

# 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 each 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	
<b>a. Playground</b>	(# : _____)						
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
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
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
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
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
Fence around area (i.e., half or more)		<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
Comments:							
<b>b. Sport Field (football/soccer)</b>	(# : _____)						
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:							
<b>c. Baseball Field</b>	(# : _____)						
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:							
<b>d. Swimming Pool</b>	(# : _____)						
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:							
<b>e. Splash Pad</b>	(# : _____)						
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:							
<b>f. Basketball Court</b>	(# : _____)						
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:							
<b>g. Tennis Court</b>	(# : _____)						
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:							

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

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.