

WALK AUDIT: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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SUMMARY OF DATA COLLECTED

Data collected by:

- Five Age-Friendly Task Force members and two UMass Lowell interns between October 2023 and April 2024 (Fall/Winter/Spring)
- Data collected by both younger and older adults

Tools used:

- AARP Public Space Audit Worksheet & BRAT-DO Park Audit Instrument

Target locations: 9 parks and green spaces in Amesbury, MA

- Battis Farm
- Powow Hill
- Alliance Park
- Heritage Park
- Lake Gardner
- Collins Street Park
- Amesbury Training Field
- Al Capp Amphitheater
- Amesbury Town Park

AARP Public Space Audit Worksheet



ANALYZING THE RESULTS

Park Name _____ Target Area (TA): _____
 Observer Initials _____ Date _____

How does this location make you feel?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Comfortable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playful	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relaxed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safe	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Why do you feel this way? _____

Rate the quality of the following features

	Good	Fair	Poor	None	Comments-
Cleanliness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Drinking fountains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Lighting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Places to be physically active	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Places to eat and/or drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Places to sit or take a break	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Restrooms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Shelter from the weather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Street noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

BRAT - DO Instrument Park ID

Overall Park
 (Answer once all Target Areas and activity Areas have been completed)

01-A-01 What activity areas are in the park? (Mark all that apply)

1. Tennis Courts 9. Playgrounds 15. Stables
 2. Basketball Courts 10. Green Spaces 16. Other (specify) _____
 3. Other Courts (specify) _____
 4. Baseball Fields 11. Golf Courses _____
 5. Football Fields 12. Swimming Pools _____
 6. Soccer Fields 13. Zoo _____
 7. Other Fields (specify) _____
 8. Paths 14. Botanical Gardens _____

01-A-02 Based on what you saw today, how attractive is the park as a whole?

1. Very Unattractive 2. Somewhat Unattractive 3. Neutral 4. Somewhat Attractive 5. Very Attractive

01-A-03 Can the entire park be locked? (If the park is clearly not lockable, i.e. there is no fence or gate surrounding the entire park, mark "no". Note that an actual padlock does not have to be present for the park to be lockable.)

0. No 1. Yes

01-A-04 Are there any signs specifying hours of operation for the entire park?

0. No 1. Yes

01-A-06 Are there any signs specifying whether dogs are allowed in the park?

0. No signs specifying whether dogs are allowed in the park
 1. Signs say dogs ARE allowed
 2. Signs say dogs are NOT allowed

01-A-07 Are there any signs specifying that dogs are required to be on a leash?

0. No signs specifying that dogs must be on a leash
 1. Signs say dogs must be ON a leash
 2. Signs say dogs may be OFF leash

01-A-08 Are there any signs specifying that dog owners must dispose of pet droppings?

0. No signs specifying that dog owners must dispose of pet droppings
 1. Signs say dog owners must dispose of pet droppings
 2. Signs say dog owners not required to dispose





COMMON STRENGTHS OF AMESBURY PARKS/OUTDOOR SPACES

- All areas provided a safe space to enjoy the outdoors and spend time with others
- All areas had at least one place to sit down
- All areas had opportunities for a variety of outdoor activities (walking, hiking, picnicking, etc.)

Based on AARP Public Space Audit Worksheet Data:

Best views: Powow Hill, Lake Gardner (beach), Alliance Park

Best for a walk: Battis Farm, Lake Gardner (trails)

Best for outdoor sports: Amesbury Town Park

Best to gather with friends: Al Capp Amphitheater



COMMON LIMITATIONS OF AMESBURY PARKS/OUTDOOR SPACES

- All areas had at least one perceived limitation for older adults

Based on AARP Public Space Audit Worksheet & BRAT-DO Park Audit Instrument Data:

Uneven terrain and pathways:

- Battis Farm, Lake Gardner, Amesbury Town Park, Powow Hill

Inadequate seating

- Battis Farm (only 1 bench, far from the trailhead)
- Heritage Park (predominantly seating with no backs)
- Amesbury Training Field (benches in poor condition)

Lack of signage:

- All parks would benefit from more clear signage, specifically Lake Gardner and Powow Hill from the road

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS: TOP PRIORITIES

1. Battis Farm – add benches with backs closer to the trailhead
2. Lake Gardner and Powow Hill – add Age-Friendly picnic tables (without slats that make it hard to climb into)
3. Amesbury Training Field – replace wooden benches with new benches with backs



1



2



3

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENT

- Install more Age-Friendly seating and picnic tables at Battis Farm, Powow Hill, Heritage Park, and Amesbury Town Park (refer to picture on left)
- Maintain trail upkeep to minimize hazardous terrain and make the space more accessible for those using mobility aids at Battis Farm, Lake Gardner, and Powow Hill
- Install signage that is visible from the road and directs people to the outdoor space at all locations
- Add drinking fountains to Amesbury Town Park and Al Capp Amphitheater





NEXT STEPS

1. Conduct focus groups with older adults to gain qualitative feedback on the practical benefits and limitations of outdoor spaces
2. Conduct walk audits in all seasons to understand how seasonality affects each space
3. Bring priority areas and all quantitative and qualitative data to city officials for a discussion

CONTRIBUTORS

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