Place Check

Place Check - A checklist-based method of assessing the qualities of a place, showing what improvements are needed, and how to work together to achieve them.

Directions: Visit at least one of the places listed below and then answer the questions in Parts A and B at minimum. If you are unsure of what a question is asking, look at the detailed questions related to that letter in Part C.

Be prepared to share your answers and ask questions about the process in a small group.

- **OPTION 1**: Start at the Kamas Valley Library (Kamas) and walk for 5-10 minutes in either direction along Main Street.
- **OPTION 2**: Start at Park City Coffee Roasters (Kimball Junction) and walk for 5-10 minutes in any direction.
- **OPTION 3**: Start at the Park City Library (downtown Park City) and walk for 5-10 minutes around the area.
- **OPTION 4**: Start at 30002 Old Lincoln Hwy (Wanship) and walk for 5-10 minutes around the area.
- **OPTION 5**: Start at the Summit Merc (Coalville) and walk for 5-10 minutes in either direction on Main Street.
- **OPTION 6**: Start at Sugarhouse Coffee (Salt Lake) and walk for 5-10 minutes in either direction 1100 East.
- **OPTION 7**: Start at Eva's Bakery (Salt Lake) and walk for 5-10 minutes in either direction along Main Street.
- **OPTION 8**: Start at Tio's Restaurant (Daybreak) and walk for 5-10 minutes around the area. Be sure to take note of any Light Rail station in the area.

Part A: Three basic questions

1. What do you like about this place?

2. What do you dislike about it?

3. What needs to be improved?

Part B: Fifteen more specific questions

The people

A. Who needs to be involved in changing the place for the better?
B. What resources are available locally to help people get involved?
C. What other methods might we use to develop our ideas about how to improve the place?
D. How can we make the most of other programs and resources?
E. How can we raise our expectations?
F. What other initiatives could improve the place?

The place

G. How can we make this a more special place?
H. How can we make this a greener place?
I. How can the streets and other public spaces be made safer and more pleasant for people on foot?
J. How else can public spaces be improved?
K. How can the place be made more welcoming and easier for people to find their way around?
L. How can the place be made adaptable to change in the future?
M. How can better use be made of resources?
N. What can be done to make the most of public transport?
O. How can routes be better connected?

Part C: Detailed questions

THE PEOPLE

A. **Who needs to be involved in changing the place for the better?**

1. Stakeholders: *Who has an interest in or concern for the future of the place through living, working, playing, visiting, providing services or investing here?*
2. Local knowledge: *Who has local knowledge?*
3. Finance: *Who manages budgets that might be used to improve the place?*
4. Control, regulation and standards: *Who controls, regulates or sets standards here?*
5. Policy: *Who draws up policies, plans, briefs and strategies that affect the place?*
6. Opinion: *Who shapes opinion locally?*
7. Action: *Who makes things happen around here?*
8. Collaboration: *How can all these people work together on the Placecheck and beyond?*

B. **What resources are available locally to help people get involved?**

1. Support: *What resources to support people working together are already available (including information and advice services, venues for exhibitions, training programs, grant schemes, and funded initiatives)?*
2. Skills: *What skills are available to help improve the place? How can further technical expertise and professional skills be made available to people who need them?*
3. Guidance: *What guidance or expertise can the local authority or other bodies provide?*
4. Focus: *Is there a center that can be a venue for meetings and exhibitions, and provide support for the improvement process? If not, might it be possible to set one up?*
5. Gearing up: *Do any local organizations need help in gearing themselves up so they can become involved effectively?*
6. New stakeholder groups: *Do any new groupings of people with a stake in the place's future need to be organized and given support?*
7. Appraisals: *Have any useful appraisals already been carried out (conservation area appraisals, urban design assessments, or histories, for example) in any part of the area?*
8. Keeping people involved: *What can be done to make sure that people who are consulted continue to have a role in implementing the resulting strategy, rather than leaving everything to other organizations and professionals?*
9. Design forum: *Should a design forum be set up to bring together a wide range of people to consider design issues and their common interests on a continuing basis?*

C. **What other methods might we use to develop our ideas about how to improve the place?**
    1. Sharing visions: *Should events be organized to identify common interests, discuss ideas, share information and experience, and enable people to organize themselves into continuing working groups focusing on specific topics?*
    2. Design workshops: *Should workshop sessions be organized to bring a wide range of participants together to explore design ideas for the area?*
    3. Action planning: *Should action planning events be organized to enable local people and invited teams of professionals to explore design ideas together over one or several days?*
    4. Deciding priorities: *Should residents and others make a simple model of their area to help in deciding priorities for action?*

D. **How can we make the most of other programs and resources?**
    1. Council programs: *How can we help the County Council to focus programs and resources on improving this area?*
    2. Education and training: *How can links be developed with education and training programs locally?*
    3. Sustainable development: *How can links be made with local authority sustainable development initiatives*?
    4. Economic development: *How can links be made between economic development and environmental improvement strategies locally?*
    5. Transport: *How can links be made with walking and cycling initiatives, and other initiatives such as Travelwise, Safe Routes to School and Quality Bus Partnerships?*
    6. Grants: *What sources of grants are available locally?*
    7. Social inclusion: *How can links be made with neighborhood renewal and social inclusion initiatives?*
    8. The market: *What knowledge is available about how the local economy and property market are likely to influence what development is possible?*

E. **How can we raise our expectations?**
    1. Inspiration: *How can local leaders (in local government, business, education, faiths, and the voluntary sector) be introduced to inspiring examples of urban regeneration?*
    2. Study visits: *To where should study visits be organized?*
    3. Environmental education: *How can environmental education in schools be promoted, focusing on the neighborhood, town or city, to help the next generation of decision-makers and civic leaders understand how places change and can be changed?*

F. **What other initiatives could improve the place?**

1. Local management: *Should a town center management or neighborhood watch initiative be set up, or is there an existing one that can be further developed?*

2. Design initiative: *Should a design initiative be launched, involving people and organizations that shape the built environment in a linked series of events, exhibitions and publications?*

3. Networking: *How can local networks be developed to link people with a common interest in shaping the place, who can benefit from being in contact?*

4. Youth council: *Should a youth council be set up to develop a program of events, exhibitions and exchanges involving young people in environmental issues?*

5. Ideas competition: *Should an ideas competition be launched to attract interest, explore new approaches and inspire action?*

6. Awards scheme: *Should an awards scheme be organized for the best contributions to improving the area?*

7. Celebration: *Should local festivals and other events be organized to celebrate the area's character?*

8. Self-help: *How can self-help initiatives by tenants' and residents' associations, amenity societies, traders' associations and other interest groups (individually or in partnership) be launched and supported?*

9. Facilities: *What facilities does the place lack?*

THE PLACE

G. **How can we make this a more special place?**

1. Valued buildings: *Which buildings and structures are important to conserve? Are they protected, or should they be?*

2. Area protection: *Is any of the area protected (as a conservation area, for example)?*

3. Local style: *Are there local building forms, practices and materials that should inspire what is built today?*

4. Scale: *Does the area have a general scale of building that should be followed for most new development?*

5. Identity: *Are there particular streets or spaces whose special character is vital to the identity of the whole area?*

6. Highlights: *How can the setting or appearance of the best buildings and spaces be improved?*

7. Skylines: *Are there distinct skylines (or opportunities to create them) that development should respect?*

8. Public art: *Are there places where works of art (such as sculpture, paving, water features and lighting) could enhance the place's character and sense of identity?*

9. Reflecting the past: *What information (such as maps, published history or oral reminiscences) is available about how the place has developed? What aspects of the place's history might be reflected in new development?*

H. How can we make this a greener place?

1. Natural features: *Which natural features are important to conserve and emphasize?*
2. Planting: *Where can trees, shrubs or hedges be planted to form views, provide shelter from the wind or shade from the sun, give spaces a sense of enclosure, soften or screen unattractive buildings and other structures, provide seasonal variety and attract wildlife?*
3. Parks: *Are there places where a park or green space needs to be created or improved?*
4. Green corridors: *Are there places where green corridors (for people and/or wildlife) could be created along natural features or roads, rivers and canals?*
5. Ecology: *What local schemes are there to improve habitats and support wildlife? What else needs to be done to attract or protect living things (flora and fauna)?*
6. Streams and rivers: *Are there any streams or rivers (on the surface, or underground in pipes or culverts) that could be made more of?*

I. How can the streets and other public spaces be made safer and more pleasant for people on foot?

1. Feeling safe: *Are there places where people feel unsafe during the day or at night? What can be done to make them safer?*
2. Facing the street: *Are there places where the street would be livelier and feel safer if a building or buildings (existing or new) had windows or doors on to the street, rather than a blank facade?*
3. Back gardens: *It is generally safer for the rear gardens of houses to back on to other gardens, rather than side roads or service lanes. Are there places where new development or other improvements could contribute to that?*
4. Public or private space: *Is it hard to tell whether some pieces of land are public or private space? If so, how can the distinction be made clear (for example, by maintaining the line of buildings along a street, or by walls, fences, railings, gates, signs and paving)?*
5. Gap sites: *Are there places where a gap in an otherwise continuous line of building frontages along a street detracts from the street's quality? If so, how might the gap be filled? Alternatively, how might a usable, attractive space for pedestrians be created there?*
6. A sense of enclosure: *Pleasant streets, squares, parks and other spaces are often enclosed by buildings (of a scale that feels right) and/or trees. What opportunities are there to create that sense of enclosure?*
7. Taming the traffic: *Are there streets and street junctions that could be made to feel more like public spaces (by traffic calming, for example)?*

8. Overlooking: *Are there places where streets, footpaths and open spaces would feel safer if buildings overlooked them?*
9. Lighting: *Are there places where lighting needs to be improved or light nuisance (such as lights near bedroom windows) reduced?*
10. Living over shops: *Is there potential for living over shops to provide inhabited rooms overlooking streets and to encourage evening activity?*
11. Ground floors: *Can ground floors be made livelier by providing entrances, windows and active uses (giving interest to passers-by and allowing the street to be overlooked)?*
12. Car parks: *Are there places where a car park provides the immediate frontage to a street, and where the street would be improved in appearance and for pedestrians by a more active use?*
13. Detail: *Which buildings lack interesting detail, particularly at ground level where people see it close at hand?*

J. How else can public spaces be improved?
1. Open space: *Is there any public or open space that is not used? How can it be made usable?*
2. Shelter: *What places are unnecessarily windy (due to down-draughts from tall buildings or a lack of shelter)? What can be done about it?*
3. Art and craft: *Are public art, craftwork and well- designed street furniture needed to give identity and interest to public spaces?*
4. Street life: *Do public spaces need to be adapted (or made adaptable) to accommodate local economic, social and cultural life (such as markets, festivals, tourism, night life, eating, entertainment, sport, sitting out, promenading, religious practices and retailing)?*
5. Contamination: *Are there places where rubbish or ground contamination needs to be cleared up?*
6. Pollution: *Are there places where air or water pollution needs to be tackled?*
7. Noise: *Are there places where the impact of noise needs to be reduced?*
8. Graffiti: *Are there places where graffiti needs to be removed or protected against?*
9. Clean streets: *Are the streets and other spaces well cleaned and maintained?*
10. Fly-tipping: *Are there places where fly-tipping needs to be prevented or where dumped rubbish needs to be cleared?*
11. Maintenance: *Is it clear who is responsible for caring for and maintaining each piece of public and open space? If not, how can it be cared for?*
12. Vermin: *Are there problems with mice, rats, pigeons or other vermin?*

K. How can we make the place more welcoming and easier for people to find their way around?
1. Landmarks: *Are new landmarks (buildings, works of art or other features) needed to create or improve views, and help people find their way around?*

2. Views: *Are there places where views (of local landmarks, for example) need to be opened up?*
3. Corner buildings: *Are there places where a new corner building could provide a useful landmark?*
4. Gateways: *What can be done to mark places that act as gateways to particular areas?*
5. Civic buildings: *Are there public spaces that would be visible and accessible locations for public and community buildings?*
6. Entrances: *Do the entrances to public buildings need to be made more welcoming?*
7. Lighting: *Are there places where better lighting is needed to improve safety, help people find their way around, highlight landmarks, show off attractive buildings, or disguise eyesores?*
8. Signage: *Are there places where better signs are needed?*
9. First impressions: *Do the signs give the right impression of the area?*
10. Names: *Are street and building names clearly visible?*

L. How can the place be made adaptable to change in the future?
1. Flexibility: *What can be done to ensure that new buildings are not tightly designed to a very particular use, so that they can be adapted later to any one of a variety of future uses? (Floor-to-ceiling heights, building materials, and the design of ground floors and street-corner buildings may be important.)*
2. Mixed uses: *How can new development or other improvements make possible a mix of compatible uses and tenures to help make the place one where people live, work and play? (This might include flats above shops, or workshops in residential areas.)*

M. How can better use be made of resources?
1. Energy: *How can new and existing buildings minimize their use of energy? (This may involve matters such as how buildings face the sun, how they are sheltered from the wind by the slope of the land, trees and other buildings, and how they are constructed.)*
2. Land: *Are there buildings, sites or areas that are underused? What would help bring them into use, and what might they be used for?*
3. Building materials: *What suitable building materials are available from local and/or sustainable sources?*

N. What should be done to make the most of public transport?
1. Density: *What can be done to ensure that the density of development is highest where access to public transport is best?*
2. Bus stops: *Are there bus stops that need to be more conveniently sited, made safer and lit better?*
3. Bus priority: *Can higher priority be given to buses on main transport corridors?*
4. Shared bus lanes: *Can bus lanes be adapted to accommodate cyclists as well?*

5. Railways stations: *Are railways stations accessible by foot from all directions?*

O. How can routes be better connected?

1. Connected spaces: *Are there public spaces that need to be better linked in to a route that is well used by people on foot?*
2. Streets for people: *Are there streets that seem to have been designed solely with vehicles in mind, which need to be adapted as places for people on foot (by calming traffic or widening pavements, for example)?*
3. Pedestrian routes: *Are there pedestrian routes that need to be made more even and non-slip, clearer to recognize, better lit, less cluttered by street furniture and more interesting?*
4. Connected routes: *Are there roads or footpaths that need to be better connected into well-used routes, so that the presence of more people makes them feel safer?*
5. Cycling: *What needs to be done to encourage cycling, and to make cycling safer for cyclists and pedestrians?*
6. Junctions: *Are there junctions that should be made to look more obviously like the way into an area, helping to give the area identity and making it easier for people to find their way around?*
7. Boulevards: *Are there places where buildings turn their backs on a main through route, and where a continuous frontage could be created if the road were turned into a boulevard?*
8. Barriers: *What barriers to movement (walls and fences, for example) would be better removed?*
9. Direct routes: *What places that pedestrians go to and from need to be connected by more direct routes?*
10. Pedestrian crossings: *Are there road crossings that are not well positioned, or places where new road crossings are needed?*
11. High streets: *Are there streets where some of the qualities of a traditional high street could be encouraged by allowing for stopping, parking and slow traffic, and providing wide pavements?*
12. Traffic speeds: *Are there places where the layout of new development (using smaller corner radiuses rather than wide sweeping curves, for example) could encourage low traffic speeds?*
13. Parking: *Are there places where parking needs to be improved, controlled or reduced?*
14. Deliveries: *Are there places where arrangements for deliveries need to be made safer?*