



# Environmental Audit Training

Parks and Play Spaces

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# Agenda

Activity	Time
Introductions	5 minutes
Training purpose and desired outcomes	10 minutes
Environmental audits <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview</li><li>• Review tools</li></ul>	1 hour
Discussion and feedback on tools, protocols, and training	10 minutes
Create the evaluation plan	15 minutes

# Introductions

- ◀ Evaluation Officer
- ◀ Evaluation Coordinator for local data collection
- ◀ Data collectors and experience with data collection

# Training Purpose and Desired Outcome

# Environmental Audits

- Observe the condition of the environment before and after the implementation of a physical change in the environment (e.g., addition playground equipment in a park, walking path in a park, new or improve sports fields).
- Objective measures of the environment (e.g., presence or absence of playgrounds, walking paths, signage, benches)

# Environmental Audits

- ▶ Timing of the audits before/ after project completion (consider the following):
  - ✓ Time of day – perceptions of the environment (e.g., lighting at night)
  - ✓ Seasonality – extreme heat/ cold, other unfavorable conditions (e.g., rain, ice)
  - ✓ Special events – holidays (e.g., Halloween), concerts, parades

# Environmental Audits

- ▶ Resources needed to conduct the audits (consider the following):
  - ✓ Observers and training – number of people available to conduct audits (e.g., staff, students, volunteers), space and equipment to provide training
  - ✓ Security – monitoring auditors safety when necessary (particularly at night)
  - ✓ Data collection –pencil, paper, and clip board (GPS devices)
- ▶ Be prepared to respond to local residents, businesses or after-school participants – why you are there and who you represent

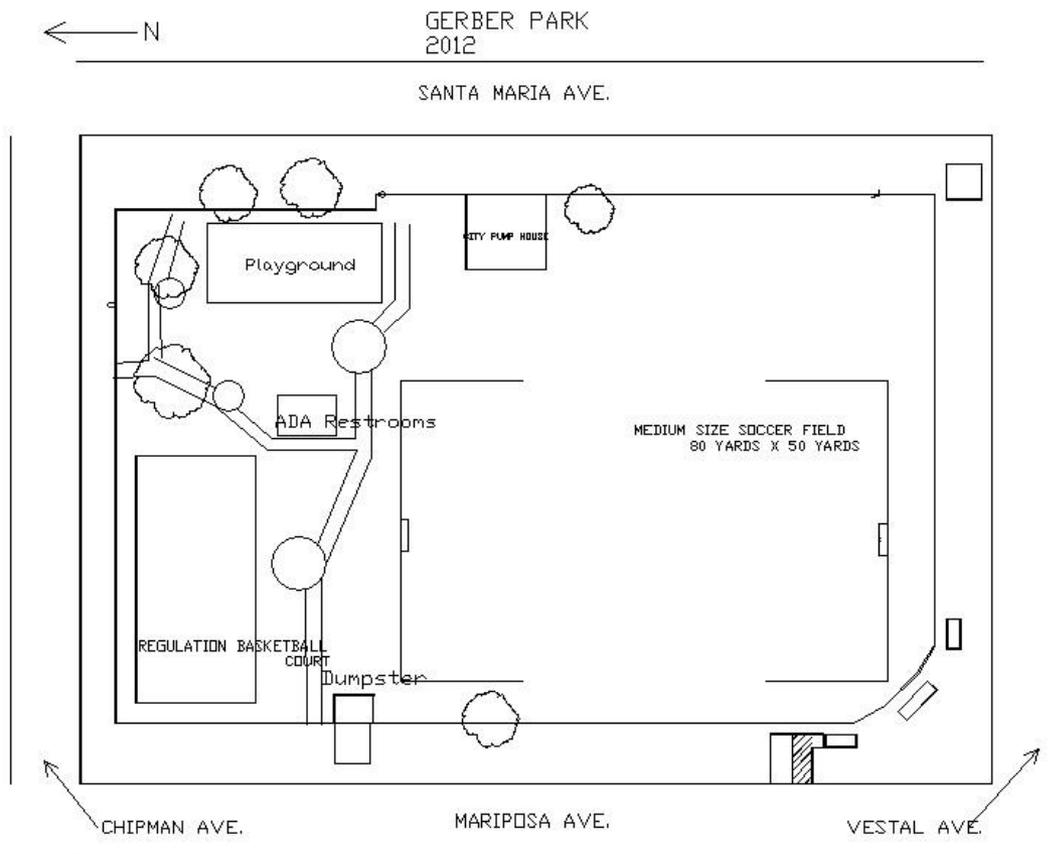
# Enhanced Evaluation Design

- ▶ **Before and After** – Collecting data before and after an environmental change occurs (e.g., assessing the environment of a park before and after a renovation occurs)
- ▶ **Comparison** – Collecting data on different locations to assess differences in the locations (e.g., assessing the environment of two parks that are located in very different areas of town)

# Benefits and Challenges

- ▶ **Strengths:** Allows for pre/post comparison; Evaluates the impact of physical changes or improvements on behavior
- ▶ **Limitations:** Influenced by external circumstances (e.g., weather, special events); Limited generalizability due to infrequency of observations

# Map the Project Area



Layout of park or  
play space

## Parks and Play Spaces Environmental Audit Tool

"Play spaces" may refer to parks as well as other play spaces (e.g., playgrounds, pools, greenways).

Play space name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of operation: Open \_\_\_\_\_ Close \_\_\_\_\_

No posted hours

Size of play space (acres): \_\_\_\_\_

Auditor name: \_\_\_\_\_

Play space ID (*Transtria use only*): \_\_\_\_\_

Community partnership: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Start time: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_  AM  PM

End time: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_  AM  PM

Auditor name 2: \_\_\_\_\_

- ▶ Play space ID: Transtria will assign an ID for the data analysis.
- ▶ Play space name: Name of the park
- ▶ Address: The street(s), city, state and zip code for the park or play space
- ▶ Hours of operation: Enter hours that the park or play space opens and closes (be sure to indicate AM or PM).
- ▶ Size of play space (acres): The size of the park or play space, in acres. This information should be accessible through your community Parks and Recreation department.
- ▶ Auditor name: Name of auditor #1
- ▶ Community Partnership: Name of your community partnership for Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities
- ▶ Date: Date of data collection
- ▶ Weather Conditions: Temperature and climate the day of data collection (e.g., rainy, sunny, cloudy, windy)
- ▶ Start Time: Time that the data collection process starts
- ▶ End Time: Time that the data collection process ends
- ▶ Auditor name 2: Name of auditor #2

# Section A: Setting, accessibility, vending machines, signage and barriers to entry

## Setting



Single-feature park



Multi-feature park



Publically accessible green space  
(i.e., no features such as sports fields or jungle gyms)

## Setting



Is the park or play space adjacent to a school?

## Setting



Indoor



Outdoor

# Section A: Setting, accessibility, vending machines, signage and barriers to entry

## Accessibility



Parking lot on site



On street parking



Lighted parking lot

## Accessibility



Sidewalk on the street leading to park entrance



Sidewalk/ pedestrian lighting

# Section A: Setting, accessibility, vending machines, signage and barriers to entry

## Accessibility



Wheelchair  
or stroller  
accessible

Bicycle  
parking



Bike lanes



Sharrows



Bike signage

# Section A: Setting, accessibility, vending machines, signage and barriers to entry

## Accessibility



Bus stop



Crosswalk



## Accessibility



Restrooms



Public Showers

# Section A: Setting, accessibility, vending machines, signage and barriers to entry

## Vending Machines



Beverage  
Vending  
Machines

- Water
- 100% Juice
- Skim Milk
- Diet Soda
- Sugar Sweetened Beverages



Food  
Vending  
Machines



- Chips/crackers/pretzels
- Granola bars
- Nuts
- Reduced fat cookies or baked goods
- Candy

## Signage and Barriers to Entry



Signage with park name



**TICKETING**

Admission Charges Per Child (Accompanying Adults enter for free)  
Water Play Area and other activities are recommended for children aged 3 - 10.  
Admission charges are applicable for the participation of children under 3.

	WALK IN
WEEKDAYS	\$8.00
WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS	\$15.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$90.00/annum

Entrance fee

## Signage and Barriers to Entry



Gates/fences partially restricting access



Locked fence around perimeter

## Section B: Playground Features

### Swings - Toddler



Average/Good



Poor

## Section B: Playground Features

### Swings - Youth



Average/Good



Poor



Average/Good



Poor

## Section B: Playground Features

# Monkey Bars/Climbing Bars



Average/Good



Poor

## Section B: Playground Features

### Other Climbing Facility



Climbing Wall



Other

## Section B: Playground Features

### Sandbox



Average/Good



Poor

## Section B: Playground Features

# Foursquare and Hopscotch



Average/Good



Poor

## Section B: Playground Features

### Surface Area



Rubber/  
Foam



Wood chips



Sand



Grass/Green



Pavement

# Number of features with lighting

Basketball court with lights



Baseball field with lights

For each feature present: tally the number of those features (playground or sports/recreation) with lighting present.

## Soccer Field



Average/Good



Poor

## Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

### Football Field



Average/Good



Poor

## Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

# Baseball Field



Average/Good



Poor

## Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

### Multi-use Field



Average/Good



Poor

# Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

## Basketball Court



Average/Good



Poor

# Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

## Tennis Court



Average/Good



Poor

## Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

# Volleyball Court



Average/Good



Poor

# Multi-use Court



Average/Good



Poor

# Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

## Pool > 3 ft deep



Average/  
Good



Poor

## Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

# Kiddie/Wading Pool and Spray Grounds ( $\leq 3$ ft deep)



Average/  
Good



Poor

# Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

## Skateboarding Features



Average/Good

Poor

# Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

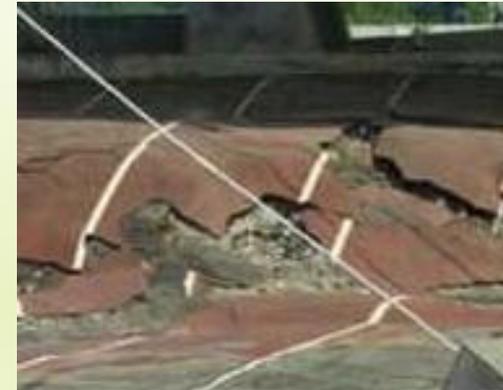
## Exercise Stations with Signage

Average/Good



## Running/walking track

Average/Good



Poor

# Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

## Trails



Average/ Good



Two-way traffic

Poor



# Section C: Sports and Recreation Features

## Surface area



Pavement/Asphalt

Wood chips

Gravel

Dirt

## Green Space



Average/Good



Poor

## Beach



Average/Good



Poor

## Decorative Water Fountains



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Average/  
Good



Poor

## Section D: Aesthetic Features and Amenities

# Drinking Fountains



Average/  
Good



Poor

# Section D: Aesthetic Features and Amenities

## Shelters



Average/Good



Poor



## Section D: Aesthetic Features and Amenities

### Benches



Average/  
Good



Poor

## Picnic Tables



Average/Good



Poor

## Trash Containers



Average/  
Good



Poor

## Grills and Fire Pits



Average/  
Good



Poor

## Section D: Aesthetic Features and Amenities

# Fruit and Vegetable Gardens



Average/  
Good



Poor

# Section D: Aesthetic Features and Amenities

## Shade Trees



Average/  
Good



Poor

## Other Gardens and Plants



Average/  
Good



Poor

# Section E: Trash and Vandalism

Garbage/  
litter



Evidence  
of alcohol  
or other  
drug use



Broken  
glass



Graffiti/  
tagging



Sex  
paraphernalia

# Practical Experience

# Practical Experience Discussion

- ▶ Review and discuss each item on the tool
- ▶ What was easy to code? Difficult to code?
- ▶ Were there items missing from the tool or protocol?
- ▶ What else was challenging about applying this tool or protocol?
- ▶ Did you need additional instructions during the training?
- ▶ What are strengths that you see from this method?
- ▶ Do you have any other feedback or reflections on the training?
- ▶ Do you have any other suggestions to improve the tool, protocol, or training?

# Data Collection

## Timeframe

- ▶ Date(s) of data collection?
- ▶ Date(s) of environmental change (if applicable)?
- ▶ Date that Evaluation Officer will receive the data?

## Process for receiving the data

- ▶ Send data to Evaluation Officer by scanning and emailing
- ▶ Send data to Evaluation Officer by making copies and sending through mail

# Data Analysis

## Receiving the data

- ▶ Evaluation Officer will send an email stating they have received the data
- ▶ Evaluation Officer will contact the Evaluation Coordinator if there are questions about the data

## Data entry and cleaning

- ▶ Evaluation Officer will work with Transtria staff to entry and check the data in spreadsheet

## Data analysis and summary

- ▶ Evaluation Officer will analyze the data and prepare a summary
- ▶ CPs will receive raw data and a summary

# Evaluation Plan

- ▶ How many parks will you be collecting data for?
  
- ▶ What design are you using?
  - Before/after
  - Comparison
  - Cross-sectional (pre or post only)
  
- ▶ If comparison design, how do you plan to select your comparison park?
  
- ▶ How do you plan to use this data?
  
- ▶ What audience to you intend to share this data with?

# Questions?