



GREAT PUBLIC SPACES

Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life



This tool draws on research by Gehl, the Gehl Institute and Project for Public Spaces

How to use guide

This tool can assist in evaluating what is working well and what could be improved in your public space. It will add to an evidence base to help inform potential improvements.

- 1 Fill out the survey on site
- 2 Familiarise yourself with the site, observe and walk around
- 3 Take photos to show key features, activities and people gathering
- 4 Take the survey on multiple occasions at different times of the day, weekday or weekend

General

Date: Time:

Your name:

Project:

Council area:

Address of site:

Weather:

What type of space is this?

- Open space
- Public facility
- Street (including plaza)

Snapshot of users

Count how many people are using the space for ten minutes. Multiply the amount by six to get an average of users in one hour. Add key locations to the map.

End time:

Start time:

Hourly average:

Number of pedestrians:

Number standing/sitting:

Who and what can you see?

Count

- Children aged 0-12
- Teenagers aged 13-19
- Adults aged 20-64
- Seniors aged 65+
- Women
- Men
- Groups
- Individuals
- Person with pram/mobility aid
- Person on bicycle
- Worker on break/commuting
- Person walking pet
- Person performing
- Person exercising/playing

- Furniture/seating
- Shops/Cafe/Kiosk
- Market stalls
- Stage/event space
- Community building/meeting spaces
- Shade structure
- Playspace
- Sportfield/Court
- Natural feature (green/blue)
- Toilets/amenities
- Way finding signage
- Public or community art
- Landmark/destination

Other:

Questions & observations

How would you describe the overall quality of this public space?

High Medium Low

What makes this public space special or unique? Using your local knowledge, what does the community value about the space?

How would you improve the quality of this public space? e.g. events, shade, or lighting

What local partnerships (e.g. business or community groups) can you identify that could help implement some of your ideas?

Draw a simple site map, or use this space for extra notes or photos. Note: When using a digital PDF with Adobe Acrobat, use the **Pencil** and **Text** tool from the **Comment** taskbar.

Legend:

- × Gathering point
- △ Person
- Pathway
- Building/structure
- Point of interest
- /// Open area/grass
- ⊗ Tree

Please fill out your evaluation below

1 Strongly disagree 2 Disagree 3 Undecided 4 Agree 5 Strongly agree N/A Not applicable

Divide the total score by the number of questions. The average score for each theme provides an overview of how its performing

Am I able to get there?	Score
People can easily find their way to the public space	
People can easily access the public space from the surrounding streets, e.g. multiple access points	
People of all ages and abilities can easily move around the space	
People walking or riding a bike are protected from traffic when entering the space	
Average score sum/4	
Observations/Ideas:	

Am I able to play and participate?	Score
There are a range of things to do in the public space including exercise, recreation, games, play and/or learning opportunities	
The public space encourages social interactions	
People of all ages and abilities can use the space and have the facilities they need	
There is a range of places or features to safely sit, play and relax	
There are multiple social or cultural activities appropriate to the space, e.g. programming or events	
Average score sum/5	
Observations/Ideas:	

Am I able to stay?	Score
People can sit in the shade or in the sun	
There are a range of comfortable places to sit or stay	
The public space has enough trees, grass and plants	
The public space feels safe during the day	
The public space feels safe during the night	
The public space has lighting and good visibility	
The public space is clean and well-maintained	
The surrounding buildings are not too dominating, allowing people to feel comfortable in the public space	
The public space is well designed, visually attractive with scenic qualities	
There are features that shelter you from wind, sun, and rain	
You are protected from noise, dust, unpleasant smells, or pollution in the public space	
Average score sum/11	
Observations/Ideas:	

Am I able to connect?	Score
People with a diversity of ages, genders, cultural or ethnic backgrounds are using the public space	
There is an interesting atmosphere and activities in the public space, e.g. people watching	
You can meet people and socialise, and it is a positive place	
There are shops, cafes, services, or economic activity close by	
People are able to connect with each other in both a commercial and non-commercial settings	
There are local stories of significance (historic, cultural, first peoples) told and celebrated in the public space	
There is public art, heritage, or monuments that recognise the unique local character	
There is evidence of voluntarism, community stewardship and/or the space is well-loved, and well attended for its function	
You feel welcome and would return	
Average score sum/9	
Observations/Ideas:	