

Path Environment Audit Tool (PEAT):

Instruction Manual for Conducting Path/Trail Observations

Acknowledgment:

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This manual has been prepared for the research team at the Harvard School of Public Health and others who will be conducting observations of trail and path physical characteristics using the Path Environment Audit Tool (PEAT).

Overview of Study & Use of PEAT

PEAT and this manual were developed as part of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded study (*Developing and Evaluating Objective Measures of Outdoor Recreational Areas*) to develop and evaluate objective measures of the physical characteristics of community paths and trails that are used for physical activities such as walking, jogging, and cycling. Six parks and trails in eastern Massachusetts were selected for the study based on their diversity in terms of trail or path design, type of surrounding community (e.g., urban vs. suburban), and adjacent demographic characteristics. The methods used to characterize these sites included use of existing GIS data layers, GPS data collection at each site, and observations of site physical characteristics with PEAT.

Approximately 40 miles of paths and trails were mapped with a GPS unit during July 2003. The PEAT instrument was used to collect additional information on trail/path characteristics during the spring of 2004. Data from PEAT was then integrated with GPS data into a comprehensive GIS database characterizing these sites.

Two observers conducted observations of all trail/path segments at the six study sites to allow for assessment of inter-observer reliability.

Unit of Observation – Trail/Path “Segments”

The use of the PEAT instrument followed collection of spatial data at the six study sites with a high-accuracy GPS unit. Trails and paths were divided into segments with new segments started whenever there was a change in primary characteristics such as surface type or type of trail (e.g., primary trail, intersecting road). Maps were developed to identify trail segments and guide observers who used the PEAT instrument. A separate PEAT form was completed for each trail/path segment. Each trail segment had a unique identifier that was already part of a geographic database. This allowed us to link attribute data collected via PEAT into a GIS database on trail segments.

Training on Using the PEAT Tool

For the Harvard trail study, two research assistants made observations with PEAT. Since both individuals were unfamiliar with the tool and its development, their training needs were extensive. We propose the following general approach for training new observers in future use of PEAT, involving two sessions. First, we suggest conducting a 2-4 hour office-based training session that provides: a) background rationale for the tool and its use; b) an overview of the methods (e.g., use of maps to guide trail segment observations); and c) step-by-step review of all PEAT items, including the operational definitions. This session should allow enough time for observers to ask questions about the protocol and specific items.

The second session should occur in the field and will roughly take 2-4 hours to complete. During this session, observers should get to practice using the PEAT instrument on at least two trails and paths that vary in their characteristics (e.g., rail-trail and walking path in a park). We recommend that this training occur at sites that will not be part of the actual study. One trainer, well-experienced with using PEAT in the field, should lead this field session. We suggest limiting the size of groups being trained at one time to four individuals.

PREPARING TO CONDUCT OBSERVATIONS WITH PEAT

Before going to a study site:

- Ensure that you have reviewed PEAT with the study PI and have no questions about its use. Please note that new observers will first undergo training before using PEAT.
- If using maps to identify PEAT trail or road segments, ensure that you have reviewed maps for the study site and that there are no ambiguous markings or errors on the map.
- Ensure that authorities have been contacted about data collection activities prior to visiting a site.

Ensure that you bring the following to the site:

- Site maps
- Tablet PC with 2 back-up batteries or PDA
- Hand-held GPS unit to determine end-points of trail segments (used at 2 sites in Harvard study)
- Spare AA or AAA batteries for handheld GPS
- Tape measure
- Study identification badge or other ID with affiliation
- Informational handouts (for curious trail users)
- Watch
- Cell phone
- Camera (optional)
- Sunscreen (optional in Winter months)
- Insect repellent
- Water / Snacks
- Coins (payphones)
- Hand sanitizer / Rubber or vinyl gloves

COMPLETING PEAT

It is very important that each PEAT form (on the tablet PC or PDA) is filled out completely and correctly. After completing a PEAT form for a trail segment, briefly review the form to ensure complete and accurate answers.

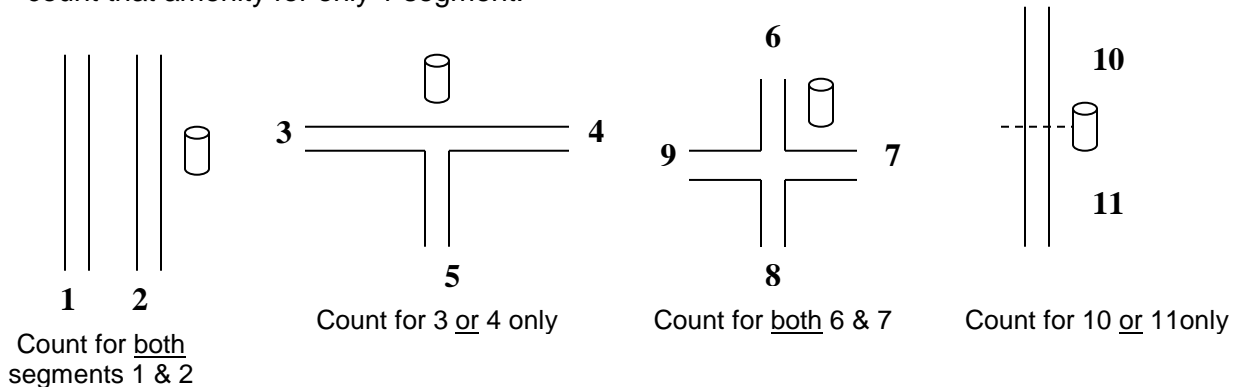
The following information is to be recorded at the top of the electronic (Access) PEAT form:

1. Record ID – this ID number is automatically generated each time a new PEAT form is opened (new record is created). A new PEAT form will be completed when moving from one PEAT trail/path segment to another, when different observers are doing observations on the same trail segment, and when observations are being done on a given segment on a different day.
2. Date – the access database has been designed so that the date and time are automatically recorded when each form is being filled out.
3. Site Name – use the drop down menu to select one of the following study sites:
Note that this field will need to be modified for your particular project.
4. Observer Initials – use drop down menu to identify you as the observer.
Note that this field will need to be modified for your particular project.
5. PEAT Segment ID – this ID will be obtained from maps of PEAT trail and road segments. At the beginning of a new PEAT trail segment verify your location using the maps and enter the PEAT ID (typically a one or two-digit number) into the Access form. Include leading zeros when entering the number so that the PEAT Segment ID is a 3-digit number.
Note that in the Harvard study we referred to trail and road segments as PEAT segments. Although the exact approach will likely differ, we recommend segmenting trails and assigning unique identifiers to each segment.

GUIDELINES FOR COMPLETING PEAT FORMS

General Rules

- Starting points for observations will be determined by the research team prior to going to a site, and will be clearly marked on “PEAT segment” maps.
- All observers should walk in the same direction along trails/paths.
- Observers should walk on the right-hand side of the trail/path in order to avoid potential conflicts or collisions with other users. Observers should step off the path when completing the PEAT form.
- Observers are encouraged to re-walk trail/path segments as many times as needed to ensure accuracy on reporting in the PEAT instrument.
- Observers are permitted to complete items on the PEAT instrument as they are walking.
- Observers will never select the “not applicable” response on the PEAT form. The “not applicable” response is for default purposes only.
- Do not count trail amenities (e.g., garbage can) twice if they are located at the junction of continuous segments. Decide which segment the amenity is closest to and count the amenity for that segment only. This also means that if an amenity is straddling 2 segments, count that amenity for only 1 segment.



- VERY IMPORTANT:** At the completion of one trail/path segment, and before beginning the next segment, **ENSURE THAT ALL FIELDS ARE COMPLETED ON THE PEAT FORM.**

Recording Answers on Electronic PEAT Form

- Upon completing each trail/path segment be sure to check the PEAT Access form to make sure that all questions have been completed.

ITEM-BY-ITEM INFORMATION

Q1. Intersection with road

Is this segment a road intersecting the trail or path?

- Select one:
 - Yes
 - No

IF Q1=YES, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING 6 ITEMS CONTAINED IN THE SUB-FORM THAT AUTOMATICALLY OPENS UP. (NOTE THAT ALL OTHER QUESTIONS ON THE PEAT FORM THAT DO NOT APPLY TO INTERSECTING ROADS WILL AUTOMATICALLY DEFAULT TO “NOT APPLICABLE”).

Observers will walk across the street to assess the following items from both sides of the intersecting road.

1a. Traffic signal or stop sign at the intersection for vehicles

Is there a stop sign or traffic signal for vehicular traffic to allow trail users an opportunity to safely cross the intersecting road?

Include any traffic signs or signals which warn or caution vehicles of pedestrians. Include traffic lights, blinking yellow cautionary lights, stop signs, yield signs, and pedestrian crossing warning signs.

- Select one:
 - Yes
 - No

1b. Curb cut at intersection / wheelchair accessible

Is there a curb cut at the intersection; for example, to allow for wheelchairs, bicycles, in-line skates, baby strollers, and older adults to safely access the trail or road? Select “yes” for this item if there is a curb cut on both sides of the road (accessing the path/trail) OR if the path is at the same level as the road and no “curb cut” or step is present. Otherwise, select “no” for this item if there are no curb cuts or a curb cut is only on one side of the road. [Please note that for the Harvard study, curb cuts did not need to be the same width as the trail.]

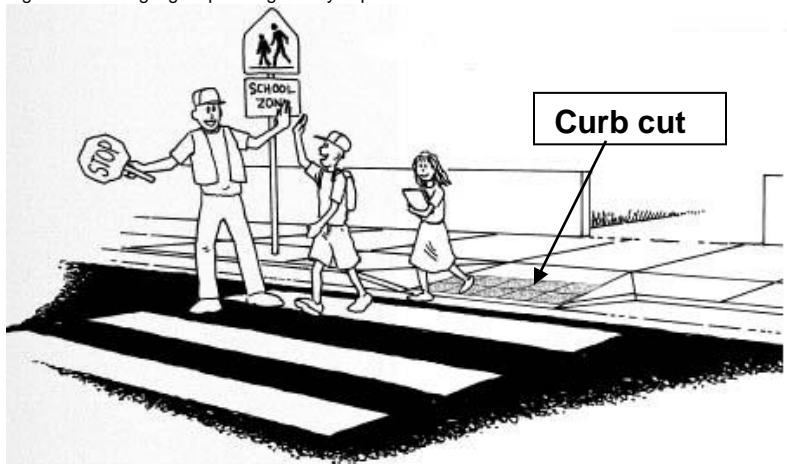
Curb Cut: A cut in the curb where a trail crosses a street. The curb cut should be the same width as the trail.

Source: Rails to Trails Conservancy – Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse website
<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/resources/highlights/primer/glossary.asp>

- Select one:
 - Yes
 - No

Crosswalk

Curb cut



Picture source: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration website

1c. Crosswalk at intersection

Is there a crosswalk on the intersecting road to mark a safe area in the road for trail users to cross the intersecting road?

Note: In some cases the crosswalk may not be painted (like the one pictured), but may be constructed of brick or another surface material to contrast it from the road.

Crosswalk: a specially paved or marked path for pedestrians crossing a street or road
Source: Merriam-Webster Online- <http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=Litter>

- Select one:
 - ☐ **Yes**
 - ☐ **No**



1d. Raised crosswalk

Is there a raised crosswalk?

A raised crosswalk is a crosswalk where the area has been built up above the level of the adjacent road surface.

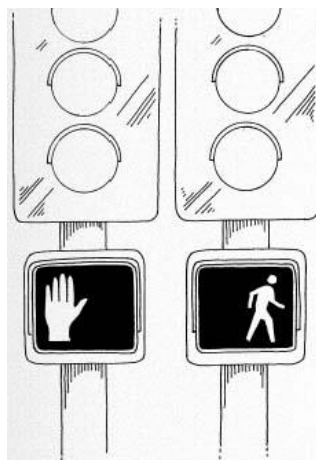
- Select one:
 - ☐ **Yes**
 - ☐ **No**

Raised Crosswalk

1e. Pedestrian crossing signal

Is there a pedestrian signal that notifies trail/path users of a safe time to cross the street? (This may or may not be a signal that can be controlled by trail users.)

- Select one:
 - ☐ **Yes**
 - ☐ **No**



Pedestrian crossing signal

Picture source: U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration website

1f. Safety of intersection

Based on the previous items pertaining to this intersecting road, such as crosswalks and signals, and observed traffic behavior, how would you rate the overall safety of the intersection?

Note:

- *The observer should consider both objective conditions of the intersecting road as well as the traffic level and size of the road.*
- *The following should all be considered in this assessment:*
 - *Presence of a marked crosswalk*
 - *Presence of signals or stop signs for vehicles*
 - *Presence of pedestrian crossing signals*
 - *Traffic level, traffic behavior*
 - *Size of the road*
 - *Line of site*
 - *How well can trail users be viewed from vehicle operators and how well can trail users view approaching traffic*
 - *This is affected by hills, curved roadways, on street parking, shrubs/greenery, and signs*
- *Select one:*
 - **Very Poor**
 - **Poor**
 - **Fair**
 - **Good**
 - **Excellent**

DESIGN FEATURES

Q2. Condition of path surface

What is the condition of the path surface along this segment?

- Assess the condition of the surface based on the majority of the segment. For example, if the beginning of the segment is in “moderate” condition, but the majority appears to be in “good” condition then score the segment as “good.” However, if a short section of trail is in such poor condition that it would make physical activity (e.g., walking, biking) hazardous then the lower rating should be applied to the entire trail/path segment.
- Select one response:
 - **Very poor condition** is a surface with lots of cracks, bumps, holes, or weeds growing in the surface or between the cracks. A path or trail surface in “very poor” condition would make traveling along the segment very difficult or not possible for someone bicycling, in-line skating, or in a wheelchair. For dirt or gravel segments, rate the surface condition as “very poor” if the surface is uneven and there are numerous or severe holes and irregularities in the surface.
 - **Poor condition** is a surface with lots of cracks, bumps, holes, or weeds growing in the surface or between the cracks. A path or trail surface in poor condition would make traveling along the segment difficult for someone bicycling, in-line skating, or in a wheelchair. For dirt or gravel segments, rate the surface condition as poor if the surface is uneven and there are several holes and irregularities in the surface.
 - **Moderate condition** is a surface with some cracks, bumps, holes, or weeds growing in the surface or between the cracks, but not as many as a path in poor condition. For dirt or gravel segments, rate the surface condition as “moderate” if the surface is only moderately uneven and there are only a few or minor holes and irregularities in the surface.
 - **Good condition** is a surface with no or few bumps, cracks, holes and weeds growing in the surface or between the cracks. A fairly new surface would be categorized as “good.” For dirt or gravel segments, classify the segment as “good,” if the surface condition is even and compact, with very few irregularities or holes.
 - **Excellent condition** is a surface with no or few bumps, cracks, holes and weeds growing in the surface or between the cracks. A brand new surface would be categorized as “excellent.” If the surface is dirt or gravel, to be classified as “excellent,” the surface condition must be even and compact, with no irregularities or holes.

Q2a). Surface under repair

Is any portion of the path/trail surface under repair? Repair efforts must be apparent by signs, equipment, cones, barriers, or workers present to indicate that the section is under repair.

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Q2b). Temporary Barrier

Is there a temporary barrier present on the trail/path segment? The barrier must span the majority of the segment making travel difficult.

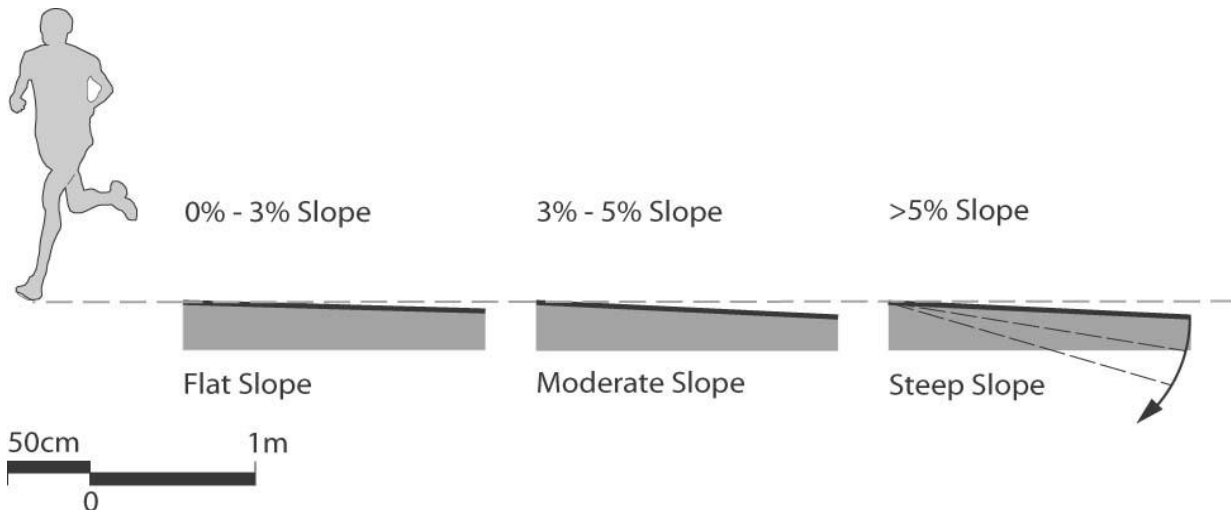
- **Temporary barrier** is a non-permanent barrier affecting the surface condition; such as water, puddles, ice, snow, mud.
- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Q3. Slope

What is the slope, slant, or grade of the segment along the length of the segment (in the direction parallel to the trail)?

- Visually assess the slope, slant, or grade of the segment. If there is any portion of the segment where the slope is greater than 3%, rate the slope as moderate or steep, accordingly. Otherwise if the slope of the entire segment is between 0 – 3 % rate the slope as “flat or gentle.”
- Select one response:
 - **Flat or gentle slope** = no slope or a slight or gradual incline or grade (< 3% slope = < 2.7 degrees = < 1 ft rise per 33 ft of path)
 - **Moderate slope** = medium incline or grade (3-5% slope = 2.7 – 4.5 degrees = 1 ft rise per 33-20 ft of path)
 - **Steep slope** = sharp or rapid incline or grade (> 5% slope = > 4.5 degrees > 1 ft rise per 20 ft of path)

Conversions taken from: U.S. Department of Transportation - Wetland Trail Design and Construction - <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fspubs/01232833/appenb.htm> -



Q4. Cross slope

What is the slope across the width of the path; that is, in the direction perpendicular to the direction someone would walk or bike?

- Assess the cross slope based on the majority of the segment.
- Select one response:
 - **Flat or gentle cross slope** = no cross slope; flat from side-to-side
 - **Moderate cross slope** = medium incline or grade from side-to-side; may make walking somewhat of a challenge for an older or disabled individual
 - **Steep cross slope** = steep incline or grade from side-to-side that could cause someone to lose their balance; may make walking very challenging for an older or disabled individual; not suitable for wheelchairs



Cross Slope

Picture source: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration website

Q5. Sufficient vertical clearance

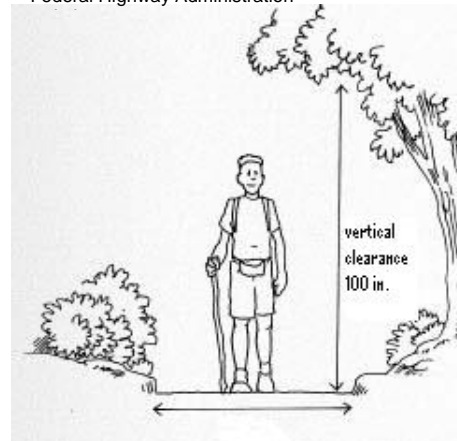
Is there sufficient vertical clearance for cyclists and other users to safely pass along the trail without coming into contact with overhanging vegetation?

Note: this observation is not based on the majority of the segment. Any instances on a trail segment of hanging branches below the acceptable vertical clearance level should be marked "no". Hanging branches or other obstructions need not span the entire width of the trail/path. Any low hanging branches or other obstruction covering any portion of the trail/path should be counted as "no" – there is not sufficient vertical clearance.

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Vertical clearance (clearing height) - is the vertical dimension that must be cleared of all tree branches and other obstructions that would otherwise obstruct movement along the trail (p.176- Trails for the 21st Century). A sufficient vertical clearance on a trail is >2.5 meters (100 inches).

Picture source:
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



Q6. Sufficient site distance

Is there sufficient site distance along this trail segment?

Note: Observers will not measure site distance, but will approximate the category based on site distance for the majority of the segment.

- *Site distance refers to being able to safely see oncoming users (e.g., pedestrians, cyclists) along the trail. For example, if there is a sharp curve or turn in the trail, it may not be possible to see oncoming users beyond 25 or 50 feet. Alternatively, a very straight trail would typically allow one to see oncoming users at a fairly long distance (e.g., more than 100 feet).
The observer needs to make a general assessment of the segment.*
- Select one:
 - **All of the segment** – a generally straight segment where the users can see the entire segment.
 - **Most of the segment** – the majority of the segment is straight (has good site distance). There is one short sharp turn on the trail segment.
 - **Some of the segment** – the trail segment has some bends, turns, gradation changes or trees, shrubs, and amenities where the trail user can only see beyond 25'-50' at some portions of the trail segment.
 - **None of the segment** – there are numerous bends, turns, and gradation changes in the trail segment and trees, shrubbery and other amenities block the trail user's view. The trail user can not see beyond 25 feet along any portion of the trail segment.

Site distance: "The visible and unobstructed view seen by a trail user from a given point along the trail" (p.185 - *Trails for the 21st Century*)

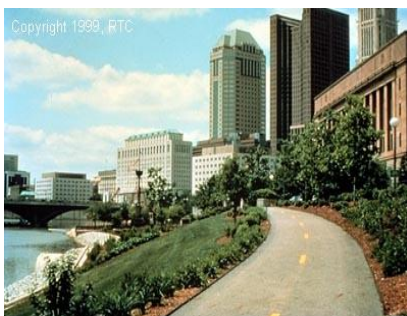
Q7. Vegetative cover/Built enclosure

What is the lateral visibility or vegetative cover/enclosure of the trail segment? This rating is based on the majority of the trail segment, and individual occurrences of continuous, moderate or no lateral visibility along a segment will not affect the response. If only a small part of the trail has moderate lateral visibility, but the majority of the segment has continuous lateral visibility, then rate the segment as having continuous lateral visibility.

- Select one response:
 - **Continuous Lateral visibility**- Observer can see without visible interruption to both sides of the trail. There are no buildings, walls, shrubs, site furnishing to obscure the view.
 - **Moderate Lateral Visibility**- Observer can see with minor visible interruption to both sides of the trail. There are some buildings, walls, shrubs, site furnishing to obscure the view to the side of the trail.
 - **No Lateral Visibility**- Observer can not see the area just beyond the trail to either side. There is a high density of buildings, walls, shrubs, and site furnishing to obscure the view.



**Continuous
Lateral Visibility**



**Moderate Lateral
Visibility**



**No Lateral
Visibility**

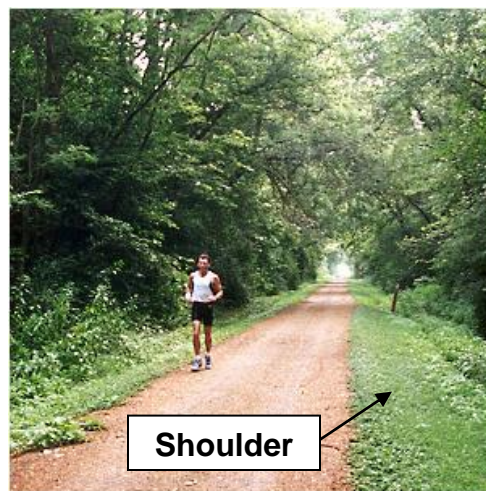


Q8. Shoulder present

Is there a shoulder on one or both sides of the trail? The extension area on at least one side of the path must be cleared, mowed, and flat.

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Shoulder: an intentionally cleared, mowed and maintained extension of the trail or path which is outside of the traveled way and provides extended width to the trail/path to provide safety, collision avoidance, and drainage. The shoulder should be relatively flat and allow users of different ages and abilities to safely access it.



Q9. Road adjacent to trail/path

Is there a road that runs parallel along this trail/path segment that is visible or audible from the trail? In the case of parallel trails or paths, an adjacent road should be counted for both segments. A road that runs near the trail segment that is not parallel or adjacent to the segment should not be counted.

- Select one:
 - **Yes** - there is a road adjacent to the trail segment that is close enough to be seen or heard from the trail
 - **No** - there is no road close enough to be seen or heard from the trail that is adjacent to the trail segment

IF Q9=YES, THEN ANSWER 2 ITEMS ON “ROADBUFFER” SUBFORM.

9a. Buffer from road

Is there a buffer from the adjacent road?

Note: in many cases the buffer could be equivalent to a shoulder

Make this assessment based on the majority of the trail segment. If the majority of the segment has a buffer, then select “yes.” If the majority of the segment does not have a buffer, then select “no.”

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Buffer: Any type of natural or constructed barrier (trees, shrubs, or wooden fences) or grassy area used between the trail and adjacent lands to minimize impacts (physical or visual). Buffers also provide a transition between adjacent land uses.

Definition modified from: <http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/resources/highlights/primer/glossary.asp>

9b. Width of buffer

How wide is the buffer between the edge of the trail and the road?

Note: observer will not be required to measure the width, but will judge the width from visual appraisal. If the width of the buffer varies along the segment the observer will make his/her best estimate of the average width of the buffer along the segment.

- Select one:
 - **< 1 meter (< 3' 3¼")**
 - **1 – 3 meters (3'3¼" – 9'10")**
 - **> 3 meters (>9'10")**

Q10. Access point

Are there one or more official access points along the trail segment?

*Access points are points where the trail/path intersects a road or a sidewalk or where pedestrian crosswalks run into a path or trail segment. Access points are **not** points where the path/trail intersects a primary, secondary, or access trail segment leading from a road or sidewalk to the trail/path. Paths leading to private property are not considered access points. Unintentional or user-made access points should not be counted. (For example, a hole cut in a fence next to rail-trail would not be considered an official access point).*

In cases where there is an access segment indicated on the map (in red – Harvard study), but the distance from the point where the access segment joins the primary trail to a sidewalk, street, or neighborhood is less than or equal to about 10', the observer will record “yes” to Q10.

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there is at least one official access point along the trail segment
 - **No** – there is not an official access point along the trail segment

IF Q10=YES, THEN ANSWER 1 ITEM ON SUBFORM.

10a. Is (are) the access point(s) accessible to wheelchairs?

Could someone using a wheelchair safely get on or off the trail via this access point ("these access points" if there are more than one along the trail segment)? Good access is indicated by the presence of curb cuts, no steps leading to the trail or path, gates or bollards with sufficient lateral clearance, slope that is not excessive, no other barriers present and surface that is sufficiently compact.

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** – the one or all access point(s) are accessible
 - **Some** – there is more than one access point and only some are accessible
 - **No (none)** – the one access point or none of the access points are accessible

Q11. Gate(s) or bollard(s)

Are there one or more gate(s) or bollard(s) on the segment that prevents access by vehicles?

Include any structures that prevent unauthorized users (motor vehicles) from using the trail.

Bollard - A barrier post, usually 30-42 inches in height, used to inhibit vehicular traffic (p.176 – Trails for the 21st Century)

Gate – "Structure that can be swung drawn, or lowered to block an entrance or pathway" (p.179- Trails for the 21st Century)

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there are one or more gates or bollards along the trail segment
 - **No** – there is not a gate or bollard along the trail segment

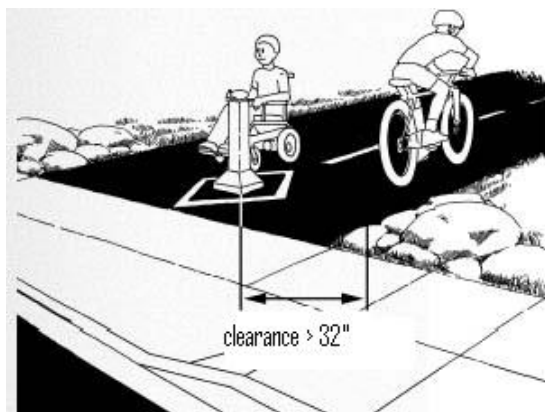
IF Q11=YES, THEN ANSWER 1 ITEM ON THE SUBFORM.

11a. Clearance of $\geq 32"$.

Is there enough lateral clearance for someone using a wheelchair to safely pass by the gate or bollard (~32")?

Note: The observer is not required to physically measure the gate clearance, but will use visual appraisal to determine whether or not the clearance is sufficiently wide to allow a wheelchair user passage. However, "when in doubt", the observer can use the tape measure to measure clearance on either side of the gate/bollard.

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** – the bollard/gate(s) have enough clearance
 - **Some** – there is more than one gate or bollard along the trail segment, some have enough clearance
 - **No (none)** – none of the gates or bollards located along the trail segment have sufficient clearance



Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration website

Q12. Viewpoint(s) / Point of Interest

Are there one or more viewpoints/points of interest located along this trail segment where there is a deliberate attempt to provide an unobstructed view beyond the trail segment? Viewpoints are not any views worthy of aesthetic merit. They must be areas intentionally designed to provide a view with design features such as bench placement and overlooking railings to highlight the view.

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there are one or more viewpoints located along this trail segment where there has been a deliberate attempt to provide an unobstructed view beyond the trail segment
 - **No** – there are no viewpoints located along the trail segment

Viewpoint - A viewpoint is a significant landscape or cityscape feature of aesthetic merit. The viewpoint could focus on a mountain, open field, water-body or building. The viewpoint could also be a point of prospect overlooking a landscape region or cityscape.

Scenic Viewpoint - A designated area developed at a key location to afford trail users an opportunity to view significant landforms, landscape features, wildlife habitat, and activities.

Source: <http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/resources/highlights/primer/glossary.asp>

Select Yes or No for the items listed on the VIEWPOINT sub-form.

NOTE: A single viewpoint/point of interest can classify and be marked as more than one type of viewpoint below. For example an overlook/prospect may also have a water body, and both should be marked.

12a. Overlook / Prospect - an elevated area providing an extensive view

12b. City view - a view toward a city skyline, village spires or monuments

12c. Landscape - Rolling Fields, Farm land, marsh, forest

12d. Water body - Wetland area, lake, pond, brook, stream, river, ocean

12e. Other viewpoint - a view that is both distant and has aesthetic merit, but is not adequately categorized by the above examples.

AMENITIES

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- FOR THE FOLLOWING AMENITY ITEMS, COUNT THE AMENITY FOR EACH SEGMENT IT TOUCHES, UNLESS IT STRADDLES 2 CONTIGUOUS SEGMENTS. AMENITIES WILL BE COUNTED FOR MORE THAN ONE SEGMENT FOR PARALLEL AND INTERSECTING TRAILS.
- IF AN AMENITY IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE JUNCTIONS OF TWO CONTINUOUS SEGMENTS, COUNT THE AMENITY FOR ONLY THE SEGMENT THAT IT IS CLOSEST TO. IF THIS CAN NOT BE DETERMINED THE OBSERVER SHOULD SELECT ONE SEGMENT.
- FOR THE FOLLOWING AMENITIES (GARBAGE CANS, TELEPHONES, EMERGENCY CALL BOXES, BENCHES, TABLES, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, BICYCLE RACKS, EXERCISE OR PLAY AREAS, SERVICES, AND RESTROOMS), COUNT ANY THAT ARE DIRECTLY ACCESSIBLE FROM THE TRAIL. THIS INCLUDES ANY AMENITIES BORDERING PLAY AREAS AND PLAYING COURTS AND FIELDS IF THEY ARE DIRECTLY ACCESSIBLE FROM THE PATH/TRAIL WITH NO STANDING BARRIERS.

Q13. Lighting

Is there lighting located along this trail or path segment that would provide illumination for trail users at night?

Note: Do not include lighting for ball fields or courts adjacent to the trail/path since these are likely to be on only during games or certain times of the year (e.g., summer). If the trail/path parallels a road and there appears to be adequate street lighting to illuminate the trail, the appropriate response is “yes.” **Lighting must be sufficient to adequately illuminate most of the trail/path segment for use at night.**

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there is lighting along the trail segment
 - **No** – there is no lighting along the trail segment

Q14. Telephone(s)

Are there telephones located along this trail segment that are intended for users and are accessible from the trail? (NOTE: Telephones located inside of buildings should not be counted. Only count phones that are visible and accessible from the trail/path segment.)

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there are one or more *telephones* located along this trail segment
 - **No** – there are no *telephones* located along the trail segment

IF Q14=YES, THEN ANSWER 3 ITEMS ON TELEPHONE SUBFORM.

14a. Telephones - Functioning – *Are the telephones functioning properly?*

Observer will remove handset and listen for dial tone. If a coin is required to get a dial tone, observer will insert a coin into the phone.

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** – a dial tone is audible and telephone(s) appear to be functioning
 - **Some** – there is more than one phone on segment; some are working and some are not
 - **No (none)** – there is no audible dial tone and telephone(s) do not appear to be functioning properly

14b. Telephones - Clean – *Rate the cleanliness of the telephones.*

If more than one telephone is present on the segment please make an overall rating based on an average rating of all telephones present on that segment.

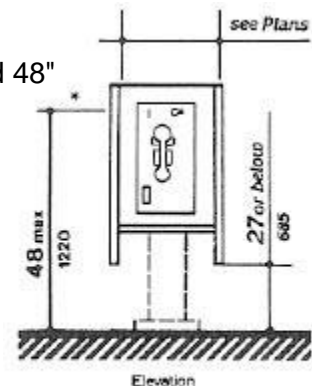
- Select one:
 - **Very poor (1)** – Extreme dirt or vandalism is present on the telephones; observer would unlikely use the telephones based on there cleanliness.
 - **Poor (2)** – Dirt or vandalism is present on the telephones; observer may be reluctant to use phones based on their cleanliness
 - **Fair (3)** – Telephones are in adequate condition. Only minor dirt or vandalism is present. Telephones are likely older and have some wear & tear. Lack of cleanliness would unlikely affect use
 - **Good (4)** – Telephone(s) are free from dirt and vandalism; observer would use telephone without hesitation.
 - **Excellent (5)** – Telephone(s) appear brand new and are in mint condition. They are completely free from dirt and vandalism; observer would use telephone without hesitation.

14c. Telephones - Accessible to wheelchair users

Is the telephone(s) located in a height and position which would allow someone to access it from a wheelchair?

All of the following criteria must be true:

- Height to the highest operable part must not exceed 48" (Refer to ADA Standards)
- Located on a paved or compact surface
- Surrounding surface is level
- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** – select “yes” if all above conditions are met for all phones
 - **Some** – if all conditions are met for some phones on the segment, but not others
 - **No (none)** – select “no” if one or more of the above conditions are not met for all phones



**Height to highest operable parts which are essential to basic operation of telephone.*

Picture source: US Department of Education – NIDRR - ADA & IT Technical Assistance Centers – ADA Document Portal

Q15. Emergency call box(es)

Are there emergency call boxes located along this trail segment that are intended for trail users?

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there is one or more emergency call boxes located along this trail segment
 - **No** – there are no emergency call boxes located along the trail segment

Call box: a telephone usually located on the side of a road for reporting emergencies (as fires or automobile breakdowns)

IF Q15=YES, THEN ANSWER 1 ITEM ON THE SUBFORM.

15a. Accessible to wheelchairs

Is the emergency call box located in a height and position which would allow someone to access it from a wheelchair?

All of the following criteria must be true:

- Height to the highest operable part must not exceed 48" (Refer to ADA Standards)
- Located on a paved or compact surface
- Surrounding surface is level
- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - the one box or all are accessible to wheelchairs
 - **Some** - there is more than one box; not all are accessible to wheelchairs
 - **No (none)** - none are wheelchair accessible

Q16. Restroom(s)

Are there restrooms located along this trail segment that are intended for trail users?

- Select one:
 - Yes
 - No

IF Q16=YES, THEN ANSWER 3 ITEMS ON RESTROOM SUBFORM.

NOTE: Where gender specified restrooms are present, observers are only required to make assessments of the appropriate facility.

16a. Restrooms - Functioning – *Are the restrooms working properly?*

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - If restrooms are permanent - **all must be true:**
 - Toilets appear to be flushable, and
 - Toilet paper is available, and
 - Sinks, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and/or hand dryers appear to be functioning, and
 - The door properly opens, closes and locks
 - If restrooms are portable - **all must be true:**
 - Toilet paper is available, and
 - The door properly opens, closes and locks
 - **No (none)** - If restrooms are permanent:
 - Toilets do not appear to be flushable, or
 - No toilet paper is available, or
 - Sinks, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and/or hand dryers do not appear to be functioning, or
 - A sign is present that indicates that the restroom is out of order
 - If restrooms are portable:
 - The door does not properly open, close, and/or lock, or
 - No toilet paper is available, or
 - A sign is present that indicates that the restroom is out of order
 - **Some** - If there is more than one restroom along a given trail segment and not all fit a response of “YES” or “NO” then the appropriate response is “SOME.”

16b. Restrooms - Clean – *Rate the cleanliness of the restroom facilities.*

- Select one:
 - **Very poor (1)** – Restroom facilities are extremely filthy. Floors, sinks and toilets are very dirty. No regular cleaning is apparent. Paper products and/or litter are on the floor. Waste baskets are overflowing. Sinks and toilets may be clogged. Floors are dirty and maybe wet. Observer would unlikely use facility based on cleanliness.
 - **Poor (2)** – Restroom facilities are dirty. Little maintenance is apparent. Observers may be reluctant to use the facilities due to filth.
 - **Fair (3)** – Restroom facilities are in acceptable condition. Facilities appear to be maintained periodically.
 - **Good (4)** – Restroom facilities are in satisfactory condition. Regular maintenance is apparent. Floors, sinks, toilets, and counters appear clean. Few pieces of paper products are on the floors, counters or sink. Regular cleaning is apparent.
 - **Excellent (5)** – Restroom facilities are in new or near new condition and appear to have regular cleaning. Floors, sinks, and toilets appear very clean. No paper products or litter are on the floor or in the sink. Floors are dry. Observer would use facilities without hesitation based on cleanliness. **All must be true to rate as excellent.**

16c. Restrooms - Accessible to wheelchairs – Are the restroom facilities accessible to wheelchairs?

This can be determined by either signs or markings in the restroom or by making assessments of the dimensions of the restroom.

NOTE: observer will not take all measurements. Dimensions are included in order to train observers on how to be able to visually determine whether the restrooms are accessible to wheelchairs. Observers will however measure doorway width initially, until they are comfortable “eyeballing” the dimensions.

- Doorway width: >32” (preferably 36”)
- Grab bars: 30” off floor
- Dimensions: 5’ by 10’
- Toilet seat height: 17”-19” from floor

Guidelines from *Trails for the 21st Century* (p.97) and ADA guidelines at <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - Restroom facility appears to be accessible to wheelchairs with either a sign indicating this or based on visual appraisal by the observer using the above criteria. **If a restroom is marked as wheelchair accessible, then YES is appropriate response.**
 - **No (none)** - Restrooms do not appear to be accessible to wheelchairs. Doorways are not > 32” and/or other dimensions are not appropriate based on observer visual appraisal.
 - **Some** - There is more than one restroom; not all are accessible.

Q17. Bench(es)

Are there benches or other forms of seating along this trail segment that are intended for trail users and are easily accessible from the trail?

This should include any structures that were intentionally designed to provide seating. Include any forms of seating that are directly accessible from the trail. Seating should be included if it is generally within 25 yards of the trail (50 yards for a linear trail). Include seating bordering play areas and ball fields and courts if it is directly accessible from the trail.

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there is seating or benches along the trail segment
 - **No** – there is no seating or benches along the trail segment

Bench: a long seat for two or more persons

IF Q17=YES, THEN ANSWER 2 ITEMS ON SUBFORM.

17a. Bench Condition/Cleanliness

Rate the condition and cleanliness of the benches or seating along the trail segment.

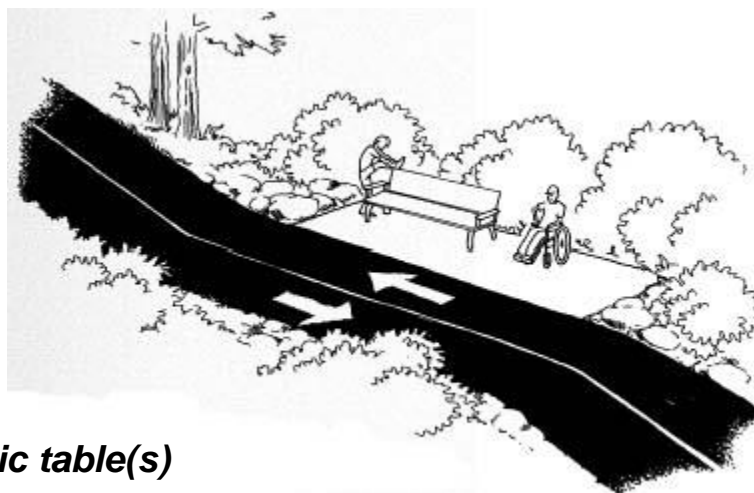
Note: If there is more than one bench or seat along the segment, then assign an average rating to the benches/seating.

- Select one:
 - **Very poor (1)** – Either because of severe structural problems or filth on surfaces the bench can not be used.
 - **Poor (2)** – The sitting surface has structural problems (broken slats) OR is very dirty (e.g., bird droppings).
 - **Fair (3)** – The bench has only minor structural problems that would not affect use & structure is moderately clean.
 - **Good (4)** – Older bench that is structurally sound & generally is in clean condition.
 - **Excellent (5)** – In new or near new condition; has clean sitting surfaces.

17b. Benches - Accessible to wheelchair users

Do the benches or seating provide a paved (e.g., concrete or asphalt) adjacent area for a wheelchair to maneuver and park?

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - there is circulation space adjacent to the bench or seating for a wheelchair to park; clearance on at least one end that would allow someone to position his/her wheelchair next to the bench; and the surface is level and fairly hard and compacted.
 - **No (none)** - there is not adequate circulation space adjacent to the bench or seating for a wheelchair; no clearance is present on at least one end that would allow someone to position his/her wheelchair next to the bench; and the surface is soft and not level .
 - **Some** - if there is more than one bench or seat and only some are accessible.



U.S. Department of
Transportation Federal Highway
Administration website

Q18. Picnic table(s)

Are there picnic tables located along this trail segment that appear to be intended for users and are accessible from the trail?

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

IF Q18=YES, THEN ANSWER 2 ITEMS ON PICNIC TABLE SUBFORM.

18a. Picnic Table Condition/Cleanliness

Rate the condition and cleanliness of the tables.

Note: If there is more than one table along the segment, then assign an average rating to the tables.

- Select one:
 - **Very poor (1)** – either because of severe structural problems or filth on eating or sitting surfaces the table can not be used.
 - **Poor (2)** – the eating or sitting surface has structural problems (broken slats) OR the table is very dirty (e.g., bird droppings).
 - **Fair (3)** - minor structural problems that would not affect use & structure is moderately clean.
 - **Good (4)** – older table that is structurally sound & generally is in clean condition.

- **Excellent (5)** – in new or near new condition; has clean eating and sitting surfaces.

18b. Picnic Table - Accessible to wheelchair users

Do the picnic tables provide a paved (e.g., concrete or asphalt) adjacent area for a wheelchair to access it, maneuver and park? (see definition below)

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - there is circulation space to and around the table for a wheelchair; clearance on at least one end that would allow someone to position his/her wheelchair next to the table; and the surface surrounding the table and leading to the table from the trail is level and fairly hard and compacted.
 - **No (none)** - there is insufficient circulation space to or around the table for a wheelchair; or no clearance is present on at least one end that would allow someone to position his/her wheelchair next to the table; or the surface surrounding the table and leading to the table from the trail is not level or fairly hard and compacted.
 - **Some** - if there is more than one table and only some are accessible.

For Training:

Definition of circulation space:

Sources: 1) National Centers on accessibility - <http://www.ncaonline.org/monographs/4picnictables.shtm>
 2) American with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities Section 4.24 & 4.32
 3) Trails for the 21st Century, (2nd edition) Rails-To-Trails Conservancy p.101
 4) Americans with Disabilities Act – ADA Homepage - 21st Century and ADA guidelines
 Source: <http://www.ncaonline.org/monographs/4picnictables.shtml>

Clearance for Accessible Wheelchair Seating Spaces

- Circulation space: > 48" on all sides of the unit
 - Clear floor space is a minimum of 30 x 48 inches, with one full-unobstructed side connected to an outdoor recreation access route.
 - Table clearance requires a minimum of 36 inches clear floor or ground space surrounding the useable portion of the table, measured from the seat.
- "Situated on level, free draining ground with a fairly hard compacted surface"
- Table top height: between 30-34"
- Clearance: 29" at each end
 - Knee space should allow a minimum of 27 inches in height, 30 inches in width, and 19 inches in depth.
 - Toe clearance requires a 9--inch minimum height and shall extend an additional 5 inch minimum from knee clearance, 30 inches minimum width and 19 inches in minimum depth.

Wheel chair accessible tables

National Center on Accessibility website
<http://www.ncaonline.org/monographs/4picnictables.shtml>



Q19. Drinking fountain(s)

Are there one or more drinking fountains located along this trail segment intended for users and are accessible from the trail?

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

IF Q19=YES, THEN ANSWER 3 ITEMS ON DRINKING FOUNTAIN SUBFORM.

19a. Drinking fountains - Functioning – *Is the drinking fountain working properly?*

Note: Observer should test fountain(s) to determine if they are functioning.

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - all of the drinking fountains present on this segment are functioning
 - **No (none)** - none of the drinking fountains located on this segment are functioning
 - **Some** - if there is more than one water fountain and only some are functioning

19b. Drinking Fountains - Clean – *Rate the cleanliness of the drinking fountains.*

Clean means that the fountains are free of debris such leaves, gum, or litter. If the observer would have any hesitancy about drinking from a fountain because of its appearance the appropriate response is “poor” or “very poor.”

Note: If there is more than one drinking fountain along the segment, then assign an average rating to the drinking fountains.

- Select one:
 - **Very poor (1)** - the drinking fountain is extremely filthy; there may be gum, papers, or rubbish in the basin; because of severe filth drinking fountain can not be used.
 - **Poor (2)** - the drinking fountain is very dirty; some gum, papers or rubbish may be in the basin; observer may be reluctant to use fountain based on the condition.
 - **Fair (3)** - the drinking fountain is moderately clean
 - **Good (4)** - the drinking fountain is in clean condition
 - **Excellent (5)** - the drinking fountain is in new or near new condition and is very clean

19c. Drinking fountains accessible to wheelchairs users

From your observation does the height (clearance below) and surrounding surface of the drinking fountain make it accessible to someone using a wheelchair?

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - one or all drinking fountains located along this segment are accessible to wheelchairs by being located on a hard and compacted surface with clearance below the basin > 27”
 - **No (none)** - none of the drinking fountains located along this segment are accessible to wheelchairs
 - **Some** - if there is more than one water fountain and only some are accessible to wheelchairs

For Training: Clearance below basin should be > 27”; Fountain should be located on a flat and compacted surface.

Q20. Garbage can(s)

Are there garbage cans located along this trail segment intended for trail users and are accessible from the trail?

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there are one or more *garbage cans* located along this trail segment
 - **No** – there are no *garbage cans* located along the trail segment

IF Q20=YES, THEN ANSWER 1 ITEM ON GARBAGE CAN SUBFORM.

Q20a. Garbage cans – Overflowing

Are the garbage cans overflowing with rubbish?

NOTE: If a garbage can is not full and there is litter of garbage next to the can, this should be accounted for in the LITTER item (Q30). Alternatively if the garbage can is overflowing and there is garbage/litter next to the can then the observer should record both “garbage can overflowing” and the “litter” items.

- Select one:
 - **Yes (all)** - garbage is overflowing from the top of the can(s), may have spilled over onto the surrounding ground, and there is little room for additional pieces in the can
 - **No (none)** - all garbage fits in the can(s) and there is sufficient space for additional garbage in the can(s) for all cans located along the segment
 - **Some** - there is more than one garbage can and some (but not all) are overflowing

Q21. Signage

Is there any type of signage along the trail segment? (see definition)

*Only include signage related to use of the trail. Do **NOT** include temporary signs, posters, flyers or signs in play areas or on playing fields or courts.*

It is possible that one sign may fit in several sign categories. If this is so, mark all appropriate categories for the type of sign.

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Sign (Signage): A board, post, or placard that displays written, symbolic, tactile, or pictorial information about the trail or surrounding area. Signage increases safety and comfort on trails. There are five basic types of signs: Cautionary, Directional, Interpretive, Objective, and Regulatory.

Source: Rails to Trails Conservancy – Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse website

<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/resources/highlights/primer/glossary.asp>

If Q21=YES, THEN COMPLETE THE 5 ITEMS ON THE SIGNAGE SUBFORM INDICATING THE TYPE OF SIGNS OBSERVED.

21a. Select YES or NO for the types of signs present along this trail segment.

21a. Sign, Cautionary: Warns of upcoming roadway crossings, steep grades, blind curves, and other potential trail hazards.

- Also include signals (such as flashing yellow lights) intended to slow/caution trail users about upcoming roadways and any painted warnings on the trail surface.
- Do NOT include pedestrian crossing signals in this item. Those should only be included in the intersecting road item.

21b. Sign, Directional: Gives street names, trail names, direction arrows, mileage to points of interest, and other navigational information. Also include maps and directional markers.

Definition: *Communicates position and the distribution of physical or geographical features within the facility including distances traveled along a route, including the location of restrooms and other support facilities.*

21c. Sign, Interpretive: Offers educational information that describes and explains a natural, historical, or cultural point of interest on or along the trail.

21d. Sign, Objective: Provides information about the actual trail conditions, including grade, cross slope, surface, clear trail width, and obstacle height. This allows users to make more informed decisions about which trails best meet their trail needs and abilities.

21e. Sign, Regulatory: Tells the "rules of the trail" by prohibiting certain uses or controlling direction of travel.

Source: Rails to Trails Conservancy – Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse website
<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/resources/highlights/primer/glossary.asp>

Q22. Car parking

Is there a public parking lot located adjacent to this trail segment, connected to the trail segment, and intended for park and trail users?

Note: Do not include parking that is apparently private, residential, or business affiliated.

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there is a parking lot intended for trail users and built and supported by the trail. (This must be a parking lot.)
 - **No** – there is no car parking along the trail segment or the parking lots appear to be private, residential, or business affiliated.

IF Q22=YES, THEN COMPLETE 2 ITEMS ON CAR PARKING SUBFORM.

22a. Number of parking spaces – Estimate the number of parking spaces in the parking lot(s) on this trail segment (only include parking lots affiliated with the trail or path.) This number is based on an approximation by the observer (Note: if there is more than 1 parking lot adjacent to trail segment, estimate the total number of spaces in all lots).

- Select one:
 - **≤10**
 - **11-25**
 - **26-50**
 - **>50**

22b. Surface material of parking lot – Classify the surface material of the parking lot

If there is more than one surface material select the one that covers >50% of the parking lot surface area. If there is more than one parking lot, use the same rule; choose the category that covers >50% of all parking lot surfaces.

- Select one:
 - **Asphalt** - a dark substance used for pavement
 - **Dirt** - loose or packed soil
 - **Gravel** - loose rounded fragments of rock
 - **Stone** - cobblestone; a naturally rounded stone larger than a pebble and smaller than a boulder; such as a stone used in paving a street or in construction
 - **Grass**
 - **Brick** - handy-sized unit of building or paving material typically being rectangular and of moist clay hardened by heat
 - **Sand** - loose granular pieces of rocks, consists of particles smaller than gravel but coarser than silt
 - **Cement** - concrete

Source: Merriam-Webster Online- <http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=Litter>

Q23. *Bike rack(s)*

Are there bicycle racks along this trail segment that are intended for trail or path users?

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there is one or more *bicycle racks* located along this trail segment
 - **No** – there are no *bicycle racks* located along the trail segment

IF Q23=YES, THEN COMPLETE 1 ITEM ON BIKE RACK SUBFORM.

23a. Bicycle rack condition

What is the condition of the bicycle racks?

Note: If there is more than one bike rack along the segment, then assign an average or overall rating of the racks.

- Select one:
 - **Very poor (1)** - A bicycle rack is present, but it is in such poor condition (bent or broken parts) that make it virtually unusable.
 - **Poor (2)** - Bicycle rack(s) need to be replaced. They are bent out of shape or broken. Observer may be reluctant to use bike rack based on the condition.
 - **Fair (3)** - Bicycle racks are in decent condition; damage and vandalism is minimal. Observers would feel comfortable leaving their bikes here based on the condition of the racks.
 - **Good (4)** - A bicycle rack that has no signs of damage or vandalism; condition is such that it would provide a safe place to lock a bike.
 - **Excellent (5)** - Bicycle racks appear new and in perfect condition. No vandalism is evident and observers would leave their bikes here without hesitation based on the condition of the bike racks.

Q24. Exercise or Play area(s)

Are there any play or exercise areas for children or adults located along this trail segment that are accessible from the trail? Exercise or play areas include, but are not limited to, courts, playgrounds, ball fields, swimming pools, rinks, exercise equipment, fitness stations, and community gardens.

- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there is one or more exercise/play areas located along this trail segment
 - **No** – there are no exercise/play areas located along the trail segment

IF Q24=YES, THEN COMPLETE 11 ITEMS ON SUBFORM (SELECT YES OR NO)

24a-l. *Specify the exercise or play areas present. Select yes or no for each item listed. If there are other exercise or play areas that are not categorized on the list observers will judge whether it appears as though it is intended for adults or children, and mark the appropriate “other” category. If it appears that the area could be used by both children and adults, mark “yes” for “other” adult exercise area. “Other child play” is reserved for areas intended exclusively for young children.*

- **24a. Court** - Including, but not limited to, basketball courts, tennis courts, etc.
- **24b. Playground** – Including, but not limited to: swing sets, slides, see-saws, jungle-gyms and other climbing apparatus, etc.
- **24c. Ball Field** - Including, but not limited to, baseball, soccer, football fields, etc.
- **24e. Swimming pool** - Outdoor or indoor pool
- **24f. Rink** - Ice-skating or roller hockey
- **24g. Exercise equipment** - Including, but not limited to: pull-up bars, sit-up benches, parallel bars, balance boards, stretching apparatus
- **24h. Community Garden** - Reserved land where people in the community can grow flowers, plants, fruits, and vegetables
- **24i. Golf** - Golf course (include putting greens and driving ranges)
- **24j. Track**
- **24k. “Other” child play** - Any other apparent child exercise/play area that does not fit into one of the above categories. This includes, but is not limited to: water garden, wading pool, sand box, etc.
- **24l. “Other” exercise adult** - Any other type of adult exercise area that does not fit in above categories

Q25. Services

Are there any services located on this trail segment accessible from the trail and intended specifically for trail users?

- Select one:
 - **Yes** - There is one or more service(s) located along this trail segment which are accessible from the trail and intended specifically for trail users.
 - **No** - There are no services located along this trail segment.

Note: If there are services which are not accessible from the trail or are intended to serve the general public as well as trail users, count this item as “no.” (This may classify them as DESTINATIONS (Q28) rather than supporting trail services).

IF Q25=YES, THEN COMPLETE 4 ITEMS ON SUBFORM.

Specify the service(s) located along the trail segment. For each service listed, select YES or NO.

25a. Food service - snack shop, food cart, vending machine, ice cream trucks (if parked on park or trail property)

25b. Bike or equipment rental/repair - a shop or stand that offers bicycle or other equipment rentals or repairs (includes air stations for tires)

25c. Information/Trail service - facility or booth may be manned by park or trail personnel; may provide maps or other informational material; may provide first aid

25d. Other shop/gift shop - e.g., historical shop in a park or along the trail/path; a shop that is intended for park or trail users

Q26. Mass transit stop or station

Are there one or more buses or mass transit stops or stations located along this segment?

Note: the stop or station should be directly along the segment (e.g., not across a street).

- Select one:
 - **Yes**
 - **No**

Q27. Cultural or civic institutions adjacent

Are there one or more cultural or civic institutions located along the trail segment?

NOTE: Observer will make a determination based on what he/she can readily observe (e.g. there is a name on building).

- Observers are NOT required to enter buildings to determine their type.
- If the observer cannot readily determine the types of building, they should disregard it in the overall assessment.
- The cultural or civic institutions must be located within one city block of the path or trail segment and must be accessible from the trail with no barriers (e.g., fences between the trail and the cultural/civic institution).
- *If the institution is located within one block of two adjacent trail segments count the institution for both segments.*
- Select one:
 - **Yes** – there are one or more cultural or civic institutions located along the trail segment
 - **No** – there are no cultural or civic institutions located along the trail segment

IF Q27=YES, THEN COMPLETE THE 6 ITEMS ON THE CULTURAL INSTITUTION SUBFORM (SELECT YES OR NO FOR EACH ITEM)

27a. Community Facilities – such as senior center, community center

27b. Historic Buildings/Sites – such as historic houses, battle markers

27c. Health care facilities – such as hospitals, neighborhood health clinic

27d. Cultural Institutions – such as museums, theaters, open air theaters

27e. Municipal Building – such as police, government, schools

27f. Secular/Religious buildings – such as churches, synagogues

Q28. Commercial destinations

Are there any commercial destinations located adjacent to this trail segment and are accessible from the trail? These include, but are not limited to, markets, restaurants, retail shops

Destinations must be

- *directly adjacent to the trail,*
- *must be no further than one city block from the trail,*
- *must be visible and observable from the trail segment, must be readily apparent to the observer without any special investigation, and*
- *must be accessible from the trail with no barriers between the trail and the destination such as fences.*
- *If a destination is located within one block of two adjacent or parallel trail segments count the destination for both segments.*

NOTE: Observers are not expected to enter buildings or ask those passing by.

Destination: a place to which one is journeying

▪ Select one:

- **Yes** – there are one or more destinations located adjacent to this trail segment and are accessible from the trail
- **No** – there are no destinations located adjacent to this trail segment and are accessible from the trail

Q29. Glass – Rate the amount of glass found on this trail segment

Only count broken glass. Also include glass that is visible on the shoulders. Intact glass bottles should be counted as litter.

- **None** - there is no glass along the trail segment
- **A Little** - there is a little glass along the segment
- **Some** - there is some glass along the segment, but not a great amount; a single broken glass bottle would be considered 'some' glass
- **A lot** - there is a large amount of glass along the segment; glass is in multiple areas along the segment

Q30. Litter– Rate the amount of litter found on this trail segment

Include litter that is visible on both the trail and the shoulder.

Litter: trash, wastepaper, cigarette butts or garbage lying scattered about

Source: Merriam-Webster Online- <http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=Litter> (modified)

- **None** - there is no litter along the segment
- **A Little** - there is a little litter along the segment
- **Some** - there is some litter along the segment, but not a great amount
- **A lot** - there is a large amount of litter along the segment, which is visible in multiple areas along the trail

Q31. Graffiti– Rate the amount of graffiti found on this trail segment

Include all graffiti visible on the trail, shoulder, trail amenities, or overall trail environment.

Graffiti: Any writing, printing, marks, signs, symbols, figures, designs, inscriptions, or other drawings that are scratched, scrawled, painted, drawn, or otherwise placed on any surface of a building, wall, fence, trail tread, or other structure on trails or greenways and which have the effect of defacing the property.

Source: Rails to Trails Conservancy – Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse website
<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/resources/highlights/primer/glossary.asp>

- **None** - there is no graffiti along this segment
- **A Little** - there is a little graffiti along the segment
- **Some** - there is some graffiti along the segment, but not a great amount
- **A lot** - there is a large amount of graffiti along the segment, which is visible in multiple areas along the trail

Q32. Vandalism– Rate the amount of vandalism found on this trail segment

Include all vandalism visible on the trail, shoulder, trail amenities, or overall trail environment.

Vandalism: willful or malicious destruction or defacement of public or private property

Source: <http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary?book=Dictionary&va=Vandalism>

- **None** - there is no vandalism along this segment
- **A Little** - there is a little vandalism along the segment
- **Some** - there is some vandalism along the segment, but not a great amount

- **A lot** - there is a large amount of vandalism along the segment, which is visible in multiple areas along the trail

Q33. Odor– Rate the amount of odor found on this trail segment

Include any foul odor including, but not limited to, car exhaust, factory emissions, garbage, or other natural odors. Pleasant fragrant aromas should not influence this rating.

- **None** - there is no FOUL odor along the segment
- **A Little** - there is a little FOUL odor along the segment
- **Some** - there is some FOUL odor along the segment, but not a great amount
- **A lot** - there is a large amount of FOUL odor along the segment

Q34. Noise– Rate the amount of noise found on this trail segment

- **None** - there is no noise from traffic, trains, construction, music, horns, sirens, factories, or other sources along this segment. This segment is very quiet.
- **A Little** - there is minimal noise from traffic, trains, construction, music, horns, sirens factories, or other sources along this segment. This segment is fairly quiet.
- **Some** - there is some noise from traffic, trains, construction, music, horns, sirens factories, or other sources along this segment but not a great amount.
- **A lot** - there is a large amount of noise from traffic, trains, construction, music, horns, sirens factories, or other sources along this segment.

Q35. Dog/Animal droppings – Rate the amount of animal droppings found on this trail segment

NOTE: observers should check for dog or other animal (goose, horse, other (but not bird)). droppings directly on the trail or path, not on the shoulder.

- **None** - there are no dog/animal droppings along the segment
- **A Little** - there are a little dog/animal droppings along the segment
- **Some** - there are some dog/animal droppings along the segment, but not a great amount
- **A lot** - there is a large amount of dog/animal droppings along the segment, which is visible in multiple areas along the trail

Q36. Presence of dogs

Are there any dogs on the trail segment, on the shoulder, or areas directly adjacent to the trail segment you are observing at the time of observation?

NOTE: Do not count dogs that are on other trail segments or are in areas adjacent to other segments.

- Select one:
 - **Yes** - there are one or more dogs present
 - **No** - there are no dogs present

REFERENCES

Merriam-Webster Online

<http://www.m-w.com/cgi-bin/dictionary>

Rails to Trails Conservancy – Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse website

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Americans with Disabilities Act – ADA Homepage - *21st Century and ADA guidelines*

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>

National Center on Accessibility website

<http://www.ncaonline.org/monographs/4picnictables.shtml>

Lateral visibility photos

Rails to Trails Conservancy – Trails and Greenways Clearinghouse website

<http://www.trailsandgreenways.org/photos/>

Accessible table photo

National center on accessibility

<http://www.ncaonline.org/monographs/4picnictables.shtml>

Telephone picture

US Department of Education – NIDRR - ADA & IT Technical Assistance Centers – ADA Document Portal

http://www.adaportal.org/Facility_Access/ADAAG/figures/fig44.html

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration website

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/contents.htm>

Cross Slope Picture

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/sidewalks2ab.htm>

Cross Walk picture

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/sidewalks202.htm>

Pedestrian Crossing Signal

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/sidewalks202.htm>

Bollard picture

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/sidewalk2/sidewalks212.htm>