



Leveling the Playing Field: Designing Assessment Tools for Equity in Salem's Parks

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SALEM

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LA 407/507: EQUITABLE URBAN PARKS | COLLEGE OF DESIGN



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This report represents original student work and recommendations prepared by students in the University of Oregon's Sustainable City Year Program for the City of Salem. Text and images contained in this report may not be used without permission from the University of Oregon.

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About SCI

The Sustainable Cities Institute (SCI) is an applied think tank focusing on sustainability and cities through applied research, teaching, and community partnerships. We work across disciplines that match the complexity of cities to address sustainability challenges, from regional planning to building design and from enhancing engagement of diverse communities to understanding the impacts on municipal budgets from disruptive technologies and many issues in between.

SCI focuses on sustainability-based research and teaching opportunities through two primary efforts:

1. Our Sustainable City Year Program

(SCYP), a massively scaled university-community partnership program that matches the resources of the University with one Oregon community each year to help advance that community's sustainability goals; and

2. Our Urbanism Next Center, which focuses on how autonomous vehicles, e-commerce, and the sharing economy will impact the form and function of cities.

In all cases, we share our expertise and experiences with scholars, policymakers, community leaders, and project partners. We further extend our impact via an annual Expert-in-Residence Program, SCI China visiting scholars program, study abroad course on redesigning cities for people on bicycle, and through our co-leadership of the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N), which is transferring SCYP to universities and communities across the globe. Our work connects student passion, faculty experience, and community needs to produce innovative, tangible solutions for the creation of a sustainable society.

About SCYP

The Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) is a yearlong partnership between SCI and a partner in Oregon, in which students and faculty in courses from across the university collaborate with a public entity on sustainability and livability projects. SCYP faculty and students work in collaboration with staff from the partner agency through a variety of studio projects and service-learning courses to

provide students with real-world projects to investigate. Students bring energy, enthusiasm, and innovative approaches to difficult, persistent problems. SCYP's primary value derives from collaborations that result in on-the-ground impact and expanded conversations for a community ready to transition to a more sustainable and livable future.

About City of Salem

The City of Salem is Oregon's second largest city (179,605; 2022) and the State's capital. A diverse community, Salem has well-established neighborhoods, a family-friendly ambiance, and a small town feel, with easy access to the Willamette riverfront and nearby outdoor recreation, and a variety of cultural opportunities.



The City is known for having one of Oregon's healthiest historic downtowns, hosts an airport with passenger air service, and is centrally located in the heart of the Willamette Valley, 47 miles south of Portland and an hour from the Cascade Mountains to the east and the ocean beaches to the west.

State government is Salem's largest employer, followed by the Salem-Keizer School District and Salem Health. The City also serves as a hub for area farming communities and is a major agricultural

food processing center. A plethora of higher education institutions are located in Salem, ranging from public Western Oregon University, private Willamette and Corban universities, and Chemeketa Community College.

Salem is in the midst of sustained, steady growth. As a "full-service" city, it provides residents with services such as police and fire protection, emergency services, sewage collection and treatment, and safe drinking water. Salem also provides planning and permitting to help manage

growth, as well as economic development to support job creation and downtown development. The City also provides 2,338 acres of parks, libraries and educational programs, housing and social services, public spaces, streetscaping, and public art.

Salem's vision is a safe, livable, and sustainable capital city, with a thriving economy and a vibrant community that is welcoming to all. The City's mission is to provide fiscally sustainable and quality services to enrich the lives of present and future residents, protect and enhance the quality of the environment and neighborhoods, and support the vitality

of the economy. The City is in the midst of a variety of planning efforts that will shape its future, ranging from climate action planning and implementation, a transportation system plan update, as well as parks master planning.

This SCYP and City of Salem partnership is possible in part due to support from U.S. Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, as well as former Congressman Peter DeFazio, who secured federal funding for SCYP through Congressionally Directed Spending. With additional funding from the city, the partnership will allow UO students and faculty to study and make recommendations on city-identified projects and issues.

Course Participants

Katie Cassell, Pre-BLA Undergraduate
Nathan Cole, BLA Undergraduate
Michael Colucci, BARCH Undergraduate
Jill Dow, Pre-BLA Undergraduate
Lydia Lewis, ENV Undergraduate

Marcus Li, BARCH Undergraduate
Madison Merwine, BARCH Undergraduate
Juliette Setudeh-Nejad, PPPM Undergraduate
Dahill Shelvy, MLA Graduate
Marilyn Padilla Zavala, MCRP Graduate

Course Description

LA 407/507: EQUITABLE URBAN PARKS

In this course, students explored public park equity through a hands-on partnership with the City of Salem. The City of Salem prepared to update the community's park system master plan, with a specific focus on need-based equity. This course supported this effort by developing and testing methods for assessing the condition, performance, and user experience of Salem's parks. In the classroom, students learned about key considerations in park systems including park service, park quality, and park classification, and explored how these factors relate to equity. In the field, students developed, tested, iterated, and implemented data collection methods for evaluating park conditions and performance. Back in the classroom, students learned how to process field data, interpret findings, and critically examined how these findings related to equity.

Executive Summary

This document describes and contains the work of students in LA 407 / 507 Equitable Urban Parks with Professor Stapleton at the University of Oregon. Students created three assessment tools for the City of Salem to assess the current conditions of their parks. The report covers the purpose of the tools and how they were created. The tools are in Appendix C: Tool Protocols, Materials, and Instruments.

The City of Salem manages 90 parks and is currently updating its citywide park system master plan (master plan), last updated in 2013, that guides development and maintenance of these parks. The master plan is updated about once a decade (City of Salem 2024). Some residents of Salem are concerned that the distribution of parks and funding in the City is inequitable, and the City would like to address this by conducting an equity analysis of their parks system and including an equity component in the new master plan.

The work of Equitable Urban Parks follows Professor Stapleton's Spatial Justice Seminar, in which students investigated if parks were equitably distributed throughout the City (Cassell and Donnelly 2024). In Equitable Urban Parks, students created assessment tools that can be used to compare conditions and resources across different parks in the City. The findings from these two courses offer complementary explorations of park equity with the Spatial Justice Seminar considering equity through the lens of distribution and Equitable Urban Parks looking in more detail at the qualities of specific park resources.

**FIG. 1**

Site visit

Image Credit: Ellee Stapleton

Students worked in groups to develop three tools: the Conditions Assessment Tool, the Performance Assessment Tool, and the User Experience Assessment Tool, referred to interchangeably in this report as the Conditions Tool, Performance Tool, and User Experience Tool (Colucci, Dow, and Setudeh Nejad 2024; Cassell, Merwine, and Shelvy 2024; Lewis, Li, and Padilla Zavala 2024).

These tools are all designed and used following similar principles but address different qualities of parks. The tools aim to be easily usable by an individual, short, and as wholistic and unbiased as possible. The tools use a variety of data collection techniques that all rely on an individual surveyor visiting a park to collect the data. These techniques include observation, digital surveys, and intercept surveys.

The tools were designed using principles of park history and data collection and were informed by an array of precedent tools that have been used for park system surveying by other cities.

Students tested and refined their tools through a variety of case studies at individual parks to meet their functionality and efficiency goals. Notes on tool optimization and contextualization are included in the Recommendations section.

A focus on data collection and analysis will help the City of Salem prepare for the master plan update. The City's goals to analyze equity in the parks system and include an equity component in the new master plan can be facilitated using the tools contained in this report.

Introduction

The City of Salem operates 90 parks covering 2,335 acres. The Parks Planning and Development program has a citywide park system master plan (master plan) which guides park operations and development, which was last updated in 2013; the previous major update was in 1999. The City is preparing to update its master plan once more, and as part of that task, the City determined a need to assess the equity of its parks system, one component of which is assessing park conditions.

The City's comprehensive park system master plan update in May 2013 identified four key planning issues: a rapidly aging population, fewer youths learning outdoor skills and reduced outdoor activity among youths, increasing diversity, and a physical activity crisis (Lewis 2024).

To address these problems and the City's goals, students in LA 407 / 507 Equitable Urban Parks developed three assessment tools to gather data to help the Parks Planning and Development staff understand the current conditions of Salem parks.

Assessment tool/tool: *a technique or method for performing an assessment. The tool refers to everything needed to conduct the assessment, including the specific instruments, the protocol, and any supporting materials. It can be thought of like a new board game.*

Supporting materials: *This is not a technical term, but it often comes up during tool development. Some tools might include something besides instruments and protocols. Supporting documents can be thought of like the score cards, pencil, or timer provided with the game—they are not part of the game play or the instructions, but they are still necessary.*

Adapted from LA 407 / 507 taught by Professor Stapleton.

These assessment tools are referred to as the Conditions Assessment Tool, Performance Assessment Tool, and User Experience Assessment Tool, and interchangeably as the Conditions Tool, Performance Tool, and User Experience Tool. These tools are the first step towards creating a data-driven and equity focused process for allocating park resources.

Parks and Recreation staff Rob Romanek and Raymond Joseph facilitated the tool development process by meeting virtually with students at the beginning of the project, before development began, and then in person in Salem to give a tour of some of the parks and discuss how they see the park system benefiting from these tools. Finally, another virtual meeting with students after tool development and testing, allowed students to go further in the development process.

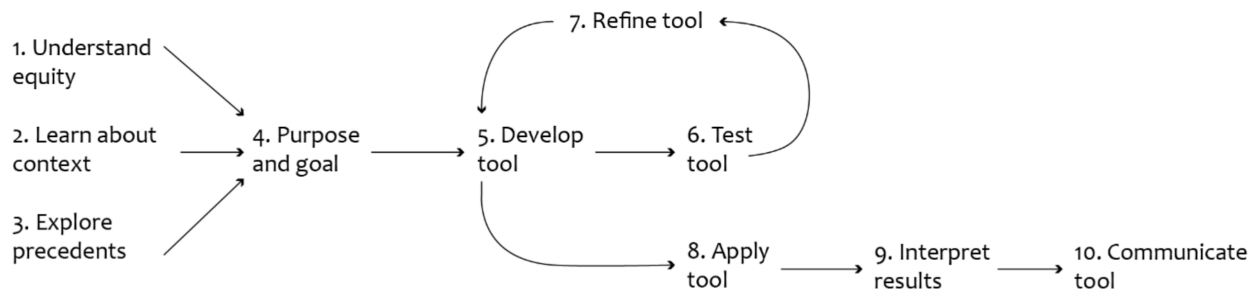


FIG. 2

Anticipated development timeline for the tools during the course of LA 407 / 507. Some of the tools turned out to require more time than others to develop. While all tools completed all ten steps of the development process, some are still in need of more refinement before they would be ready-to-use. See Recommendations.

Credit: Ellee Stapleton

Overview of Assessment Tools

This report discusses the Tools as they were originally intended to be used in a hypothetical, completed form. The Recommendations section discusses some practical ways to adapt the tools in their current state for imminent use.

To address the City's need to analyze the conditions and performance of its parks, students began developing three assessment tools. When finalized, the tools are intended to be a complete and comprehensive set of instruments and protocols. Volunteers or City employees should be able to use final versions of the tools to perform an assessment with reasonable accuracy with little to no training. The goal of the project was to

begin creating a framework for objective and subjective data to be efficiently collected to inform the City's development of its equity analysis and equity guidelines in its new citywide parks master plan. This report compiles the work completed thus far. Completion and deployment of these tools could ultimately facilitate data-driven decision-making for the operations and development of Salem's parks.

STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ASSESSMENT

1. Prepare

Review park maps and outline target areas using paths, fences, rivers, and natural areas as boundaries.

Observers should familiarize themselves with the assessment tool before observing a park.

Observers will perform observations by walking around the park or natural area. Biking and driving during observation are not advisable.

2. Initial Park Scan

The observer will conduct an initial scan of overall park information, including the ability to locate the map and percentage of tree cover.

Approach the park and observe the surrounding neighborhood and access.

Record the start time of your initial audit as well as temperature and weather at the time of visit.

Complete the performance assessment worksheet for the overall park information

3. Target Area Scan

Approach your initial target area and record the start time of your scan and the number of sub-target areas.

Complete the performance assessment worksheet for each target area before leaving the park. Record the end time of your audit.

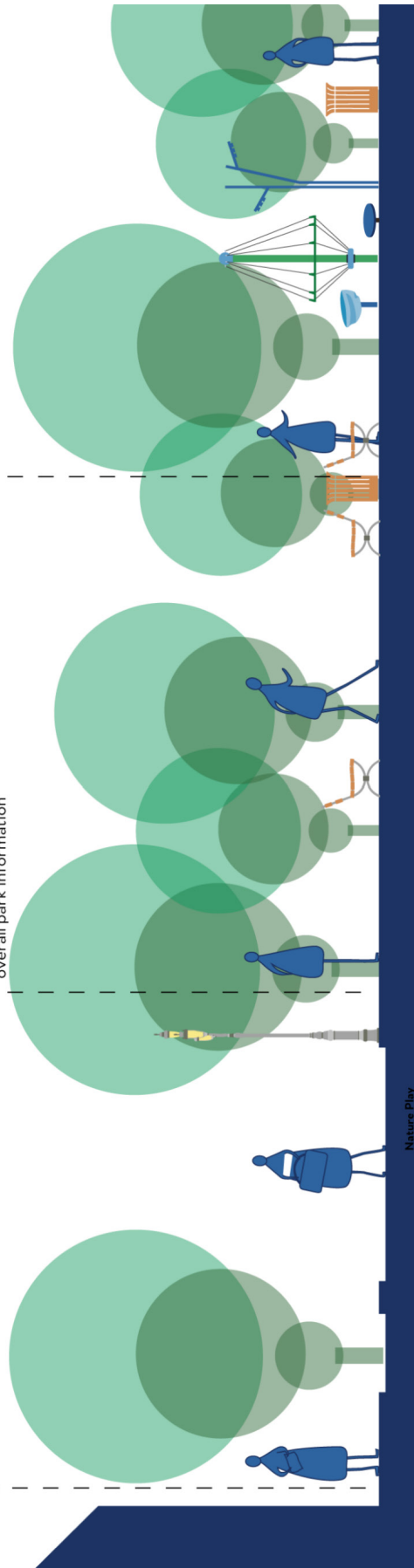


FIG. 3

Example of a tool protocol from the Performance Tool.

Image Credit: Cassell, Merwine, Shelly

Instrument: *the specific device used for the assessment. An instrument is a major part of a tool and sometimes less precise publications may even refer to it as a tool, but this report will delineate between the two. It can be thought of like the board and game pieces of a board game.*

Protocol: *The protocol explains how the assessment is conducted, including how the instrument should be used. It can be thought of like the instructions for the game.*

Adapted from LA 407 / 507 taught by Professor Stapleton.

The tool can be used independently with its own knowledge base without relying on institutional knowledge. Additionally, a packaged tool will be more useful for the long term, should it come to be used by people other than the original users, for the same reasons.

To develop the tools, students began by studying precedents, which included tools created by other parks departments, such as the City of Los Angeles. This research also included tools developed by researchers, such as the SOPARNA tool, a result of a collaboration between post-graduate students at San Diego State University and the USDA Forest Service. Highlights of the precedent studies are described in Appendix A.

Students created three tools in varying levels of completion that were tested on sites in Eugene and Salem. The tests students conducted using the tools generated objective data through observation, such as quantities and five-point condition scales, as well subjective data, through face-to-face and online surveys. The synthesis of this objective and subjective data is highly productive for exploring challenges facing the park system. Concerns, perspectives, and experiences are well identified through the subjective data collection channels and can be confirmed or denied using objective data. In other words, the subjective data can suggest areas to collect objective data. Both types of data are necessary, and they are more useful when viewed in tandem.

PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT TOOL

Tool Authors: Michael Colucci, Jill Dow, Juliette Setudeh Nejad

Overview

The Conditions Assessment Tool aims to understand what objects, equipment, and amenities are in a park and what condition they are in. This tool uses observation to record objective quantitative and qualitative measurements such as quantity, five-point condition scales, and yes/no questions.

The data from the Conditions Tool will be helpful for comparing how resources are currently distributed among parks, helping to identify parks that need more funding. The data from the Conditions Tool also could be richer if integrated into spatial analysis. This is because the other tools provide insight that the condition of an object alone cannot. The condition of a park bench, for example, will influence the performance of the bench and the user experience of the bench, although it is not the only factor in those other areas.

The data from the Conditions Tool will be richer when considered in conjunction with the data from the Performance and User Experience Tools.

Because of these blurry boundaries between, for example, the condition of a park bench and the performance of the bench, it is important to define what was considered to be within the scope of the Conditions Tool during its development. The Conditions Tool considers everything in the park that is permanent and inanimate, such as trees, paths, restrooms, play equipment, etc.

Goals and Purpose

By collecting this data, the Parks Planning and Development staff will be able to make informed decisions about the allotment of finite resources. These data could allow for the prioritization of parks with fewer amenities, for example, to receive more attention, or to identify opportunities for partnerships that support widespread needs in parks, or to form partnerships for future anticipated needs identified through the data collected.

Methods

The Conditions Assessment Tool is designed to be a user-friendly tool that is useful for quickly evaluating a large target area. With 29 questions spread over approximately seven pages, the tool should take about 15-30 minutes to complete for an average, midsize park, however, the time required to record quantitative measurements will scale linearly. Additionally, no training is required for effective use of the tool, which only requires a single assessor, so long as the instructions are followed completely.

In this report, an assessor shall refer to the person operating the tool, or in other words, the person performing the assessment.

FIG. 4

Site visit

Image Credit: Ellee Stapleton



Since the condition of a park is relatively independent of time of day and usage patterns, the tool is flexible in when it is used. It may even be advantageous for the assessor to use the tool in off-peak times when equipment and facilities are not in use, thus allowing closer inspection, although personnel safety may be a challenge during off-peak times. There is no special equipment needed to perform the assessment in its entirety.

Case Study: *The Conditions Assessment Tool was tested on one site in Eugene and five sites in Salem. On each site, the tool authors tested their tool and made notes for revisions. See Appendix A for details on the reliability of the data produced by the Conditions Tool.*

PARK PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Tool Authors: Katie Cassell, Madison Merwine, Dahill Shelvy

Overview

The Performance Assessment Tool bridges the gap between the Conditions Assessment Tool and the User Experience Assessment Tool. It has overlap with the Conditions Tool because the performance of a bench, for example, is closely tied with the condition of the bench as described by the Conditions Tool.

The Performance Tool overlaps with the User Experience Tool as well. For example, the User Experience Tool asks people subjective, scale-based questions like “rank your satisfaction with the cleanliness of the park on a five-point scale.” On the other hand, the Performance Tool defines “excessive litter” and asks if it is present, making its data objective. They both are assessing litter in parks, but from different perspectives, thus generating different types of data. In this case, different perspectives could mean a trained official observer versus a random park user.

The Performance Tool captures more than the condition of park assets—it considers how the condition and use of assets combine to influence the user experience.

However, the Performance Tool captures more than simply the condition of park assets—it considers how the condition and use of assets combine to influence the user experience. While the Conditions Tool may note the presence or absence of things like lighting and sports facilities, the Performance Tool looks at how well these amenities are performing relative to their potential, asking if these amenities are efficient, optimal, and adequate. Thus, the Performance Tool is highly concerned with context, as the adequacy of a quantitative measurement can only be determined relative to some benchmark or other data.

Goals and Purpose

The Performance Tool considers the presence of park amenities, the design of the park, and the activities occurring in the park.

By analyzing these data, the Parks Planning and Development program will be able to understand not only the current resource distribution, i.e., which parks have which amenities, but also the way the parks are being used. This will allow for informed decisions about which parks need attention and in which areas.

Additionally, it will help to see which parks could be significantly improved without significant expenditure, increasing the efficiency of park resource distribution. The Conditions Tool may determine there are two parks with equally deteriorated basketball courts, but the Performance Tool may reveal that one park's courts are used more frequently, suggesting funding would be better spent on repairing that basketball court first.

Methods

The Performance Tool instrument is a physical document eight pages long (some pages are filled out multiple times), consisting of 263 to 563+ questions for typical parks, depending on how many Target Areas are assessed, as each Target Area assessment asks the assessor 50 of the same questions. Despite the large number of questions, the team found that in their tests of the tool, it took about 30 minutes to an hour to complete per park, with only a single assessor assessing each park. Although the authors of the Performance Tool recommend a group of assessors use the tool to assess a park simultaneously, they note that it can be done by an individual assessor.

Target Area: a term specific to the Performance tool, a Target Area is a subsection of a park, i.e. sports facilities, playgrounds, or picnicking areas that is assessed using the Target Area assessment sheets.

TIMING

Through application of the tool at a variety of park types, the following are estimates of how long it should take to complete the field assessment:

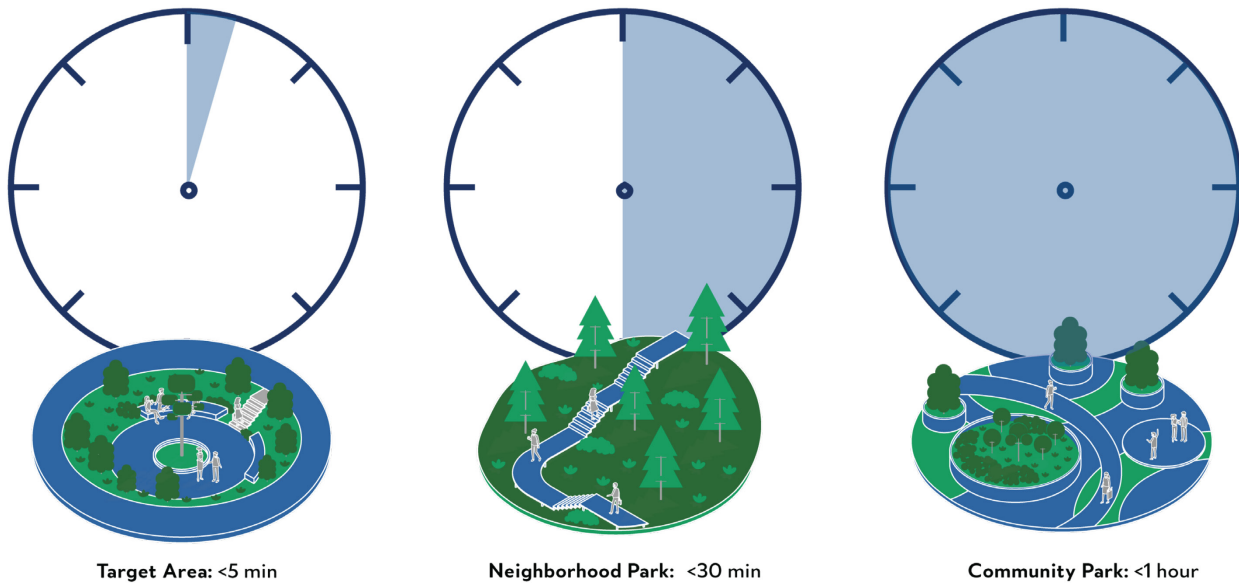


FIG. 5

Performance Tool assessment time estimates.

Image credit: Cassell, Merwine, Shelvy

Additionally, the authors note it is important to assess all parks at the same time of day and during the same time of week, as some of the data the Performance Tool collects will be influenced by the park occupancy level. Multiple assessment periods would lead to the most robust data. No special equipment is needed to use the tool.

Case Study: The authors of the Performance Tool report their tool was tested on three different days in Salem and one day in Eugene on a variety of parks.

PARKS ASSESSED

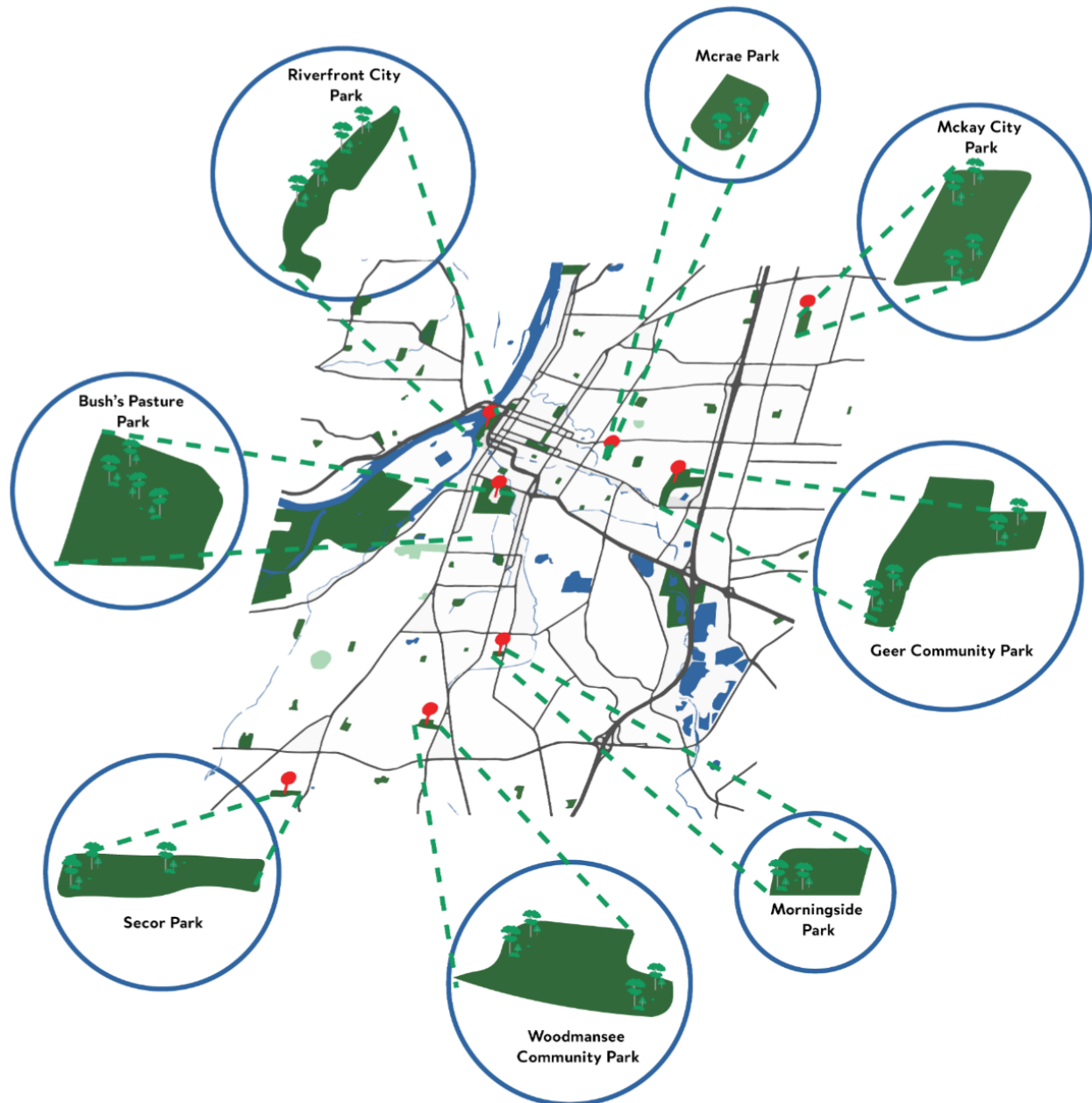


FIG. 6

The performance assessment team tested their tools on a diverse array of Salem's parks.

Image credit: Cassell, Merwine, Shelly

PARK USER EXPERIENCE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Tool Authors: Lydia Lewis, Marcus Li, Marilyn Padilla Zavala

Overview

The User Experience Assessment Tool aims to capture the subjective, qualitative feelings of park users from as representative a group as possible. To achieve this representation, the tool calls for two survey methods: a digital QR-code with a link to a survey that park users can fill out on their own and intercept surveys, where an assessor talks to a park user and records their responses. This multimodal format aims to overcome technological barriers and afford the variety of ways people like to engage.

By collecting user responses to questions like “rank your satisfaction with this park’s [cleanliness, safety, accessibility, etc],” the Parks Planning and Development program will be able to understand needs that could not be identified through the Conditions and Performance Tools alone. For example, the Conditions Tool may report that all parks have benches but in one park they are really uncomfortable or are all in a really sunny place where no one wants to sit.

For example, the Conditions Tool may report that all parks have benches but in one park they are really uncomfortable or are all in a really sunny place where no one wants to sit.

Goals and Purpose

“User experience” encompasses everything that users feel, think, or believe about a park, regardless of the reality of the park. The highly subjective and qualitative data that this tool produces is valuable when analyzed in contrast with the more objective, quantitative data collected from the conditions and Performance Tools, as it can provide information about concerns the City has, such as the validity of perceived inequities in certain regions.

“User experience” encompasses everything that users feel, think, or believe about a park, regardless of the reality of the park.

Methods

The User Experience Tool will require the most training of the tools to use successfully, as it requires interacting with people, and the way those interactions occur could influence user responses. Additionally, due to the high variability of responses to open ended questions on the survey, some training would be helpful to assure consistency in the interpretation of such responses. Assessors will also need to be prepared for people who do not want to be bothered, and people who need help opening the QR code on their phone. The tool is designed to require as little training as possible to maximize accessibility and versatility.

**FIG. 7**

Parks Planning Manager Rob Romanek (far right) talks to students at their site visit to Salem

Image Credit: Ellee Stapleton

At just one-and-a-half pages long with 16 questions, the user experience survey is relatively quick to complete, taking about five minutes on average. This was an intentional design choice by the tool authors to increase participation and lower the time commitment to complete the survey, thereby capturing a broader range of users, as opposed to capturing responses only from people who are willing to take a long survey. The survey can be administered by individuals, and consideration may be given to the time of day that the surveys are being administered, since that will strongly influence results—people in the park at night will likely feel better about park safety than people who avoid the park at night, for example. Additionally, safety training could be important for assessors given the nature of using this tool—see the Recommendations section for more details on safety considerations. No special equipment is needed to use this tool.

Case Study: Over the course of their tests of the tool in Eugene and Salem across six different parks, the authors found that it was harder to get engagement at the larger parks, and that the response rate varied from <50% to 71%. They found that at one park, there were no users they felt they could approach, which suggests that multiple site visits may be necessary, especially for smaller parks.

One challenge that emerged during the case study was the difficulty of gathering a representative sample. Certain groups of park users, for example, cyclists or runners, could not be questioned during the intercept survey.

Additionally, the team had difficulty getting responses from people who are unhoused. Gathering responses from unhoused populations can be difficult for several reasons, including distrust, personnel safety, communication disorders, and general distrust of government and anyone with a clipboard. Although people who are unhoused pose challenges for parks and public policy, they are nonetheless legitimate park users, and some of the most vulnerable. Their perspectives are critical to equitable park design.

Recommendations

TOOL OPTIMIZATION

Some common themes that emerged from this project came from testing the tools. Testing offered rich feedback to refine tools that could not be obtained by any other means.

The Performance Tool is the most complete and ready-to-use of the three tools. To deploy these tools imminently, it would likely be best to merge the Conditions Tool with the Performance Tool, keeping the Performance Tool's protocols and instrument and simply adding the questions from the Conditions Tool. The User Experience Tool would require more refinement to be ready-to-use.

One area users of these tools may want to heed is the definitions of criteria in the tools. Some questions could produce more accurate results if their criteria were differently defined. For example, the Conditions Tool asks, "How many grassy areas are there?" a question whose answer will depend largely on what the assessor defines as a single grassy area. For example, is a single grassy area that which is bounded by trees or other amenities? What if there are a few trees in between grass patches—is that one or two grassy areas? Everyone will have their own, often differing answers to these questions, from which arises the problem of how to accurately compare grassy area quantities between parks.

The best way to overcome this issue would be to more rigorously and clearly define terms like 'grassy area.' In cases where even a clear definition is not sufficient to eliminate subjectivity, the role of the assessor becomes especially critical. Assuring that all assessors receive identical training and conduct practice assessments to confirm their results align with one another are important strategies for minimizing bias. Limiting the number of individuals involved with assessment could be another strategy for assuring internal consistency within the dataset.

Redundant questions between tools increases certainty in the data collected when results for the same questions are compared. However, this redundancy could be removed for more efficient tools, at the expense of some certainty in the data produced.

Another area that users of these tools may want to consider is redundancy. The tools have significant overlap between questions, often asking the same questions, which increases the accuracy of the data collected when results for the same questions are compared. However, this redundancy could be removed for more efficient tools, at the expense of some certainty in the data produced. The authors believe the tools are still adequately reliable when this redundancy is removed. See Appendix B: Case Studies for details on data reliability.

TOOL CUSTOMIZATION

Another theme that emerged from tool development is the challenge of balancing tool length with thoroughness. These tools can be viewed as a suggestion of what is possible. Part of the intent of making these tools flexible is to allow for this challenge. Depending on how many staff are available to perform assessments, for example, it may be feasible to lengthen the tools, or conversely, necessary to shorten them.

In most cases, questions can be added, deleted, or modified to suit the tool user's needs without jeopardizing the integrity of the tool. The only case where this is not true is for any algorithmic indices for interpretation of data. Should such indices be created or used, their algorithms would need to be modified appropriately to reflect any modifications to the questions in the tool to prevent inaccurate index values.

DATA INTERPRETATION

Indices may be a valuable method to quickly interpret the large amount of data these tools produce.

The Performance team noted that the data their tool produces is designed to be easily aggregated into a single score for each category their tool assesses, such as safety, environmental performance, and usability. These scores can be further synthesized into a single performance index value for each park. From a decision-making standpoint the use of a single index or score value has substantial utility. The performance index offers a strong initial concept but would

require additional refinement in how it is calculated to assure it appropriately reflects desired criteria.

PERSONNEL SAFETY

Having multiple assessors assess the same park simultaneously by divvying up the assessment questions would increase assessment speed and increase the personal safety of the assessors. Personnel safety is something that may be particularly critical to consider for the intercept surveys and assessments taking place at times when parks have few or no users. It may also depend on how comfortable and experienced the assessor is with such situations. Training for assessors covering interacting with the public, de-escalation, and staying safe in public could mitigate these risks. Special training and/or consideration of how to gather input from unhoused park users could also provide critical insight into how to improve park equity.

LOOKING AHEAD

Students in the course suggest that the City of Salem consider merging and finalizing the three tools as outlined in the Tool Optimization subsection of the Recommendations section for imminent use. The City can then use the tools as thoroughly as possible and use that data to inform the equity analysis and equity component of the new citywide parks master plan. While collecting data from just one of these tools would be helpful, the amalgamation of data from all three will bring insights that are greater than the sum of their parts. Students propose this considering the limited resources that the parks system is facing at this current time, and the imminent revision of the park system master plan.

FIG. 8

Salem Chief Strategy Officer Courtney Knox Busch (middle) talks about Salem parks with students at their site visit

Image Credit: Ellee Stapleton



Additionally, to ensure a sound and equitable future for the City's parks, it could be beneficial to include measures in the new master plan that outline how often these tools should be used to assess the status of parks, how the data should be analyzed, and how the results should be used to inform how funding is distributed among parks.

Making these tools and the data they produce publicly available may be beneficial to the City of Salem. Doing so could build rapport with the public through creating transparency on internal progress to address concerns about

inequities in the parks system. Interpretive signage in parks about these tools and Salem's equity goals could also educate users of more developed parks about why their parks may be a lower priority for funding in the future.

Transparency and public outreach would further demonstrate the City's dedication to being at the service of its residents, and make Salem known as a leader in park equity. This could open opportunities for other cities to follow in Salem's footsteps by using these tools to improve equity in their park systems as well.

Conclusion

Assessment tools are a powerful way to navigate systems that span many people. Properly configured tools allow the efficient collection of reliable data that is often more accurate and useful than what can simply be perceived by an individual alone. Data allow analysis and interpretation, ultimately mitigating challenges like bias and time constraints.

For the City of Salem, these tools represent an opportunity to gather data that can help address the needs of a growing population and parks system that

has limited resources and seeks to serve its citizens equitably.

This is a critical point for data collection and analysis, as the new citywide parks master plan will likely guide park development for the next decade. Collecting, analyzing, and applying data now to the new master plan will allow for the creation of a robust, equitable park management plan that will help the City meet its goals for the next decade and beyond.

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Appendix A: Precedent Research

	Tool 1	Tool 2	Tool 3	Tool 4	Tool 5
Tool name	Complete Parks Indicators	Neighborhood Park Surveys Outer Southeast Portland	Park Condition Assessment	Recreation Facility Evaluation Tool	Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)
Tool author	ChangeLab Solutions	Portland Parks and Recreation and Portland State University	Friends of Grand Rapids Parks	Cavnar MM, Kirtland KA, Evans MH, Wilson DK, Williams JE, Mixon GM, Henderson KA. (2003, August). Recreation Facility Evaluation Instrument. Prevention Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina. R	Kansas State University, University of Missouri
Purpose of the tool	Complete Parks is a way of thinking about a parks system as a comprehensive whole — its strengths, issues, and inequities — and considers communities' needs in relation to parks or the lack of parks, the context of various neighborhoods, and other interconnected systems and institutions.	Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) contracted with PSU's Survey Research Lab (SRL) to conduct park intercept surveys at Ed Benedict and Raymond Parks. The purpose of the surveys was to better understand preferences, motivations, frequency of use, and satisfaction of park users.	This tool is meant to survey resident about their experience with the local park by assessing the condition of the neighborhood park.	It is meant to evaluate Parks, Playgrounds, Sports Fields, Aquatic Facilities/Pools, and Recreation Centers where each park and recreation center is rated with respect to safety, condition, and maintenance of the facility. The evaluation tool was developed for facilities in a medium-sized county (population 104,237) located in the southeastern United States. The tool takes approximately 20 minutes to complete per facility.	The CPAT was developed as a tool that would enable diverse community stakeholders to audit local parks for their potential to promote physical activity, with an emphasis on the tool being user-friendly and focusing on youth physical activity.
Intended for use by	Developed for local government staff, this document introduces the 7 Complete Parks elements, presents indicators and sample metrics for each element, and provides guidance for multi-disciplinary groups on how to collect the data.	Park Planning Staff, Local programming agencies and nonprofits, residents	Residents and park visitors	The city park planners, public works	Residents, community organizations, park planners
Time to complete (NA if not provided)	N/A	June 2011-May 2012	N/A	N/A	
Assessment category(s) (conditions, performance, user experience, other)	Performance, Conditions, User experience	User Experience, Programming	Conditions	Conditions, Facilities, Observation?	User experience
Data collection method (observation, survey, etc.)	Mapping metrics such as demographics, priority areas, and parks and open space network using GIS. Document review, audits, surveys, and using existing data to collect information.	Survey	Survey	Evaluation Criteria	Observation, survey
Kind of data it collects (quantitative/qualitative, objective/subjective)	Qualitative data considering a lot of it is gathered from community engagement. There is also quantitative data like demographics and existing maps.	Quantitative	Quantitative	Qualitative	Qualitative

FIG. 9

To inform the creation of their tools, students compared tools made for similar purposes by various other cities and interested groups.

Image credit: Padilla Zavala

Padilla Zavala writes on the state of park analysis tools:

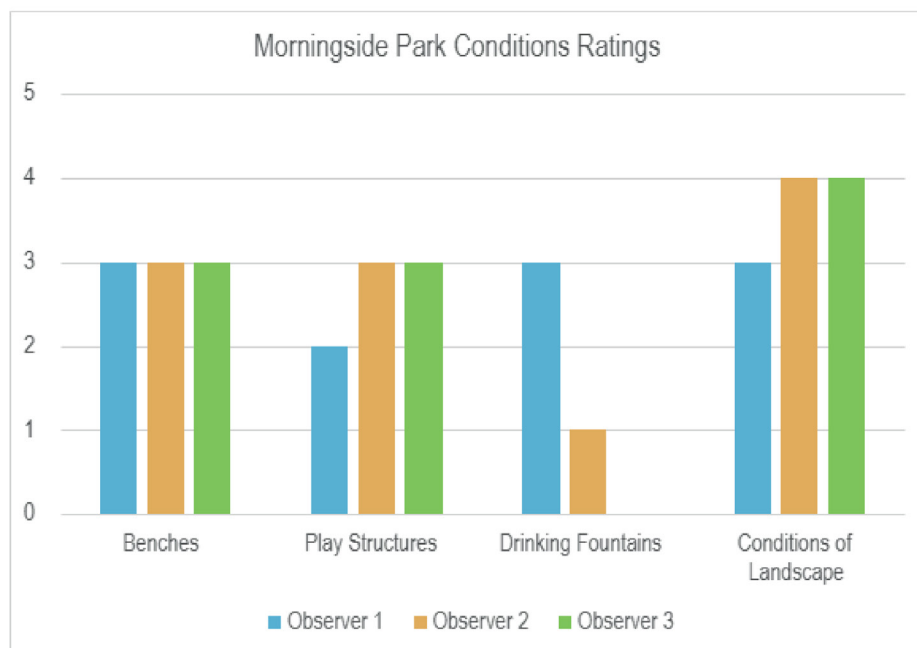
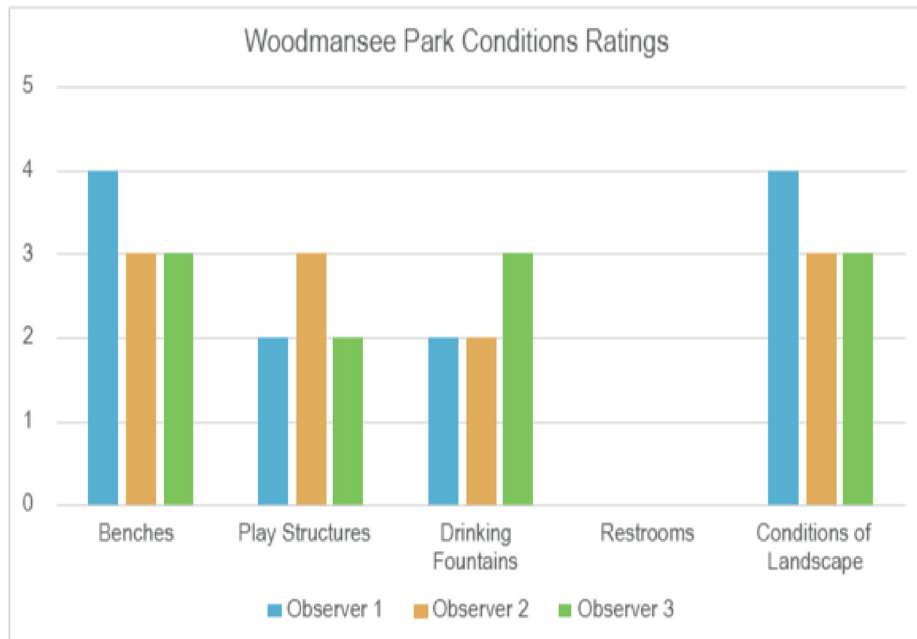
“[This] table provides valuable insights into the strengths and limitations of different assessment methods and underscores the importance of considering equity in data collection processes for park assessments. Surveys and questionnaires offer a quantitative way to analyze data, but they may overlook certain nuanced experiences that are crucial for understanding the diverse needs of park users. Park audits and evaluations, while providing detailed assessments, rely heavily on the expertise of professionals and may not always capture the perspectives of community members directly.

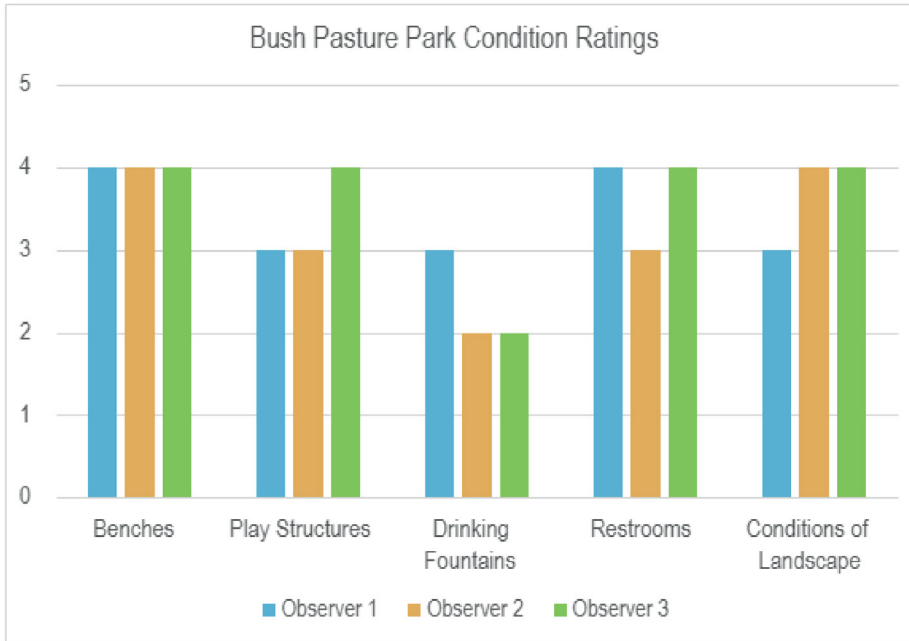
To address these limitations and ensure a more equitable approach to data collection, incorporating open-ended questions, listening sessions, and focus groups can provide a platform for residents and frequent park users to share their experiences and insights in their own words.

Meeting people where they are, both geographically and culturally, is essential for ensuring that all voices are heard and that park assessments accurately reflect the needs and priorities of the communities they serve. By embracing diverse methodologies and engaging with stakeholders in meaningful ways, park assessments can yield more comprehensive and equitable results, leading to informed decision-making and improved park experiences for all.”

Appendix B: Case Study on Data Reliability

The conditions team evaluated five parks three times each, each time by a different assessor, and compared their results using a bar chart to test their tool's reliability.





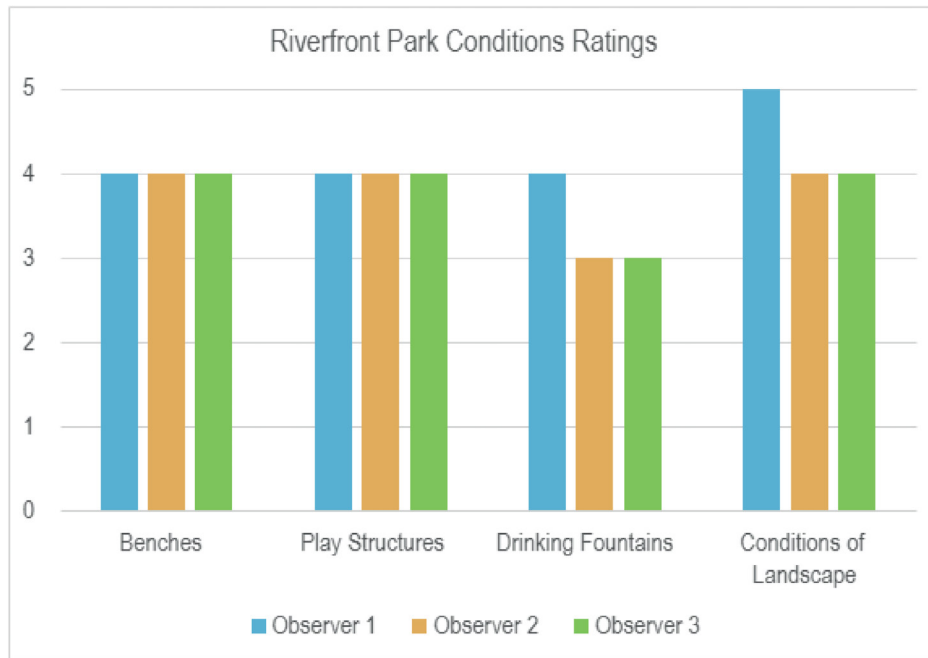


FIG. 10

The data as it compares for the same parks collected by different assessors.

Image credit: Colucci, Dow, Setudeh Nejad

Appendix C: Tool Protocols, Materials, and Instruments

These tools are meant to be durable and adaptable. They come with complete instructions, field documents, and suggestions for use that are intended to allow anyone to use these tools without the need for institutional knowledge or expertise.

CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT TOOL

LA 407/507

Professor Stapleton

Group Members: Jill Dow, Juliette Setudeh Nejad, Michael Colucci

14 June 2024

Condition Assessment Tool

Background:

Salem, Oregon's public parks policy faces a critical situation due to limited funding and aging infrastructure. Budget constraints force cutbacks like water access to fountains and bathrooms, potentially leading to closures. Despite the challenges posed by the outdated park plan from 2013, efforts are underway to enhance park conditions and ensure they meet standards of satisfaction, equity, and adequacy.

Through site visits, park plan review and assistance from Salem park planners, students identified various challenges within the parks that do not adequately address the needs of the population. Limited funding opportunities within the City has led to reduced city services within Salem parks, these include shutting off water sources for the parks and shutting down bathrooms.

The problem is compounded by a lack of detailed information on the state of park infrastructure and the absence of proper maintenance resources. An issue within the parks is the problem of aging equipment that has been subject to years of wear. Additionally, Salem has identified areas of high priority to direct the majority of funding and improvement to their parks which has led to an underinvestment of many parks in the system.

To tackle these issues, a solution involving data collection through observation is proposed. Our conditions assessment tool will be tested by different groups to redefine and validate the tool's functionality across different perspectives and contexts.

Development process:

In designing our park condition assessment tool, we referenced the Grand Rapids Park Condition Assessment Tool. We followed the same structure as the Grand Rapids Park Condition Assessment Tool to build our tool. This included the rating and yes or no questions that were incorporated throughout. Our team used the concise question format to develop the survey questions. Currently the City of Salem does not have a park evaluation system in place. To create our tool we used Jotform, an online survey generator, to format the questions.

Instructions for use:

The data collector will need to familiarize themselves with the criteria and objectives of the assessment tool. The criteria and objectives of the assessment tool outline specific standards and goals against which the park will be evaluated. These include factors such as accessibility, safety measures, amenities provision, and overall visitor satisfaction.

The park assessment tool encompasses several key categories essential for evaluating the park's overall quality and functionality. These categories typically include amenities, accessibility, maintenance, and visitor experience. Amenities encompass facilities like playgrounds, restrooms, and seating areas, evaluating their availability, condition, and suitability for diverse user needs. Accessibility addresses whether the park is easily reachable by various modes of transport and accommodates individuals with disabilities. Maintenance examines the cleanliness, upkeep of green spaces, and structural integrity of park infrastructure. Lastly, visitor experience evaluates subjective factors such as aesthetics, satisfaction with amenities, and overall enjoyment, aiming to gauge how well the park meets the community's recreational and leisure expectations. These categories collectively provide a structured framework for comprehensively assessing and improving park conditions to enhance public enjoyment and benefit.

The tool aims to provide a comprehensive evaluation that guides improvements and enhances the park experience for all users. The survey is accessible online through a QR code, if there are unpredictable cellular service challenges, it is recommended to print out a physical copy of the survey. It is important that the user carefully follows the questions and produces an objective evaluation of the survey to ensure accuracy. If the user has additional notes of the assessed park there is an open-ended section at the end of the survey to fill out. The user should additionally review the completed assessment table at the end to make sure all relevant information has been captured accurately.

Data analysis and results:

The collected data will provide a comprehensive assessment of the overall conditions of public parks in Salem, Oregon. We will compare the quantitative data gathered for each park category to assess the equitable distribution of resources. Furthermore, the specific data gathered on park conditions will allow Salem to allocate resources strategically to improve amenities offered throughout the city. Through the data collected, Salem park planners will be able to identify themes across the different park classifications to better understand the needs of each park category. Ultimately, the goal is to create a more equitable and functional park system that serves all residents of Salem effectively. Deliverables of the project will include a final park conditions assessment tool that will combine objective data of the reviewed park.

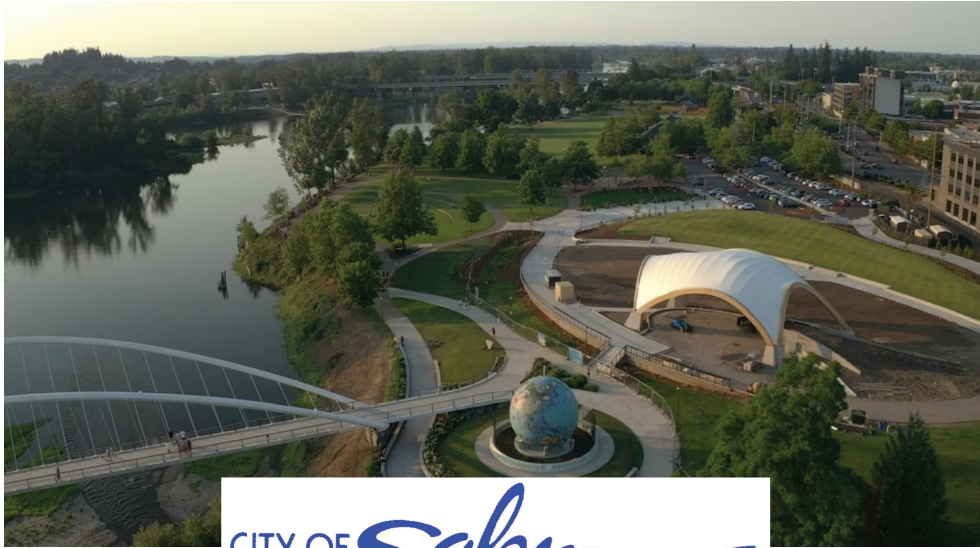
Training and reliability:

This survey has no required training to complete. It is important that survey users remain objective and follow the instructions closely to ensure no additional bias in the data collection.

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Conditions Assessment Tool

Which park are you evaluating?

What typology of park are you evaluating?

- ☐ Neighborhood Parks
- ☐ Community Parks
- ☐ Urban Parks
- ☐ Linear Parks
- ☐ Special Use Facilities
- ☐ Historical Areas
- ☐ Natural Areas

Park Typology Breakdown

Neighborhood parks: Neighborhood parks are local parks serving surrounding residents within walking and biking distance and providing access to basic recreation amenities. Salem has 34 developed neighborhood parks and 14 undeveloped neighborhood park properties.

Community parks: Community parks, such as River Road Park or Woodmansee Park, are large-scale parks that serve the entire community and allow for a variety of recreational activities such as organized sports, group picnics, and playgrounds. Salem has four developed community parks, one partly developed (Geer Park), and six undeveloped community park properties.

Urban parks: Urban parks, such as Riverfront Park, help to meet the recreational needs of the entire city and may attract visitors from throughout the region for festivals and special events. Urban parks may also have restored or protected natural areas that provide wildlife habitat.
or serve as stormwater facilities. Salem has six developed urban parks and one undeveloped urban park property.

Linear parks / Connector trails: Linear parks and connector trails include natural or built corridors that connect parks and neighborhoods and provide linkages through the city. The Union Street Railroad Pedestrian Bridge is an example of a Connector Trail that links Riverfront and Wallace Marine Parks.

Special use facilities: Special use facilities generally are sites that serve unique purposes, and may provide recreational, cultural, or educational uses. Center 50 + and Gilbert House Children's Museum are special-use facilities.

Historical areas: Historical areas serve multiple purposes. These areas contain features of cultural and historical significance requiring sensitivity to the use and management of the site. Bush House and Deepwood Museum and Gardens are examples.

Natural areas: Natural areas are primarily undeveloped lands left in a natural state for conservation, and they may provide opportunities for passive recreation. Minto-Brown Island Park is our largest natural area with close to 19 miles of trails.

Source: <https://www.cityofsalem.net/community/things-to-do/parks>

How many acres is the park?

Please use online resources to determine park size in acres

Assess the condition of the infrastructure

Benches

Number of benches available in the park? (Picnic tables are included)

- ☐ 0-15
☐ 15-30
☐ 30+

Rate the conditions of the benches: 1-5

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
Poor Excellent

Play Structures

Number of play structures are available in the park?

- ☐ 0-5
☐ 5-10
☐ 10+

Rate the conditions of the play structures: 1-5

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5
Poor Excellent

Amenities (water fountains, bathrooms, trash cans)

How many drinking fountains are available (units, not spouts)

- ☐ 0-5
- ☐ 5-10
- ☐ 10+

Rate the conditions of the drinking foundations: 1-5

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Poor Excellent

Are there trash cans in the park?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

How many restrooms are there in the park?

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4+

Are the restrooms unlocked?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Rate the cleanliness/condition of the restroom

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

Poor Excellent

What types of sports facilities are available? there?

- ☐ Baseball/Softball fields
- ☐ Soccer fields
- ☐ Basketball court
- ☐ Tennis Court
- ☐ Skate park
- ☐ Exercise Structures
- ☐ Other

Are the sports fields well maintained?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are there dog parks?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What type of lighting is available?

- ☐ Overhead/lamp posts
- ☐ Pathway lighting
- ☐ Flood lights
- ☐ Other

Is the lighting effective for night time safety?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What types of parking are available for the park?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Parking lot
- ☐ On-street parking
- ☐ Bike rack(s)
- ☐ Other

Are there covered spaces?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, how many?

e.g., 23

If no, please answer N/A

Accessibility

Are there paved, level sidewalks throughout the park for navigation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Is the park ADA compliant?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are there designated ADA parking spaces near the park entrance?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Landscaping

Are the grassy areas of the park well-maintained?

☐ Yes

☐ No

How many grassy areas are there?

e.g., 23

Assess the current conditions of the landscape: 1-5

1

Poor

2

3

4

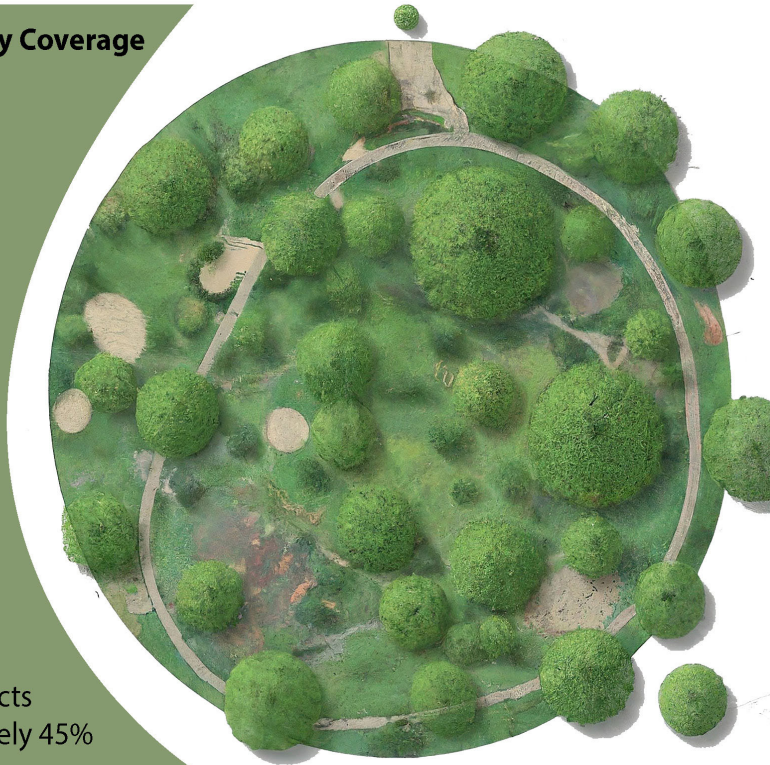
5

Excellent

Please use this image as a reference for the next question below

**Tree Canopy Coverage
Example**

Image Projects
Approximately 45%



How much of the park area would you estimate is covered by tree canopy?

- ☐ < 45%
- ☐ > 45%

Is there anything in your park that needs to be fixed, redesigned, relandscaped, etc.

(ex. worn out/torn turf, broken/rusty play structure)

Submit

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Salem Parks Performance Assessment Tool Protocol

Developers: Dahill Shevy, Katie Cassell, Madison Merwine

Background:

A rapidly growing capital city, Salem contains an extensive park system celebrating the natural landscape of Oregon. With over 90 parks and 2,335 acres of land dedicated to parks, the City of Salem has a diverse portfolio of neighborhood parks, natural areas, and community parks. The City of Salem is in need of an accounting of their assets in order to best serve their diverse, growing population. A degradation of parks throughout the city and a perceived lack of park access for Latinx and low-income communities are exacerbated by the absence of an equitable resource distribution plan.

The Sustainable City Year Program has partnered with the City of Salem to develop a set of assessment tools that will provide them with a qualitative and quantitative understanding of the current allocation of resources in Salem. Our team has created a tool which will assess park performance to provide an understanding of how park spaces are being used by the community. Park performance pertains to the functioning of a park and the effectiveness of its amenities in serving neighboring residents. Metrics considered include quality, usage, and availability of equipment and facilities.

The tool will use direct observation to score different park functions and park quality. To avoid personal biases from auditors that could potentially skew the results of performance reviews, the tool will consist of questions that collect quantitative data and questions that avoid using phrasing that could be interpreted as subjective.

By gathering unbiased, quantitative data on park performance, the tool aims to bring attention to park facilities that need repair or are underperforming. Park performance data could illuminate trends of inequity that were not previously observed by the city of Salem. Highlighting underperforming parks can address the lack of equity in Salem's current park system and support their goal of a needs-based allocation of funding and resources.

Development process:

Through analysis of existing park assessment tools, we identified four tools that assess performance in public parks to inform the development of our tool:

- Recreation Facility Evaluation Tool¹
- Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)²
- System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities (SOPARC)³
- System for Observing Physical Activity and Recreation in Natural Areas (SOPARNA)⁴

Each of these tools uses direct observation quantitative and objective qualitative data with the goal of efficiency and a user-friendly interface. The SOPARC tool focuses on criterion which evaluates and assesses activity levels and demographics of those using the parks. Similarly, the SOPARNA tool assesses similar criteria but also includes questions for nature parks and targets specific areas in parks

using a timed element. A limitation of these two tools is the user needing to be highly trained to ensure consistent results; additionally, these tools are time consuming due to the depth of questions. Recreation Facility Evaluation tool assesses the condition, maintenance, and safety using yes/no and good/fair/poor responses. A limitation of this tool is subjective questions such as attractiveness, but we can improve upon this by clearly defining subjective responses. The CPAT provides a user-friendly tool meant to be utilized by a range of community stakeholders which aims to identify potential areas to promote and increase physical activity. A potential limitation of this tool is its focus on youth activity. While youth metrics will be considered in our tool, a comprehensive understanding of physical activity across ages is desired.

Through analysis of these tools, the team selected four broad categories to organize the data. These categories include use and usability of equipment and amenities, neighborhood access and connectivity, environmental benefits, and safety.

Instructions for use:

The goal of the tool is to assess the performance of a park by assessing multiple target areas in the park (defined below). It is pertinent that the observer tries to give objective, unbiased reviews to the best of their ability to attain accurate data for park performance.

a. Before visiting a park

Observers are responsible for pre-delineating target areas by using the following boundaries: paths, fences, rivers, and natural areas. This is best done on a map prior to visiting the park. These given boundaries should not be included in a target area, and should instead be included in the overall assessment. Example target area map:



b. Upon arrival

Observers should familiarize themselves with the assessment tool before observing a park. Observers will perform observations by walking around the park or natural area. Biking and driving during observation are not advisable. The observer will conduct an initial scan of overall park information, including the ability to locate the map and percentage of tree cover. Then, the observer will follow the worksheet to a selection of target areas, where they will conduct another scan for each area.

Prior to the scan, observers will fill out the following information:

- Record the temperature at the time of your audit in degrees Fahrenheit. Record what the weather was like during the majority of the time of your audit.
- Before visiting the park, attempt to locate a map of the park (e.g., from the city parks department webpage or other source). Check “yes” if you were successful.
- When attempting to visit the park, rate how easy the park was to locate.

c. Within target areas

When arriving at a target area, the observer will conduct an initial scan and then, for every category, an additional scan. Once the observer has completed the target area for a given section, then they should check over what they filled out and make sure the data is accurate. Upon leaving the target area, the observer should complete a last scan.

- ☐ Each area should be filled out thoroughly and to the best of their ability.
- ☐ Observers can use pen or pencil to fill out the tool.
- ☐ The evaluation of each target area and sub-target area should take 8-10 minutes and depending on the park's size, it should take about an hour to complete, not including preliminary preparation and post work.
- ☐ Observers are encouraged to go in groups, but single observers are valid.

Upon arrival or as you audit the park, note whether signs with the following content exist. The

- ☐ information could be contained on one or more signs throughout the park. Check all that are present.
- ☐ Park name – Is there an official sign showing the park name?
- ☐ Park rules – Does a sign list rules for the park (e.g., if swimming or fishing is allowed)?
- ☐ Park hours – Are the park operating hours listed?
- ☐ Park map – Does a sign show a map of the park grounds or facilities?
- ☐ Park contact information – Is there a person or agency listed who can be contacted if a problem with the park is observed or if a visitor has questions or comments about the park?
- ☐ Rental equipment information – Is there information listed about how or where equipment may be borrowed or rented (e.g., bicycles, bases for ball diamond, etc.)?
- ☐ Park/facility rental information – Is there a person or agency listed who can be contacted if someone wanted to reserve or rent part or all of the park (e.g., a picnic shelter, ball diamond, etc.)?

- ☐ Event/program information – Is there a place where information can be listed about events or programs in the park or neighborhood?
- ☐ Select “none” if none of the listed signs are present.

The questions for each target area will be categorized by:

- **Use and usability of equipment and amenities:** Rating the performance of the functionality of specific target areas, equipment, trails, and anything else that falls under the target 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.)
- **Access and connectivity:** connectivity of main access points of parks, how accessible the parks area, and connectivity through
- **Ecological performance:** Includes anything not in the built environment. analysis of functionality of the park and their target areas in their ability to keep park environment able to function ice; swales functioning as needed, grass is growing or maintained
- **Safety:** When auditing the park, note any safety and appearance concerns within the list above that can be seen in the surrounding neighborhood (during the time of the audit). Only those concerns that can be observed from within the park should be recorded
 - Graffiti – markings that reduce visual quality; does not include allowed murals
 - Vandalism – damage to signs, vehicles in the surrounding neighborhood
 - Excessive litter – noticeable amounts of litter, rather than just a few pieces
 - Heavy traffic – a steady flow of vehicles rather than just a few cars every few minutes
 - Excessive noise – sounds coming from the surrounding neighborhood that are unpleasant
 - Lack of eyes on the street – absence of people that could help keep an eye on park activities
 - Evidence of beer bottles, needles, or paraphernalia.
 - Other – mark any safety or appearance concerns not previously mentioned
 - Mark “none present” if none of the concerns listed are present

On the observation form, enter the Date, Park ID, Observer ID, Period, and Target Area. Observers are encouraged to complete this section before the observation period starts.

If there are too many people to count in any area, divide it into separate Sub target Areas and follow the below procedures for each Sub target Area separately.

When people move to a different Sub target Area while you are scanning, count only those who are present at the time you are scanning. In rare cases you may count people twice or miss them as they change Sub target Areas. Make sure that all space in each main target area is included within the Sub target Areas.

d. Completing the audit

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

Users should make calculations of data after the assessment of the park.

Data analysis and results:

After conducting park performance assessments using this tool, analyses of the compiled data can reveal how well parks are serving the needs and desires of the surrounding communities. Aggregating the data from the assessment tool results will highlight the effectiveness of park amenities, the accessibility and inclusivity of the park, and any utilization patterns and trends in visitor demographics. This information can be used to distribute park resources more equitably.

The observations noted on various park target areas, such as playgrounds, sports facilities, and picnic areas can help assess their value and popularity among visitors. Comparing the performance of amenities with the observed demographic data can help to expose any injustices in the park system, such as any trends of low park performance in communities of low socio-economic status. Assessing data on inclusivity will highlight areas in need of universal design.

Once the data has been collected, it can be organized by category (use & usability, access and connectivity, environmental benefits, and safety). The data can then be synthesized within each category, creating averages and assigning a score. Our protocol is designed to provide an individual score for each category, however future work could be done to normalize and weight these scores into a single index value for each park for a more concise comparison.

Analysis of the collected data will help identify key trends in park performance and areas of concern. Considering the implications of the findings on visitor experience and equity will support Salem's goals of a needs-based allocation of park resources.

Training and reliability:

The goal of this assessment is that it can be performed by intern city officials with minimal training. To ensure the assessment has a low barrier of training, the questions are designed to be as objective as possible. In order to prevent personal bias and to ensure the assessment is as objective as possible, a glossary of terms and guidelines will be provided for coding. The data collectors should review this glossary of terms before executing their assessment.

Definitions:

Activity Areas: 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.)

For each activity area in the park, you are asked to rate whether it is “useable” and “in good condition” (please refer to the definitions listed above and to any specific information provided in the instructions below for each activity area).

- ☐ Note that an activity area can be useable but not in good condition (e.g., a tennis court with a net, but lines that are almost invisible) or non-useable but in good condition (e.g., a playground that is clean and well-maintained but surrounded by a locked fence).
- ☐ Also note that a single piece of missing or broken equipment does not necessarily mean an area would be un-useable (e.g., one of the slides on a large playground being cracked). Likewise, a single piece of litter does not mean an area is necessarily in poor condition. Raters must use some judgment in assessing whether an activity area is useable and in good condition.

Activity Surface: The surface upon which users engage in activities in the target area. An activity surface can be a field, blacktop court, turf, or rubber playground surface.

Benches: any benches found within the park (in this case, do not consider picnic tables).

- ☐ If one or more benches are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are useable (i.e., everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use). For example, if there were five benches in the park and two were useable, choose “about half”.
- ☐ Also, if one or more benches are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are in good condition (i.e., looks clean and well-maintained). For example, if there were five benches in the park and two were in good condition, choose “about half”.

Bike Lane: Bike lanes are marked with a stripe that separates the bike lane from the rest of the traffic (sidewalks are not considered bike lanes). A designated route sign identifies a street as a designated bike route (but not necessarily marked with bike lanes). A share the road sign or markers on the pavement remind vehicles to be careful of bicyclists and to share the road.

Bike rack(s): refer to structures designed to hold or support one or more bicycles. Do not include poles or other structures to which a bike could be locked, but that are not designed for such a purpose.

Condition: Descriptive characteristics (contextual variables) of a Target Area.

Distinct Areas for Different Age Groups: Whether the playground has distinct areas for children of different age groups (e.g., 0-5 years, 5-12 years, etc.). You may even be able to find a sticker that designates the age, but it doesn’t have to have this. These should be areas that are contained within the same overall playground (otherwise, you would use a new column for Area 2) but that are not within the same play structure. For example, a set of swings with swings for both infants/toddlers and

older children would not be considered to have distinct areas for different age groups. The same would be true for different sizes of slides on a single play structure.

Drinking Fountains: If one or more drinking fountains are present, record how many total you can find within the park (you may need to keep a running tally as you tour the park). A drinking fountain with multiple spouts would be considered a single fountain.

- ☐ If one or more drinking fountains are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are useable (i.e., everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use). For example, if there were two fountains in the park and one was useable, choose “about half”.
- ☐ Also, if one or more drinking fountains are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are in good condition (i.e., looks clean and well-maintained). For example, if there were five fountains in the park and two were in good condition, choose “about half”.
- ☐ Finally, if one or more drinking fountains are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are near activity areas (i.e., close enough that someone using an activity area could quickly get a drink). For example, if there were four fountains and three were near activity areas, choose “all or most are near”.

Evidence of drug or alcohol paraphernalia: Needles, pipes, glass bottles or cans on ground or structures.

Excessive litter: noticeable amounts of litter, rather than just a few pieces

Excessive noise: sounds coming from the surrounding neighborhood that are unpleasant

Facilities: When rating the facilities 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 working; etc.)
- ☐ **Good condition:** looks clean and maintained (e.g., minimal rust, graffiti, broken parts; etc.)

You'll often be ranking several of a particular feature at once. Therefore, in these cases, the categories for useable are: 'All or most are useable', 'About half are useable', and 'None or few are useable'. Likewise, there are similar categories for condition: 'All or most in good condition', 'About half in good condition', and 'None or few in good condition'.

Food/vending machine: This could be in the form of vending machines or a permanent structure (e.g., concession stand). Do not include vendors who are not a permanent part of the park (e.g., ice cream truck passing through).

- ☐ If food/vending is available, note whether fruits and/or vegetables are available in the park

Graffiti: markings that reduce visual quality; does not include allowed murals

Heavy traffic: a fairly steady flow of vehicles rather than just a few cars every few minutes

Inadequate lighting: no or few lights along the surrounding neighborhood streets

Lighting: Whether any lights can be seen within the park (do not count lights on streets in the surrounding neighborhood).

- ☐ If lights are present in the park, estimate approximately how much of the park's ground area could be illuminated if the lights were on.
- ☐ Also, if lights are present, consider the main activity areas in the park (such as those listed in section 3) as a set and rate how many of the activity areas could be lit (i.e., the lights are close enough that the activity area could be fully illuminated in the evening). For example, if there were six main activity areas in the park and three had lights close to them, choose "about half".

Neighborhood Access: When rating neighborhood access, please use the following definitions:

- ☐ **Useable:** everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use (e.g., sidewalks are passable)

Throughout the tool, you are asked to rate whether a feature of the park or neighborhood is "useable". When doing so, useable refers to a situation when "everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use". For example, a tennis court would not be useable if the net was not present. Likewise, a trail or sidewalk would not be useable if it was blocked by a large pile of debris or if a sign prohibited people from walking on it. Where necessary, refer back to the definition ("everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use") to rate whether certain park and neighborhood features are useable.

On street parking: refers to available parallel parking on any street bordering the park.

Open/Green Space: An open/green space is a park area not designated for a specific purpose (e.g., a soccer field would be a sport field and rated in 12b). However, an open/green space should be mowed/cut to be available for active (e.g., Frisbee, kite flying) or passive (e.g., reading, picnics) use. Do not include areas intended to be natural and not for visitor use, but the land does not need to be flat.

- ☐ Each open/green space should be treated as a different activity area if it is visually or geographically separated from another open/green space (e.g., by a wooded area, park activity area, hill, etc.)

Parking lot: refers to an open area within or adjacent to the park that has marked or unmarked spaces that are designated for park patrons (in contrast to a parking lot for a business across the road).

Participants: Include all individuals who are participating in the primary activity in the target area (e.g., baseball). If more than one significant activity is going on, record the information for the group in the "secondary" activity.

Picnic Tables: any picnic tables found within the park (i.e., tables with both a tabletop and attached seating).

- ☐ If one or more picnic tables are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are useable (i.e., everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use). For example, if there were five benches in the park and four were useable, choose "all or most are useable".

- ☐ Also, if one or more picnic tables are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are in good condition (i.e., looks clean and well-maintained). For example, if there were five picnic tables in the park and four were in good condition, choose “all or most in good condition”.
- ☐ Record whether there is a picnic shelter in the park (one or more). A picnic shelter is a permanent, solid structure with a roof covering multiple tables or other seating.
- ☐ Finally, record whether one or more grills or marked fire pits are available in the park (does not have to be directly adjacent to a picnic area). These should be grills or fire pits that are specifically designed for safe cooking or creation of a campfire.

Point of Entry: A point of entry is a location at which the park could be accessed. The boundary of some parks may be surrounded by a road or sidewalk such that an individual could walk into the park anywhere around the perimeter (i.e., boundary is open). Conversely, some parks may be partially or fully surrounded by a barrier such as a river, highway, or fence, thereby limiting the number of points of entry.

Poor Maintenance: homes or buildings that are not taken care of (e.g., broken windows)

Primary Activity: The activity in which a majority of individuals are participating during the observation.

Restrooms: both permanent restroom structures and portable toilets are referred to as restrooms and should be considered jointly.

- ☐ If one or more restrooms are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are useable (i.e., everything necessary for use is present and nothing prevents use). For example, if there were two restrooms in the park and one was useable, choose “about half”.
- ☐ Also, if one or more restrooms are present, consider them as a set and rate how many are in good condition (i.e., looks clean and well-maintained). For example, if there were two restrooms in the park and one was in good condition, choose “about half”.
- ☐ Also, note whether any of the restrooms have a family restroom (i.e., a restroom where a parent and child can comfortably and privately enter the restroom together).
- ☐ Finally, note whether any of the restrooms (i.e., male, female, or family) have a baby changing station.

Scan Space: The geographical area within a Target or Sub target Area.

Scan: A single observation movement from left to right across a Target or Sub-target Area. During a scan, each individual person in the area is counted and coded for age, ethnicity, and activity level.

Secondary Activity: The second most prominent activity occurring in a Target Area.

Sedentary (S) = Individuals are lying down, sitting, or standing in place.

Spectators: When spectators are at an organized event, write in the name of the activity they are watching and describe their characteristics. Spectators can be watching from the sidelines or bleachers.

Subtarget Area: A subdivision of a predetermined Target Area. Subtarget areas are created for a specific observation time and apply only to the scan space during that specific observation period. Activity level and the number of people located in a Target Area determine whether Subtarget Areas are necessary during a given observation period.

Target Area: A predetermined observation area in which park users may potentially engage in physical activity. A number of Target Areas will be established for each park.

Trail or Path: A trail or path is a paved, gravel, mulch, or dirt path that has been designed for people to use to get to the park for recreation or transportation purposes, but is different from a sidewalk along a street.

Vandalism: damage to signs, vehicles in the surrounding neighborhood

Vigorous (V) = Individuals are currently engaged in an activity more vigorous than an ordinary walk (e.g., increasing heart rate causing them to sweat, such as jogging, swinging, doing cart wheels).

Fitness Related Codes:

aerobics (dance/step aerobics)
fitness stations
jogging/running
strengthening exercises (pull ups)
walking
volleyball

Sport Related Codes:

baseball handball
basketball horseshoes
cheer leading soccer
dance tennis/racquet
football gymnastics
active play

Active Game Related Codes:

climbing/sliding
jumping (rope, hop scotch)
manipulatives/racquet
tag/chasing games
tetherball
sitting

Sedentary Related Codes:

chess/checkers/cards
lying down
picnic (food involved)
reading
standing

Visibility of surrounding neighborhood: If someone was standing on the interior of the park (e.g., near the middle), record how visible the surrounding neighborhood would be (i.e., not obstructed by trees, park facilities, etc.). If most or all of the surrounding area would be visible, choose “fully”. If only about half of the surrounding area would be visible, choose “partially”. If very little or none of the surrounding area would be visible, choose “not at all”. This is an indicator of how well the surrounding neighborhood can monitor what is going on inside the park and thus how safe someone might feel when on the interior of the park.

Walking (W) = Individuals are walking at a casual pace.

Works cited:

¹Cavnar MM, Kirtland KA, Evans MH, Wilson DK, Williams JE, Mixon GM, Henderson KA. (2003, August). Recreation Facility Evaluation Instrument. Prevention Research Center, Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina. Retrieved [date] from the World Wide Web: <http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/tools/RecFacilityTool.pdf>.

²Kaczynski, Andrew and Sonja Stanis, 2013. Community Park Audit Tool (CPAT)– User Guidebook. Version 3. Last updated July 2013.

³McKenzie, T. L., Cohen, D. A., Sehgal, A., Williamson, S., & Golinelli, D. (2019). *System for Observing Play and Recreation in Communities* (SOPARC) [dataset]. <https://doi.org/10.1037/t70888-000>

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Salem Parks Performance Assessment Tool

Date: _____ Park Name: _____ Observer Initials: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Park Information

Temperature: ____ °F Weather: • Clear • Partly Cloudy • Rain/Snow

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

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

Access and Connection

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

Are there signs that state the following (could be same sign)? *(check all that are present)* • None

• Park name • Park hours • Park contact information • Park/facility rental information

• Park rules • Park map • Rental equipment information • Event/program information

Is park signage in multiple languages? ☐ No ☐ Yes

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

Is there a public transit stop within sight of the park? • No • Yes

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

Is there an external trail or path connected to the park? • No • Yes

If yes ... Is it useable? • No • Yes

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

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

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

Are there desire paths in the park? • No • Yes

Is there food/vending machines available in the park? • No • Yes

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

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

Use and Useability

What 'Target Areas' are in the park? (*check all that are present and fill out Target Area form*) • None

• Playgrounds • Dog Park • Soccer Field • Basketball Court • Baseball Diamond • Football Field
• Other _____

How many people are in the park?

• 0 people • 1-10 people • 10-25 people • 25-50 people • 50+ people

• 0 target areas in use • <half target areas in use • >half target areas in use • all target areas in use

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

If yes ...

How many restrooms? _____

If at a community park: • None • Few (1-2) • Many (more than 5)

Are the restroom(s) useable? • All or most are useable • About half • None or few are useable

Is there a family restroom? • No • Yes

Is there a baby change station in any restroom? • No • Yes

Are there drinking fountain(s) at the park? • No • Yes

If yes ...

How many fountains? _____

If at a community park: • None • Few (1-2) • Many (more than 5)

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 near activity areas? • All or most are near • About half • None or few are near

Are there bench(es) to sit on in the park? • No • Yes

If yes ...

How many benches? _____

If at a community park: • None • Few (1-2) • Many (more than 5)

Are the benches useable? • All or most are useable • About half • None or few are useable

Are there picnic table(s) in the park? • No • Yes

If yes ...

How many picnic tables? _____

If at a community park: • None • Few (1-2) • Many (more than 5)

Are the tables useable? • All or most are useable • About half • None or few are useable

Is there a picnic shelter in the park? • No • Yes

Is there a grill or fire pit in the park? • No • Yes

Are there trash cans in the park? • No • Yes

If yes ...

How many trash cans? _____

If at a community park: • None • Few (1-2) • Many (more than 5)

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

Environmental

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

Percentage (%) of tree cover over park? _____

Percentage (%) of open space/lawn in park? _____

Is there green infrastructure present (bioswales, rain gardens, etc)? • No • Yes

What aesthetic features are present in the park? (*check all that are present*)

- Evidence of landscaping (e.g., flower beds, pruned bushes)
- Historical or educational feature (e.g., monument, nature display, educational signs, etc.)
- Water feature (e.g., lake, stream, pond)
- Meadow (e.g., natural, tall grassy area)

Safety

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

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

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

From the center of the park, how visible is the surrounding neighborhood? • Fully • Partially • Not at all

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 drug or alcohol paraphernalia (e.g., needles, pipes, or alcohol cans/bottles)
- Abandoned structures or pit holes
- Other _____
- None present

Comments:

Date: _____ Park Name: _____ Observer Initials: _____

Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

Target Area Scan

Target Area: _____ # of Areas _____

Use and Useability

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Useable	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Good condition	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes

Activity Levels

PEOPLE	ACTIVITY	AGE GROUP				ETHNICITY				ACTIVITY LEVEL		
		Child	Teen	Adult	Senior	B	W	H	O	S	W	V
<u>Participants</u>	<u>Primary Activity</u>											
Male												
Female												
<u>Participants</u>	<u>Secondary Activity</u>											
Male												
Female												
<u>Spectators</u>	<u>Organized Activity</u>											
Male												
Female												

Code Key:Activity Level Codes: Sedentary (**S**) Walking (**W**) Vigorous (**V**)

Ethnicity Codes: Latino (L), Black (B), White (W), or Other (O).

Age Codes: Child = Children from infancy to 12 years of age as children. Teen = Code adolescents from 13 to 20 years of age as teenagers.

Adult = Code people from 21 to 59 years of age as adults. Senior = Code people 60 years of age and older as seniors.

Access and Connection

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Distinct areas for different age groups	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Benches in/surrounding area	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Connected to activity areas	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes

Environmental

	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
Shade cover for some (25%+) of the area	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Activity surfaces are mowed/watered	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes • NA
Does the activity surface appear level?	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
The activity surface is free of places where the turf appears thin or worn?	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
There is no evidence of puddles or muddy areas in the activity surface?	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Percentage of shade cover for area: _____			
Percentage of open space/lawn for area: _____			

Safety			
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
Alcohol or drug paraphernalia on ground	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Poor lighting (e.g., low or no lighting)	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Graffiti	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Vandalism	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Excessive litter	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Heavy traffic	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Excessive noise	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
For swingsets:			
Are there no more than 2 swings per bay area?	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Are the swings at least 24" apart?	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Are the swings at least 30" from side supports?	• No • Yes	• No • Yes	• No • Yes
Comments on Park Activity Areas:			

USER EXPERIENCE ASSESSMENT TOOL

Sustainable City Year Program: Protocol for User Experience Park Assessment Tool for the City of Salem

TOOL OVERVIEW

Salem, Oregon, a city in the Willamette Valley, faces the challenge of managing its growing population while ensuring equitable access to parks and recreational amenities. To address these issues and support evidence-based decision-making in park planning and development, our team developed a user experience assessment tool. This assessment is in the form of an intercept survey.

By gathering data through user experiences on accessibility, safety, and overall feelings and satisfaction with the park, the tool will provide valuable insights to inform park management practices, resource allocation, and infrastructure investments. The deliverables of this project include QR code intercept surveys, protocols for administering these park intercept surveys, and qualitative valuation data on the 5 that have been surveyed.

To create effective intercept survey questions, we reviewed existing surveys and best practices, focusing on relevance and clarity. We defined key objectives to understand visitor demographics, usage patterns, satisfaction levels, and improvement suggestions. The questions covered demographics, frequency of visits, popular activities, satisfaction with cleanliness, maintenance, and safety, and included open-ended suggestions. After pilot testing and refining the questions based on feedback, we ensured the survey was concise yet comprehensive, respecting visitors' time while gathering essential data.

TOOL PROTOCOL

This tool is a park intercept survey intended for professional administrators to intercept people on-site and provide a survey to respondents. Survey administrators should have at least 2 printed copies of the provided QR code survey and at least 10 copies of the intercept survey.

First Survey administrators should identify park boundaries according to the City of Salem. To conduct the survey, administrators should remain within these boundaries and only approach people within park boundaries.

Second Survey administrators should begin approaching people utilizing park space and introduce themselves.

“Hello my name is ____, I am a survey administrator with the city of Salem and I was wondering if you had a few minutes to complete this user experience survey. Please scan this QR code with your cellphone to access this park survey which will take approximately 5 minutes. You are welcome to only fill out the portions you would like to respond to in

the survey, we appreciate any and all data. We will use this survey data from park users like yourself to make community informed decisions to improving equity function in parks for the city of Salem.”

Third administer the survey by holding out the printed QR code for the respondent to scan with their cellphone. If asked, provide any additional technical assistance respondent may need. You may ask the respondent if they prefer to take the paper survey where the administrator will have to jot answers and fill out the survey. This will help with the possible barrier to access the survey using a device and increase the response rate.

Fourth Thank them for their participation and wait for response to be submitted, and/or submit the responses for them.

Intercept SURVEY questions

Survey Key:

- Questions on survey
 - Answer choice (Other = ability to enter answer)

SURVEY

Q’s 1-3. Demographic Information:

- What is your age?
 - (Under 18, 18-24, 25-45, 46-65, 65+, Prefer not to answer)
- What is your gender?
 - (Male, Female, Non-Binary, Prefer not to answer, Other)
- What is your ethnicity?
 - Enter your answer

Q’s 4-6. Park Accessibility:

- How did you get to the park today?
 - (Bus, Bicycle, Walk, Car, Prefer not to answer, Other)
- How long did it take for you to get to the park today? Please respond in minutes.
 - Enter your answer
- How often do you visit this park?
 - (Daily, Weekly, Monthly, Seasonally, Yearly, Never)

Q’s 7-10. Overall Park Experience:

- On a scale of 1-5, please rate your overall experience at this park, where 1 is poor and 5 is excellent.
 - (1,2,3,4,5)
- What are the main reasons for your visit to this park today?
 - (Select all that apply: Recreation, Exercise, Picnicking, Walking/Jogging, Sports, Nature Observation, Socializing, Other)
- How satisfied are you with the cleanliness of park facilities (Selection of answers for the following locations: Restrooms, Picnic/Seating areas, Playgrounds, Trails, Sport Courts, Shaded areas, Community Events)?
 - (Select one: Very Satisfied, Satisfied, Neutral, Dissatisfied, Very Dissatisfied, N/A)
- Are there any amenities or facilities that you feel are lacking in this park?
 - Enter your answer

Q's 11-13. Safety and Security:

- How safe do you feel while visiting this park during the day?
 - (Select one: Very Safe, Safe, Neutral, Unsafe, Very Unsafe)
- How safe do you feel while visiting this park during the night?
 - (Select one: Very Safe, Safe, Neutral, Unsafe, Very Unsafe)
- Have you ever experienced or witnessed any safety concerns or incidents in this park?
 - (Yes, No, Maybe, Other)

Q's 14-15. Physical Park Accessibility:

- How would you rate the accessibility of this park for individuals with disabilities?
 - (Select one: Good, Fair, Okay, Poor, Other)
- Are there any accessibility features or improvements you would like to see in this park?
 - Enter your answer

Q 16. Additional Comments:

- Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience at this park? (Open-ended)

QR Code

User Experience



SCI Directors and Staff

Marc Schlossberg	SCI Co-Director, and Professor of Planning, Public Policy and Management, University of Oregon
Nico Larco	SCI Co-Director, and Professor of Architecture, University of Oregon
Megan Banks	SCYP Director, University of Oregon
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