What is a Safety Audit?
The goal of a Safety Audit is to identify your perceptions and concerns and to improve an environment by reducing the opportunity for crime to occur and improving perceptions of your personal safety.

A Safety Audit is:
• A process that allows you and other regular users of an area to identify places that make you feel unsafe;
• A highly flexible process that can be easily adapted to meet the needs of the community;
• A way to address different issues that affect how safe you may feel in an area, such as: physical features (e.g. lighting, signs, and accessibility), attitudes and behaviour, and official and/or unofficial practices and policies;
• A tool that is based on the idea that you are the expert on your own sense of safety and experiences of being safe or unsafe in a space.

You, as an area resident or user, are considered a “local expert” because you are the most familiar with the area and what happens on a day-to-day basis. You will become directly involved in making your community safer through this process.

Residents, users, local businesses, and local government work together to find solutions to safety problems in the community using the audit results as one tool, or input, in the overall Risk Assessment of the area.

The principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) focus on the relationship between the built environment and the social behaviour that occurs in that built environment. CPTED is an inclusive, collaborative, and interdisciplinary approach to reducing opportunities for crime, improving perceptions of safety, and strengthening community bonds. CPTED principles, now adopted by the City of Saskatoon, stem from the observed phenomenon that certain “cues” in the physical environment can prompt undesirable or crime-related behaviours, as well as perceptions of being safe or unsafe in users of that environment.

Safety Audits, perception and intercept surveys (of actual users), and site inspections all add to the understanding of what environmental cues an area exhibits and how these affect your “feelings” of safety. Without this larger picture, the appropriate solutions to a problem may not all be identified.

In Saskatoon, Safety Audits based on CPTED principles have now been applied in a number of settings including parks, streets, and buildings.
Safety Audit

Neighbourhood ______________________________________________

Specific Location (e.g. park, intersection, hundred block, etc.)__________

Date ____________________ Day ________________ Time ____________

Weather Conditions (e.g. sunny, rainy, cloudy, full moon, etc.): ___________
____________________________________________________________________

Temperature: _______________

Age: (Please check the age range that applies to you)

- 10-14
- 15-19
- 20-24
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65-69
- 70-74
- 75-79
- 80+

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Affiliation (e.g. Community Association, merchant, resident, etc.): ________
____________________________________________________________________

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

1. Your gut reactions: _____________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

2. Which five words best describe the area? _________________________
   __________________________________________________________________

LIGHTING

3. Impression of lighting: ☐ very poor ☐ poor ☐ good
   ☐ satisfactory ☐ very good
   ☐ too bright ☐ too dark

4. Is the lighting even? ☐ yes ☐ no
   Why? __________________________________________________________________
5. How many lights are out? ____________________________________

6. What proportion of lights are out? (e.g. Maybe only two bulbs on the block you are on are burned out, but if there are only three bulbs to start with, then a more powerful way to say this is that two-thirds of the lights are out) __________________________________________

7. Can you identify a face 25 paces away? (walk 25 paces from the group to check)   □ yes   □ no

8. Do you know where/whom to call if lights are out, broken, not yet turned on, etc?   □ yes   □ no

9. Is the lighting obscured by trees or bushes?   □ yes   □ no

10. How well does the lighting illuminate the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>very poor</th>
<th>very well</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sidewalks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bus stops</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>seating</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>signs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>entrances</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>exits</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alleys</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walkways</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone booths</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(other)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If poor or very poor, please describe why: __________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Additional comments: __________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
SIGNAGE

11. Are there location or street signs nearby that can help identify where you are?  □ yes  □ no

12. Are there signs that show you where to get emergency assistance if needed?  □ yes  □ no

13. Are there signs that direct you to wheelchair access?  □ yes  □ no

14. Do exit doors identify where they exit to?  □ yes  □ no

15. Is there information posted describing the hours the building or site is legitimately open?  □ yes  □ no

16. Impression of overall signage:
   □ very poor  □ poor  □ satisfactory  □ good  □ very good

17. What signs should be added and where? (if necessary) ___________
    ____________________________________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________

SIGHTLINES

18. Can you clearly see what is up ahead?  □ yes  □ no

19. If no, why not?  □ bushes  □ fences  □ wall(s)  □ hill  □ other __________

20. Are there places where someone could be hiding?  □ yes  □ no

21. If yes, where? _______________________________________________
    ____________________________________________________________________

22. What would make it easier to see?
   □ angled corners  □ security mirrors  □ trimmed bushes
   □ snow cleared  □ vehicles moved  □ transparent building materials
   Other comments: ________________________________________________
ISOLATION - EYE DISTANCE

23. At the time of your audit, does the area feel isolated?  □ yes  □ no

24. How many people are likely to be around?
   - In the early morning:  □ none  □ a few  □ several  □ many
   - During the day:  □ none  □ a few  □ several  □ many
   - In the evening:  □ none  □ a few  □ several  □ many
   - Late at night (after 10 pm):  □ none  □ a few  □ several  □ many

25. Is it easy to predict when people will be around?  □ yes  □ no

26. Is there a monitor or surveillance system?  □ yes  □ no  □ not sure

   Other comments: __________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

ISOLATION - EAR DISTANCE

27. How far away is the nearest person to hear a call for help?  ___________  □ don’t know

28. How far away is the nearest emergency service such as an alarm, security personnel, or crisis telephone?  ___________  □ don’t know

29. Can you see a telephone or a sign directing you to emergency assistance?  □ yes  □ no

30. Is the area patrolled?  □ yes  □ no  □ don’t know

31. If yes, how frequently?
   □ hourly  □ once per afternoon/evening  □ don’t know

   Other comments: __________________________________________

MOVEMENT PREDICTORS (a predictable or unchangeable route or path)

32. How easy is it to predict a person’s movements (e.g. their route)?
   □ very easy  □ somewhat obvious  □ no way of knowing

33. Is there an alternative well-lit and frequently traveled route or path available?  □ yes  □ no
34. Can you tell what is at the other end of the path, tunnel, or walkway?
☐ yes  ☐ no

35. Are there corners, alcoves, or bushes where someone could hide and wait for you?
☐ yes  ☐ no

36. Other comments: __________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

POSSIBLE ENTRAPMENT SITES
37. Are there small, confined areas where you would be hidden from view?
☐ between garbage bins  ☐ unlocked equipment or utility shed
☐ alley or laneway  ☐ recessed doorway  ☐ construction site
☐ other: _________________________________________________

ESCAPE ROUTES
38. How easy would it be for an offender to disappear?
☐ very easy  ☐ quite easy  ☐ not very easy

39. Is there more than one exit from the lane/street/walkway?
☐ yes  ☐ no  ☐ don’t know

40. If yes, please describe: _______________________________________
__________________________________________________________

NEARBY LAND USES
41. What is the surrounding or nearby land used for (check all that apply)?
☐ stores  ☐ factories  ☐ busy traffic  ☐ riverbank  ☐ offices
☐ residential houses & streets  ☐ heavily treed/wooded areas
☐ parking lots  ☐ restaurants  ☐ park space  ☐ don’t know
☐ other: ____________________________________________________

42. Can you identify who owns or maintains nearby land?
☐ yes  ☐ no

43. Impressions of nearby land use:
☐ very poor  ☐ poor  ☐ satisfactory  ☐ good  ☐ very good
MAINTENANCE
44. Impressions of maintenance:
   ☐ very poor  ☐ poor  ☐ satisfactory  ☐ good  ☐ very good

45. Is there litter lying around?  ☐ yes  ☐ no

46. Do you know to whom maintenance concerns should be reported?
   ☐ yes  ☐ no

47. From your experience, how long do repairs generally take?
   ☐ 1 day  ☐ within 1 week  ☐ 1 - 3 weeks
   ☐ more than 3 weeks  ☐ don’t know

FACTORS THAT MAKE THE PLACE MORE HUMAN
48. Does the place feel cared for?  ☐ yes  ☐ no

49. Does the place feel abandoned?  ☐ yes  ☐ no

50. Is there graffiti vandalism on the walls?  ☐ yes  ☐ no

51. In your opinion are there racist or sexist slogans/signs/images on the walls?
   ☐ yes  ☐ no

52. Are there signs of vandalism?  ☐ yes  ☐ no

53. Would other materials, tones, textures, or colors improve your sense of safety?
   ☐ yes  ☐ no

54. Other comments: __________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________

OVERALL DESIGN
55. Impressions of overall design:
   ☐ very poor  ☐ poor  ☐ satisfactory  ☐ good  ☐ very good

56. If you weren’t familiar with the place, would it be easy to find your way around?
   ☐ yes  ☐ no

57. Does the place “make sense”?  ☐ yes  ☐ no
58. Is the place too spread out?  □ yes  □ no

59. Are there a confusing number of levels?  □ yes  □ no

60. Other comments: _________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

**IMPROVEMENTS**

61. What improvements would you like to see? ______________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

62. Do you have any specific recommendations? ______________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

**Thank you for participating!**
IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency
911

Saskatoon Police Services
975-8300

Victim Services
975-8400

Community Associations
975-3378

Saskatoon Light & Power
975-2414

SaskPower Customer Service
(to report burnt out street lights)
1-888-757-6937

Neighbourhood Safety Crime Prevention
Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
975-3340

For more information about how to keep your home, family and community safe, contact:

Neighbourhood Safety - Crime Prevention
Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
City of Saskatoon, Planning & Development Branch
222 - 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 0J5
(306) 975-3340

City of Saskatoon

www.saskatoon.ca