

Guide Operational Definitions

(adapted from/informed by Foster et al. (1) and Lee et al. (2))

General instructions:

- Walk the perimeter and through space to ensure all access points, surrounding roads, etc are captured, and that all areas that a user might enter are explored.
- Primary purpose: if the space clearly serves one function most (e.g., presence of play equipment and little else).
- Secondary purpose (optional): if the space clearly serves >1 main function.
- Presence/absence of features (including facilities, amenities, incivilities, etc) should be based on whether people using the green space would be generally aware of their presence (should not have to forensically examine all parts of the green space)
- Consider the type of space in judgement of quality of features.

For example: within *Natural Features* a high rating for Trees / shrubs / plants in a 'formal park' or 'general neighbourhood space' should reflect well cut/maintained/manicured greenery; in contrast an area with a primary function of biodiversity/conservation, can have long grass, un-manicured vegetation and so on, which is aesthetically pleasing, appropriate for such spaces and, therefore be scored highly

- Consider the size of the space in judging the adequacy of provision of, for example, walking paths (*Accessibility* domain), open space (*Recreational facilities* domain), and *Amenities*.

1. Access

	Options	Guide criteria
AC1	Enter number Open access	- Count number of points of entry to space - No specific entrance points/open access on one or more sides
AC2	Yes/No	Presence of pedestrian crossing on any of the immediately adjacent roads, which would assist access to the space
AC3	Yes/No	Space provides a link between two or more streets/neighbourhood/estates that could be used as a short cut
AC4	None Some Adequate A lot	- No clear walking paths through or around perimeter of the space - At least one path, but not enough for the size of the space - Sufficient paths within/around green space, but not 'a lot' - Multiple paths throughout the green space, both across it and around it.
AC5	Poor Adequate Good Excellent	- No paths present (i.e., AC4=0), or those present are not fit for purpose - Existing paths are fit for purpose, but in need of repair - Most paths in good condition, so the user is not acutely aware of damage or lack of maintenance - All paths are in good-excellent condition

1. Foster C, Hillsdon M, Jones A, Panter J. Assessing the relationship between the quality of the urban green space and physical activity. London: CABE; 2006.

2. Lee R, Booth K, Reese-Smith J, Regan G, Howard H. The Physical Activity Resource Assessment (PARA) instrument: Evaluating features, amenities and incivilities of physical activity resources in urban neighborhoods. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*. 2005;2(1):13.

2. Recreational facilities

NOTE: if number of items is 0, overall item score is 0 (i.e., no quality score required)

	Feature	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent	
R1	Play equipment	Several pieces in need of major repair, almost unusable	Some equipment in need of minor repair, needs some improvement	In good condition, variety of pieces, ground in good condition, well-kept	Excellent provision	
R2	Grass pitches (e.g., football, bowls, cricket)	Uneven surface, poorly maintained, almost useable	Surface in reasonable condition, fit for purpose	Even surface, well maintained, furniture (e.g. goal posts) are intact	Excellent provision	
R3	Hard courts (e.g., tennis, basketball, 5-a-side pitch)	Badly damaged surface/furniture (e.g., football goal, basketball hoop, nets) Almost unusable	Surface/furniture somewhat damaged, BUT fit for purpose	Good condition with all/most of surface/furniture in tact	Excellent provision	
R4	Skateboard/BMX ramp(s)	Several pieces in need of major repair, almost unusable	Some equipment in need of minor repair/ improvement	In good condition, variety of pieces, ground in good condition, well-kept	Excellent provision	
R5	Other					
		None	Some	Adequate	A lot	
R6	Open space – amount (for informal games, play and walking)	No functional open space for games, play or walking	Some open space, but not enough does not allow much play/walking	Sufficiently space for several groups/ individuals to undertake informal games, play, and supports some walking around space	Plenty of space for different groups/ individuals to walk/play	
		None	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent
R7	Open space – quality (for informal games, play and walking)	No functional open space for games, play or walking	Open space is not fit for purpose	Sufficiently well maintained to enable informal games, play, and to support some walking around space	Good quality open space that supports different types of play and walking	Excellent provision

3. Amenities

Note: Presence of amenities should be based on whether people using the green space would be generally aware of its presence (should not have to forensically examine all parts of the green space for each amenity - some things may be hidden away or overgrown e.g. a park bench)

Note: Number (e.g., too few, adequate, etc) should be judged based on the size of the space.

	Amenity	None	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent
AM1	Seating/Benches	None present	Not many and / or in poor condition, unusable	Reasonable number for size of park, not all in good condition, but otherwise usable	In good condition but could have minor cosmetic flaws	Excellent provision
AM2	Litter bins	None present	At least one, but too few AND unclean or poor condition or full/overflowing	Too few OR unclean or poor condition or full/overflowing	Clean on exterior. Enough for area. Not overflowing.	Excellent provision
AM3	Dog mess bins	None present	Too few AND unclean or poor condition or full/overflowing	Too few OR unclean or poor condition or full/overflowing	Good provision AND good condition, not full/overflowing	Excellent provision
AM4	Lighting (<u>within</u> the boundaries)	None present	Inadequate and / or damaged	Some lighting present, but space not completely lit	Adequate and in good condition	Excellent provision

4. Natural features

Note: Consider the type of space in judgement of quality of natural features; for example: a high rating for grass, trees, plants, shrubs etc in a 'formal park' or 'general neighbourhood space' would demand well cut/maintained, providing a good surface for formal/informal recreation and games, and not appear neglected; in an area with a primary function of biodiversity/conservation, long grass and non-manicured vegetation can be aesthetically pleasing and therefore be scored highly

	Feature	None	Poor	Adequate	Good	Excellent
NA1	Grass	None present	Some grass BUT not well maintained (overgrown through neglect, rather than conservation area)	Quite well maintained OR adequate for area for conservation / biodiversity	Well maintained OR appropriate for designated area for conservation / biodiversity Attractive for users	Excellent provision for type of green space
NA2	Trees / shrubs	None present	Some present BUT not well maintained (overgrown / damaged through neglect, rather than conservation area)	Quite well maintained OR adequate for area for conservation / biodiversity	Well maintained OR appropriate for designated area for conservation / biodiversity Attractive for users	Excellent provision for type of green space
NA3	Flower beds / wild flowers	None present	Some present BUT not well maintained (overgrown / damaged through neglect, rather than conservation area)	Quite well maintained OR adequate for area for conservation / biodiversity	Well maintained OR appropriate for designated area for conservation / biodiversity Attractive for users	Excellent provision for type of green space
NA4	Water / water features (e.g., ponds, streams)	None present	At least one water feature, but in poor condition, unattractive	At least one Quite good condition, somewhat attractive	One or more in good condition and attractive to users	Excellent provision or attractive water feature(s)

5. Incivilities

* Presence of incivilities should be based on whether people using the green space would be generally aware of its presence (should not have to forensically examine all parts of the green space)

	Incivility	None	Hardly noticeable	Noticeable	Very noticeable
IN1	General litter	None visible	Hardly noticeable A few items visible on the ground	Noticeable Several items are on the ground	Very noticeable Many items are on the ground
IN2	Evidence of alcohol use (bottles, cans, or bottle caps visible)	None visible	Hardly noticeable A few items	Noticeable Several items	Very noticeable
IN3	Evidence of drug taking (e.g., , paint cans, rags, baggies, rolling papers)	None visible	None visible	One or more clear examples of drug taking	Very noticeable
IN4	Graffiti	None visible	Hardly noticeable, but it appears on up to a few pieces of furniture / equipment	Noticeable Several small or large pieces, clearly visible	Very noticeable Several large pieces, on much of the park furniture / equipment
IN5	Broken glass	None visible	A few pieces of broken glass, does not really spoil enjoyment of space	Several pieces of broken glass, affecting enjoyment of area	Many pieces of broken glass, affecting enjoyment of area
IN6	Vandalism	None visible	Hardly noticeable, but some evidence on up to a few pieces of furniture / equipment	Noticeable, more than a few pieces of equipment OR an area of the space has been rendered unusable by vandalism	Very noticeable, more equipment in disrepair than in good order because of vandalism Signs of vandalism are obvious
IN7	Dog mess	None visible	Hardly noticeable, perhaps a single example	Noticeable / several dog refuse piles, affecting enjoyment of area	Very noticeable, seriously affecting enjoyment of area
IN8	Noise	Not aware of any	Some sound but hardly noticeable, not annoying	Sound(s) is (are) noticeable and interfere(s) with enjoyment of area	Noticeable sounds which are unpleasant. Seriously affecting enjoyment of area

6. Useage

Note: This domain is not included in overall scoring, but may provide a useful additional indicator of function.

For each type of 'Useage' or activity listed:

'Very suitable' - space is particularly suitable for that type of activity/useage

'Suitable' - the space is suitable to this type of activity/useage

'Somewhat' - that type of activity/useage could certainly be undertaken although the conditions are not ideal.

'Not at all' - that type of activity/useage would be difficult and not enjoyable.