

SIMPLE SITE EVALUATION

Type of Activity: Public space assessment

Outcome: Basic evaluation of the space assets, characteristics, and shortcomings. Gets people thinking critically about the space.

Target groups: Community members, city staff, community organizations, service providers.

Location: Any public space.

Time/season: Anytime, any season.

When thinking about any park or public space, from a small neighborhood square to a large urban park, ask yourself the questions beside. By thinking carefully about how people will get to the place, what they'll do when they get there, what kind of infrastructure exists, and who manages or takes care of the space, you can start to assess what's working, what's not, and what could be improved.

What You Will Need

- A printed copy of the Simple Site Evaluation sheet.
- Clipboard or something to write on.
- Pencil
- A site plan/map
- A camera is useful to record specific areas of concern or importance.

Tips!!



Parks and public spaces change throughout the year. A pathway that is safe and well maintained in the summer, may be covered in ice and snow in the winter. A space that is comfortable and safe during the daytime, may be poorly lit and unsafe at night. If possible, conduct the site evaluation at different time of the day and different periods of the year.



Activity's Direction

- > Take a walk around the entire space to get familiar with the site. Don't write anything down.
- > After doing a tour of the site, in groups of two or individually, fill out the Simple Site Evaluation Sheet.
- > Use photographs and the site map to document your findings.



This activity was adapted from Project for Public Spaces place game.

MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Is there evidence of volunteerism?

Do you see any maintenance workers or staff?

Is there a contact information so you can reach someone in charge of the space?

Is there an active or passive security presence?

PROGRAMMING

Is there a mix of stores and services nearby?

Are there opportunities for people to be physically active?

Are there inviting places for people to rest or relax?

Is there a diversity of people?

Are there activities for people of all ages?

ACCESSIBILITY

Is the place visible from a distance?

Is it accessible to wheelchairs and strollers?

Can you easily walk or bike to the place?

Is there a paved path?

Is the path clear of snow, debris, and water?

Are there “desire lines” or beaten paths?

INFRASTRUCTURE

Are there comfortable places to sit?

What kind of lighting is there?

Is there a paved or gravel path?

Are there public washrooms? Are they clean and inviting?

Is there somewhere to get a snack or drink?

Is there a shelter against the rain and the wind?