. parents, businesses, residents, local coalitions, non-for profits, schools, parks and recreation council, city/county officials, etc)
- 3. Assessment:** Have a variety of stakeholders audit parks and recreation area(s) using the CPAT
- 4. Empowerment:** Develop a plan to address your issue
- 5. Advocacy:** Engagement of citizens in goal attainment

Workshop Agenda

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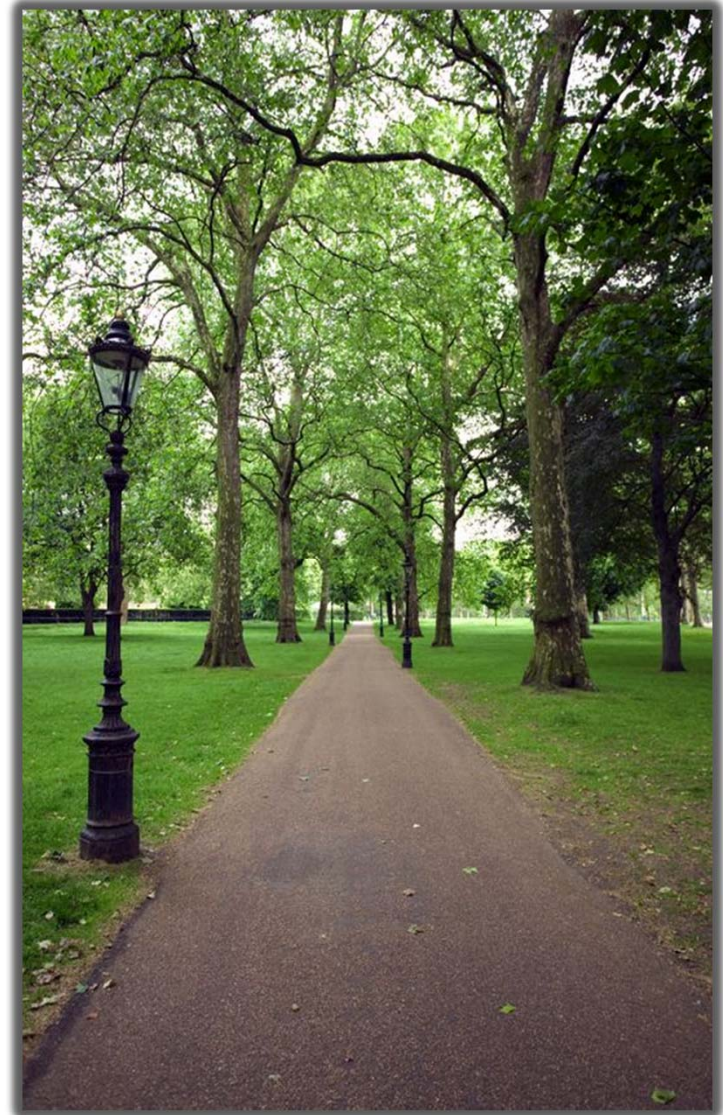
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Conduct a CPAT Workshop in Your Community!

- **Who to Invite**

- Participants
- Promotion

- **Organizing the Workshop (~3hrs)**

- Welcome and introductions (10-15 min)
- Background about parks and physical activity (15-30 min)
- Overview of the CPAT sections and questions (20-30 min)
- Use CPAT in a practice park (45-75 min)
- Reflection and discussion (20-30 min)
- Action and advocacy (20-30 min)

- **Practicing in a Park**

- Park selection
- Transportation
- What to do at the park

- **Suggested Additional Readings**



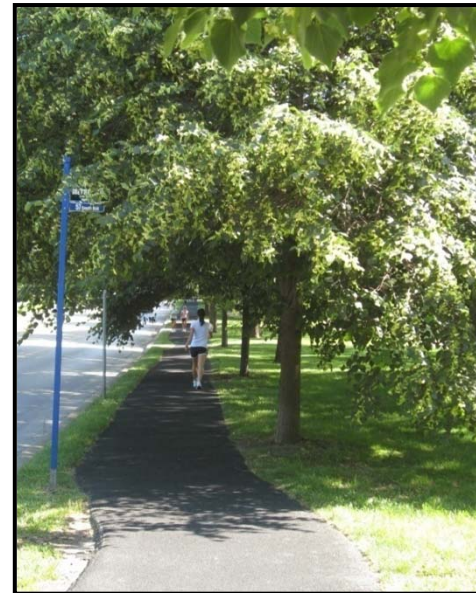
Questions? Discussion!

- We would love to hear your thoughts on how the CPAT could be used in your community for research, action, advocacy, etc.



Summary

- Parks are important resources for physical activity, but they can differ dramatically with respect to their facilities, amenities, quality, and neighborhood context
- The Community Park Audit Tool provides diverse constituencies with a user-friendly yet content valid and reliable means of assessing the characteristics of local parks
- Such actions may lead to not only increased awareness of the state of local resources and potential areas of need, but also improved community health



Acknowledgements

- The Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT) and Training were developed by:

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- For more information on this and other projects, please visit the Kansas City Parks and Physical Activity Project website:
<http://web.missouri.edu/~wilhelmstaniss/KCParksPA/Welcome.html>
- The CPAT development was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Active Living Research program

