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*Background:* Reliable and comprehensive measurement of physical activity settings is needed to examine environment-behavior relations. *Methods:* Surveyed park professionals (*n* = 34) and users (*n* = 29) identified park and playground elements (e.g., trail) and qualities (e.g., condition). Responses guided observational instrument development for environmental assessment of public recreation spaces (EAPRS). Item inter-rater reliability was evaluated following observations in 92 parks and playgrounds. Instrument revision and further reliability testing were conducted with observations in 21 parks and 20 playgrounds. *Results:* EAPRS evaluates trail/path, specific use (e.g., picnic), water-related, amenity (e.g., benches), and play elements, and their qualities. Most EAPRS items had goodexcellent reliability, particularly presence/number items. Reliability improved from the original (*n* = 1088 items) to revised (*n* = 646 items) instrument for condition, coverage/shade, and openness/visibility items. Reliability was especially good for play features, but cleanliness items were generally unreliable. *Conclusions:* The EAPRS instrument provides comprehensive assessment of parks’ and playgrounds’ physical environment, with generally high reliability.