# THE ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION TOOL PHOTO LIBRARY

#### Vancouver Rat Project

Dr. Chelsea G. Himsworth, Alice Feng, & Kirbee Parsons

# Explanation

#### This presentation provides

- Photo examples for different rating systems and subjects used in the <u>Vancouver Rat Project Environmental Observation Tool</u>
- The following ratings are covered:
  - Building Condition
  - Grounds Condition
  - Green Space Characteristics
  - Presence of Waste
  - Paved Surface Condition
- Miscellaneous Subjects:
  - Garbage Receptacles
  - Rat Holes
  - Rat Corridors

# Rates the general state of repair/disrepair of buildings



Extremely poor: Structure looks unfit/unsafe for humans. Significant amount of broken glass, peeling paint, damaged structures (e.g. stairs, walls, etc.). May include abandoned structures and properties.







<u>Poor</u>: Adequate living/workings conditions (albeit poor environment). Moderate amount of broken glass, peeling paint, damaged structures, etc. Considerable amount of work needed to improve property.











Fair: Passable conditions with some attempt to keep property but moderate success. Some broken windows, peeling paint, damaged structures, etc. Would recommend a moderate amount of repair. Some refuse/overgrowth.





<u>Good</u>: In decent working/living condition. Some repairs could be done (mainly for aesthetic reasons). Looks clean and well kept.







Excellent: Immaculate/near perfect condition. No repair needed. Shows that extra care and effort has been directed towards upkeep.



- Grounds are defined as any space or parcel within a block that is not occupied by a building
  - Includes open, undeveloped or green space parcels, as well as open spaces in a parcel with structures
- Rated for the general state of upkeep of a property ( not including building structures)



Extremely Poor: Dirty and unkempt property with little or no apparent regard for upkeep of property. Major overhaul needed to improve property.







<u>Poor:</u> Considerable amount of work needed to improve property. Moderate amounts of refuse and/or overgrowth.



<u>Fair:</u> Passable conditions with some attempt to keep property but moderate success. Some refuse/overgrowth.









#### <u>Good:</u> Looks clean and well kept.







Excellent: Immaculate/near perfect condition. Shows that extra care and effort has been directed towards the upkeep.





For an area to be considered a green space it must:

- Show significant plant growth (i.e., areas with sparse grass or weeds should NOT be included) and
- Occupy a significant proportion of the property parcel ( i.e., very small areas of plant growth in an otherwise build up parcel are not included).



NOT

Green

space

Green

space



<u>Unkempt green space:</u> an area that is overgrown by vegetation and/or does not appear to receive regular maintenance







Well-kept green space: a green space that receives regular maintenance. Includes lawns, non-food gardens and or other landscaped areas.









Food Garden: a green space that is in any way geared towards the production of produce.



#### Defined as any surface in a block that is paved

#### Rated for its general state of repair/disrepair

#### **Paved Surfaces**



<u>Poor</u>: Frequent/severe deep cracking of pavement (cracking sufficient to permit rat burrowing). Alley surface is broken up and in need of serious repair.





#### **Paved Surfaces**

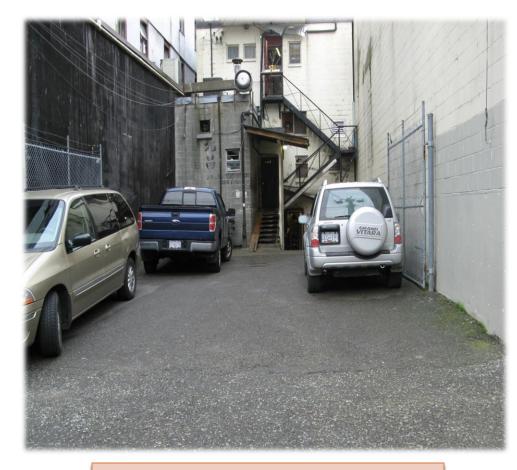




<u>Fair</u>: Moderate amount of cracked pavement. Cracking is mainly superficial (unlikely to promote rat harborage).



#### **Paved Surfaces**



<u>Good</u>: Generally even surface with minimal cracking.



#### **Non-Paved Surfaces**





Defined as any space with 1m of the alley that is not paved.



# Presence of Garbage in/near Alley



<u>A lot of waste</u> when there is a high volume of waste and/or waste is present throughout a large proportion of the alley.



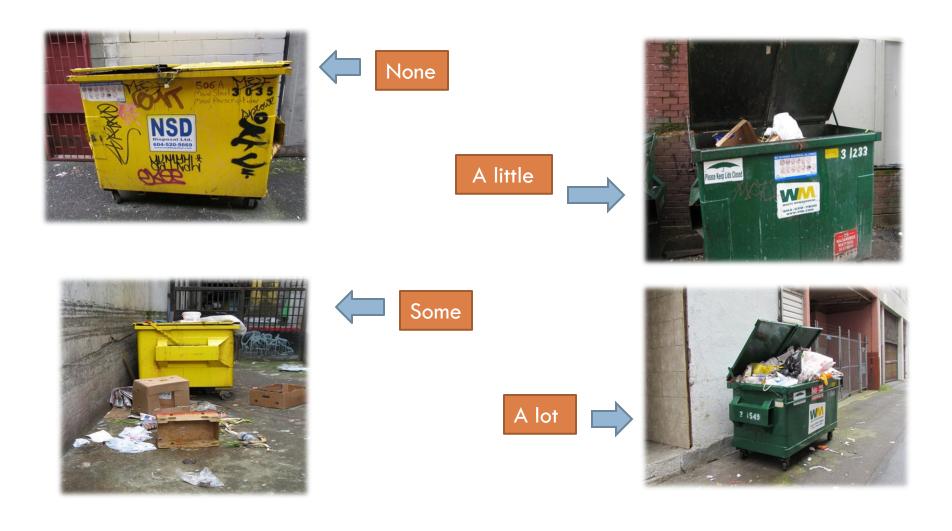
<u>A little waste is when there is a very low</u> volume of waste or the waste is confined to a small area.



<u>Some</u> waste is somewhere between a little and a lot.



# **Overflowing Garbage Receptacles**



## Garbage Receptacles



#### **Rat Holes**

Burrows in soil or pavement that look like they could have been made by a rat.





#### **Rat Corridors**





Defined as a narrow space in between buildings that is wide enough for rats to use as transportation routes.

