"ANCHORAGE PARK REPORT CARD"

Assessing Our Parks' Appearance, Function, & Condition

Is Your Park an A or an F?

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Contact Information Optional:

Park Name: _____ **Your Name:** _____

Date: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Email:** _____

General Instructions:

The Report Card consists of six specific park areas or settings to be graded. The components of each setting are listed at the top of each evaluation sheet. If you have any questions, please consult the volunteer or staff member leading your Report Card evaluation. Each park setting will have a series of five questions based on cleanliness, safety, structure, appearance and functionality. Use the following guidelines to answer each question to the best of your ability.

1. For each park setting, please answer each question on the attached form by shading in the circle with an appropriate response based on the key provided to the right.

2. If a question or series of questions are not applicable (for example, if a park does not have active recreation areas), please mark "N/A" next to the question.

3. Try to conduct the inspections in groups of two or three. Having more than one person conduct the survey promotes objectivity and ensures a more comprehensive evaluation of conditions. Each member of the group can fill out their own individual form.

4. Be objective. If you are too critical, any relevant points that you raise will be lost in overly negative comments. For example, overflowing trash is a problem. If there is grass on the sidewalk, it's only a problem if it has accumulated to the point of impeding access.

5. Use the comments section to note specific problems. Park employees are much more able to respond to specific concerns/needs than general observations. For example, "The plastic slide on the playground is cracked and unusable" is more useful than "The playground equipment needs to be fixed."

6. Please give each component an overall grade, and make note of specific deficiencies. For example, if 50% of the pathways are excellent, and 50% are poor, please grade them average and make note of the poor areas to fix.

7. The back of each sheet of questions is blank. Please use this space to make additional notes, fix-it lists or to draw diagrams of problem areas within the park so that the Department can respond effectively to the problem.

Thank You & Have Fun

The Anchorage Report Card Audits are brought to you by the Anchorage Park Foundation
thanks to a generous grant of the Rasmuson Foundation for "Clean & Green" Parks

Park Settings

Identifying separate settings within public parks is one way of creating standards that can be used to compare all parks. Settings refer to the basic building blocks of public parks, such as playgrounds, recreation areas or pathways. Settings are the major components the public might expect to find in the various public areas that they visit. Not all parks are made up of the same settings. These settings vary depending on the intended use and function of the park. A setting is made up of several different elements, and each setting should be clearly recognizable by the general public. The following list of settings provides a broad classification with which to evaluate public parks.

Setting		Description
Outer Park Edges & Entry		This includes all portions of the entrances and edges of parks. The first major features encountered by park visitors are the public parking lots, signage and entryways welcoming visitors and setting the tone for the park experience.
Active Recreation Areas		This includes major athletic fields such as soccer, baseball and softball fields (both natural and artificial turf), as well as hard surface courts such as tennis, basketball, skate parks, and other play areas intended for physical and active use by individuals or large groups in formal activities or events.
Passive Recreation Areas		This includes informal picnic grounds, open play areas, large lawns for mixed use, outdoor classrooms, community gardens and other areas for individual or groups to engage in unstructured play and community events.

Setting		Description
Playgrounds		This includes all children's play areas, from tot lots to elementary school age playgrounds, swings and other play equipment. Furthermore, playgrounds include surface areas, edging, and immediate supervision areas as well as parent seating and gathering areas.
Pathways		This includes all pedestrian connections: paved bike trails, sidewalks, nature trails and soft surface pathways. It also includes bridges and tunnels that are part of a larger trail system.
Green Space		This includes both formal landscapes and natural areas that form the larger open spaces of parks and greenbelts. Formal landscapes may include ornamental trees, shrubs, and flower-beds that are not native to the area and have been planted as part of the overall park design.

ACTIVE RECREATION AREAS

Instructions:

Shade in the circles below based on your evaluation of each park item. Examples are to the right.

Poor | Below Average | Average | Above Average | Excellent

Description:

Active recreation areas include major athletic fields and hard surface courts intended for formally organized individuals, large groups, or teams. The following items may be present. Please check the areas that apply below:

- ☐ Soccer/Multi Use Field
- ☐ Baseball Field
- ☐ Tennis Court
- ☐ Skate Park
- ☐ Little League Field
- ☐ Softball Field
- ☐ Basketball Court
- ☐ Other Areas (Volleyball, Horseshoe)

Feature Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation	Comments/Fix It List (Please note specific location)
Cleanliness - Are the fields free of litter and debris? Is there graffiti present? Is there broken glass? If there are bathrooms, are they clean?	○	
Safety - Is the turf free of holes and trip hazards? Is there evidence of inappropriate activity in the park (drug, alcohol use or gang activity)? Do you feel safe in the park?	○	
Structural - Are the backstops, goals, dugouts, fencing, spectator stands, lighting systems working and in good condition? Is the infield mix, turf, or court surface free of weeds, level and does not hold water?	○	
Appearance - Are the natural turf fields free of bare spots (90%), a uniform green color, and free of weeds? Is the turf mowed at a uniform height of less than ankle height?	○	
Functionality - Does the field have an irrigation water system and is it functioning? Does the field meet minimum standards for athletic use?	○	

General park features that are common to all areas

Seating Areas - benches, etc. ○ Trash Cans ○

Restrooms - Portable or Permanent ○ Dog Stations ○

Use the back side to make further comments, list items to be fixed, or draw a location map

Overall Evaluation

Provide an overall evaluation of the area based on the five categories above. ○

GREEN SPACE

Instructions:

Shade in the circles below based on your evaluation of each park item. Examples are to the right.

Poor | Below Average | Average | Above Average | Excellent

Description:

Green space includes both formal landscapes and natural areas that form the larger open spaces of parks and greenbelts. The following items may be present. Please check the areas that apply below:

- ☐ Ornamental Trees
- ☐ Flower Beds
- ☐ Wetlands
- ☐ Lakes
- ☐ Shrub Beds
- ☐ Forest Areas
- ☐ Streams
- ☐ Other Areas [Meadows]

Feature Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation	Comments/Fix It List (Please note specific location)
Cleanliness - Are both formal and natural green spaces free of litter and debris? Is there graffiti present? Are lakes and wetlands free from floating debris? Are there unpleasant smells and odors?		
Safety - Are trees free of hanging limbs that impede visibility or pathways? Is there evidence of people living in the park? Do you feel safe in the park?		
Structural - Are trees in the area alive and free of dead or damaged limbs? Is there evidence of erosion along stream banks or standing water in open areas?		
Appearance - Are landscape areas attractive, healthy and in good condition? Do you think there are enough trees planted in the developed areas of the park? Would you bring your family and friends to the area?		
Functionality - Is there public access to the natural areas such as pathways or outdoor classrooms? Are there informational signs and are they in good condition?		

General park features that are common to all areas

Seating Areas - benches, etc.

Trash Cans

Restrooms - Portable or Permanent

Dog Stations

Use the back side to make further comments, list items to be fixed, or draw a location map

Overall Evaluation

Provide an overall evaluation of the area based on the five categories above.

OUTER PARK EDGE & ENTRY

Instructions:

Shade in the circles below based on your evaluation of each park item. Examples are to the right.

Poor | Below Average | Average | Above Average | Excellent

Description:

The entrances and edges of parks should have a clearly recognizable form and be both inviting and interesting to people on foot, on bike, or in vehicles. The following items may be present. Please check the areas that apply below:

- ☐ Entry Sign
- ☐ Bollards/Fence
- ☐ Information Signs
- ☐ Landscaping
- ☐ Parking Lot
- ☐ Gate
- ☐ Restrooms
- ☐ Other Areas

Feature Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation	Comments/Fix It List (Please note specific location)
Cleanliness - Are the paved areas free of litter and debris? Is the area free of graffiti? If there are bathrooms are they clean?	○	
Safety - Are there sidewalks, trails and other safe pedestrian access points into the park? Is the road speed appropriate to the park for pedestrian safety? Do you feel safe when entering the park?	○	
Structural - Is the asphalt in good condition? Are there adequate barriers (fence or bollards) to keep autos out of park?	○	
Appearance - Is the area attractive and inviting (curb appeal)? When you park do you feel welcome and informed as to the park uses?	○	
Functionality - Is there adequate parking for the use? Are the signs visible from the street? Are there informational signs?	○	

General park features that are common to all areas

Seating Areas - benches, etc. ○ Trash Cans ○

Restrooms - Portable or Permanent ○ Dog Stations ○

Use the back side to make further comments, list items to be fixed, or draw a location map

Overall Evaluation

Provide an overall evaluation of the area based on the five categories above. ○

PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS

Instructions:

Shade in the circles below based on your evaluation of each park item. Examples are to the right.

Poor | Below Average | Average | Above Average | Excellent

Description:

Passive recreation areas include informal areas for individual or groups to engage in free play and community events. The following items may be present. Please check the areas that apply below:

- ☐ Picnic Areas
- ☐ Picnic Shelters
- ☐ Open Play Field
- ☐ Outdoor Classroom
- ☐ Restrooms
- ☐ Community Gardens
- ☐ Seating Areas
- ☐ Other Areas [plazas, stage, etc.]

Feature Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation	Comments/Fix It List (Please note specific location)
Cleanliness - Is the area free of litter and debris? Are there trash cans available? Are they in good condition and not overflowing? Is there graffiti present? If there are bathrooms, are they clean?	○	
Safety - Is the turf free of holes and trip hazards? Is there evidence of inappropriate activity in the park (drug, alcohol use or gang activity)? Do you feel safe in the park?	○	
Structural - Are benches, tables and grills intact and in good condition? Are the grills rust-free and usable? Are the tables and benches missing any slats? If there is a shelter is the paint on the exterior and interior at least 90% free from cracks and peeling?	○	
Appearance - Is the area attractive and inviting? Would you bring your family and friends to the area?	○	
Functionality - Is there adequate picnic space available? Are there adequate open play areas? Are there informational signs if necessary? Are the signs intact and legible?	○	

General park features that are common to all areas

Seating Areas - benches, etc.	○	Trash Cans	○
Restrooms - Portable or Permanent	○	Dog Stations	○

Use the back side to make further comments, list items to be fixed, or draw a location map

Overall Evaluation

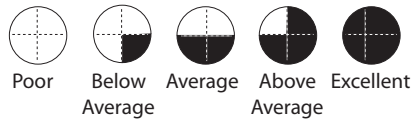
Provide an overall evaluation of the area based on the five categories above.

○

PATHWAYS

Instructions:

Shade in the circles below based on your evaluation of each park item. Examples are to the right.



Description:

This includes all pedestrian connections including paved bike trails, sidewalks, nature trails and soft surface pathways in a park. The following items may be present. Please check the areas that apply below:

- ☐ Paved Trail
- ☐ Signage
- ☐ Fence/Bollards
- ☐ Tunnel
- ☐ Soft Surface Trail
- ☐ Trail Head
- ☐ Bridge
- ☐ Other Areas

Feature Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation
Cleanliness - Are the pathways free of litter and debris? Is the pathway at least 90% weed-free? Is there graffiti present? Is there broken glass?	
Safety - If the pathway is paved, is it free of cracks and holes greater than 2 inches deep or across? If the pathway is gravel or other natural material, is it evenly distributed and level?	
Structural - If there are structures such as stairs, boardwalks or tunnels, are they safe and in good condition? If the pathway is paved, is it at least 95% free of standing water two days after a rain?	
Appearance - Are the pathways attractive and inviting to use?	
Functionality - Do the paths link recreational areas and surrounding neighborhoods? Is there adequate informational signage? Is there a Poop Station or other dog waste bag dispenser?	

Comments/Fix It List (Please note specific location)

General park features that are common to all areas

Seating Areas - benches, etc.

Trash Cans

Restrooms - Portable or Permanent

Dog Stations

Use the back side to make further comments, list items to be fixed, or draw a location map

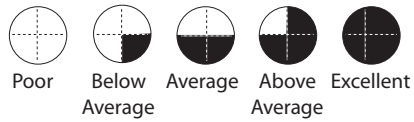
Overall Evaluation

Provide an overall evaluation of the area based on the five categories above.

PLAYGROUNDS

Instructions:

Shade in the circles below based on your evaluation of each park item. Examples are to the right.



Description:

Children's play areas should be clean, safe, and enjoyable. This includes tot lots and elementary school age playgrounds. The following items may be present. Please check the areas that apply below:

- ☐ Tot Playground(3-6)
- ☐ Playground (6-12)
- ☐ Swings
- ☐ Slides
- ☐ Surface Material
- ☐ Edging
- ☐ Restrooms
- ☐ Other Areas

Feature Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation	Comments/Fix It List (Please note specific location)
Cleanliness - Is the play area free from litter, debris and weeds? [Is the sandbox free of all debris? Is there graffiti present in the playground area?]	○	
Safety - Is the surface material safe and intact? [For example, if rubber matting, is it continuous? If sand, is it loose and soft, rather than hard and compacted? Is it at least 80% free from deterioration such as rust, rot or splinters?]	○	
Structural - If there are painted structures in the play area, is the painted surface free from peeling or chipped paint? If there are wood structures are they free from cracks or splinters?	○	
Appearance - Is the area attractive and inviting to use? Would you enjoy bringing your family or friends to this playground and would you recommend others to use the area	○	
Functionality - Is the play equipment functional? Are there missing pieces of equipment? Is the equipment attractive to children and provide a variety of activities? Is the area fun?	○	

General park features that are common to all areas

Seating Areas - benches, etc. ○ Trash Cans ○

Restrooms - Portable or Permanent ○ Dog Stations ○

Use the back side to make further comments, list items to be fixed, or draw a location map

Overall Evaluation

Provide an overall evaluation of the area based on the five categories above. ○