

Recreation Facility Evaluation Tool

This instrument can be used to identify and evaluate Parks, Playgrounds, Sports Fields, Aquatic Facilities/Pools, and Recreation Centers. 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.

To calculate scores:

Assign point values to each item as follows:

<i>Points for Yes/No Responses</i>	<i>Points for Good/Fair/Poor Responses</i>
Yes = 2	Good = 3
No = 1	Fair = 2
	Poor = 1

Compute average scores for condition, maintenance, and safety for each facility (such as “sports field”). This will result in an rating for each element that can be considered “excellent” (≥ 1.750), “good” (1.450 - 1.749), “fair” (1.150 - 1.449), or “poor” (≤ 1.149). An overall facility score can be determined by averaging the three category scores together. The result of the overall average is then interpreted as excellent, good, fair, or poor. The ranges for the overall scores are the same as those listed above for the category scores.

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Condition Items</i>	<i>Maintenance Items</i>	<i>Safety Items</i>
General	Restroom facilities Drinking fountains Restroom cleanliness		
Park	Landscape features	Cleanliness Park equipment and amenities Landscape maintenance	Adequate size Safety hazards
Playground	Equipment damage Protruding bolts, screws, nails, or fixtures	Area free of litter	Fill Swing sets
Football Field	Levelness Turf wear Evidence of puddles Yardage markers Lighting	Mowed and watered	
Soccer Field	Yardage markers Level field Turf wear Evidence of puddles Goal presence Lighting	Mowed and watered	
Baseball/Softball Diamonds	Level field Turf Wear Evidence of puddles Backstop presence Fence along 1st and 3rd base Lighting	Mowed and watered	
Tennis Courts	Cracks Weeds Low spots Lighting	Maintained for use	

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Condition Items</i>	<i>Maintenance Items</i>	<i>Safety Items</i>
Outdoor Basketball Courts	Cracks Weeds Low spots Lighting	Maintained for use	
Aquatic Facilities	Safety and first aid equipment Phone 6' fence around perimeter of facility	Facility cleanliness Concrete	Phone accessibility
Recreation Facilities	Gym lighting Weight room rules	Cleanliness of gym floor Cleanliness of weight room Cleanliness of facility	Staff availability First aid equipment CPR certification

Suggested citation for the Recreation Facility Evaluation Instrument:

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. Retrieved [date] from the World Wide Web:

<http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/tools/RecFacilityTool.pdf>.

For more information about the development of the tool see:

Cavnar MM, Kirtland KA, Evans MH, Wilson DK, Williams JE, Mixon GM, Henderson KA. Evaluating the quality of recreation facilities: Development of an assessment tool. In press: *Journal of Park and Recreation Administration*.

Recreation Facility Evaluation Tool

Name of Facility: _____

Date of Review: _____

Location: _____

Reviewed by (initials): _____

Place a check mark beside the items below found at/adjacent to this recreation site.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park (size) _____ acres
<input type="checkbox"/> Playground Equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Field(s) # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Basketball Court(s)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tennis Court(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Biking Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|---|--|

GENERAL QUESTIONS For the Entire Facility

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Are restroom facilities accessible? | <u>No</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Yes</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| Number of restroom facilities accessible: _____ | | |
| If so, are the restroom facilities clean? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are drinking fountains available? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Number of drinking fountains available: _____ | | |

PARKS

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>Safety</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Yes</u> |
| Is the park of adequate size and space for its intended purpose? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is the park free of any detectable safety hazards? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Attractiveness

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Is the park clean and free of litter, debris, graffiti, etc.?
_____ | Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> | Fair
<input type="checkbox"/> | Good
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| Does the park equipment appear to be well maintained and in good condition?
_____ | <u>No</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Yes</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Does the park landscape appear to be well maintained and in good condition?
_____ | <u>No</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Yes</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Does the park have landscape features that make it a more enjoyable place to be? (Variety of trees, flowers, plants. Some grassy areas. Some shaded areas.)
_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

PLAYGROUNDS

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>Safety</u>		
Is there adequate fill under the equipment?		
• Fill should be 12-inches deep and extend six feet in all directions		
• Slides should be no taller than 10-feet.		
• For slides taller than 4-feet, fill should extend 4-feet beyond the height of the slide. (Ex. A 7-foot slide should have fill extending out 11-feet in all directions.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For swingsets:

Are there <u>no more than 2 swings</u> per bay area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the swings at least 24" apart?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the swings at least 30" from side supports?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Condition

Is the playground area free of litter or dangerous debris? (Broken glass, sharp objects, chemicals, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the equipment free of damage (Is not broken or missing any parts)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the playground equipment free of any protruding bolts, screws, nails, or fixtures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SPORTS FIELDS

Football Fields:

Number of football fields at this location: _____

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Does the field appear level?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the field adequately maintained (mowed, watered, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The field is free of places where the turf appears thin or worn?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is no evidence of puddles or muddy areas in the field following a rain?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the yardage lines and goal lines clearly marked?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there goal posts at each end of the field?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the field lighted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Soccer Fields

No **Yes**

Number of soccer fields at this location: _____

Are the yardage/zone lines clearly marked?

Does the field appear level?

Is the field adequately maintained (mowed, watered, etc.)?

The field is free of places where the turf appears thin or worn?

There is no evidence of puddles or muddy areas in the field following a rain?

Are there rectangular goals at each end?

Is the field lighted?

Baseball/Softball Diamonds:

Number of baseball/softball diamonds at this location: _____

No **Yes**

Does the field appear level?

Is the field adequately maintained (mowed, watered, etc.)?

The field is free of places where the turf appears thin or worn?

There is no evidence of puddles or muddy areas in the field following a rain?

Does the diamond have a backstop behind home plate?

Is there a chain link fence along the first- and third-base lines separating the field of play from the spectator and dugout areas?

Is the field lighted?

Tennis Courts

Number of tennis courts at this location: _____

Poor Fair Good

Is the court surface smooth and free of cracks?

No **Yes**

If the surface has cracks, are the cracks repaired well?

The court is free of weeds and grass shoots choking through the surface?

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
The court is free of obvious low spots? (No evidence of water pooling after a rain?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the court sufficiently maintained for use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the court lighted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Basketball Courts (Rate Outdoor Courts Only)

Number of (outdoor) basketball courts at this location: _____

	Poor	Fair	Good
Is the surface smooth and free of cracks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>	
If the surface has cracks, are the cracks repaired well?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The court is free of weeds and grass shoots choking through the surface?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
The court is free of obvious low spots? (No evidence of water pooling after a rain?)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the court lighted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

AQUATIC FACILITIES/POOLS:

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>General</u>		
Is the facility clean?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the concrete hosed off and swept?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are restrooms available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are drinking fountains available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Safety

Are lifeguards present?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is safety and first aid equipment in good condition and easily accessible?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the pool rules posted conspicuously?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is an Emergency Action System plan posted and/or readily available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is there an accessible and visible phone for calling EMS?	<u>No</u> <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Yes</u> <input type="checkbox"/>
Is there a fence around the edge of the facility that is at least 6' high, continuous, and unobstructed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECREATION CENTERS:

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
<u>General</u>		
Are restrooms available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the rec center, including the restrooms, clean?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is a drinking fountain available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Safety

Are the recreation center staff visible and available?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the rec center have first aid station(s) and/or supplies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are the rec center staff certified in CPR/First Aid?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Indoor Facility/Gym

Is the gym floor clean?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the gym well lit?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Weight Room

Are weight room rules and guidelines conspicuously posted?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the weight room clean and neat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WALKING/BIKING TRAIL

What is the distance of this trail? _____ miles

What is the surface of the trail?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete/Asphalt | <input type="checkbox"/> Dirt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crushed granite/rock | <input type="checkbox"/> Composite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mulch or Wood Chips | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

	<u>No</u>	<u>Yes</u>
Does the trail include interpretive signs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>