

THE ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION TOOL PHOTO LIBRARY

Vancouver Rat Project

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Explanation

- This presentation provides
 - ▣ Photo examples for different rating systems and subjects used in the Vancouver Rat Project Environmental Observation Tool
 - ▣ 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

Building Condition



- Rates the general state of repair/disrepair of buildings

Building Condition



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.



Building Condition

Poor: 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.



Building Condition



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.

Building Condition



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

Building Condition



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



Grounds condition

- 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)

Grounds Condition



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



Grounds Condition



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



Grounds Condition

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



Grounds Condition



Good: Looks clean and well kept.



Grounds Condition



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



Green Space

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

- 1) Show significant plant growth (i.e., areas with sparse grass or weeds should NOT be included) and
- 2) 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



Green Space

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



Green Space



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



Green Space



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

Paved Surfaces



- Defined as any surface in a block that is paved
- Rated for its general state of repair/disrepair

Paved Surfaces



Poor: 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



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



Paved Surfaces



Good: Generally even surface with minimal cracking.



Non-Paved Surfaces



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



Presence of Garbage in/near Alley



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



↑ A little waste is when there is a very low volume of waste or the waste is confined to a small area.



← Some waste is somewhere between a little and a lot.



Overflowing Garbage Receptacles



None



A little



Some



A lot

Garbage Receptacles



Commercial

Garbage



Recycling



Organic

Private

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.

