

Walkability Survey

Everyone benefits from walking. But walking needs to be safe and easy. Take a walk with your child and use this checklist to decide if your neighborhood is a friendly place to walk. If you find problems, there are ways you can make things better.

Getting started: Pick a place to walk, like the route to school, a friend's house, or just somewhere fun to go. Read over the checklist before you go, and as you walk, note the locations of things you would like to change. At the end of your walk, circle an overall rating for each question. Then add up the numbers to see how you rated your walk.

Rating scale 1 =awful 2 = many problems 3 = some problems 4 = good 5 = very good 6 = excellent

1. Did you have enough room to walk safely?

Yes Some problems:

- Sidewalks or paths started and stopped
- Sidewalks were broken or cracked
- Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, dumpsters, etc.
- No sidewalks, paths, or shoulders
- Too much traffic
- Something else? _____

Locations of problems: _____

2. Was it easy to cross streets?

Yes Some problems: _____ Road was too

wide

- Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross
- Needed striped crosswalks or traffic signals
- Parked cars blocked our view of traffic
- Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic
- Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair
- Something else? _____

Locations of problems: _____

3. Did drivers behave well?

Yes Some problems: Drivers ...

- Backed out of driveways without looking
- Did not yield to people crossing street
- Turned into people crossing streets
- Drove too fast
- Sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through red lights
- Something else? _____

Locations of problems: _____

4. Was it easy to follow safety rules?

Could you and your child ...

- Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen by drivers?
- Stop and look left, right, and left again before crossing streets? Walk on sidewalks, or shoulders (if no sidewalks), facing traffic?
- Cross with the light?

Locations of problems: _____

5. Was your walk pleasant?

Yes Some unpleasant things:

- Needs more grass, flowers, or trees
- Scary dogs
- Suspicious activity
- Not well lit
- Dirty, lots of litter or trash
- Something else? _____

Location of problems: _____

How does your neighborhood stack up? Add up your ratings and decide.

1 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ () = total

How did your neighborhood rate?

26 - 30	Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking
21 - 25	Celebrate a little. Your neighborhood is pretty good
16 - 20	Okay, but it needs work.
11 - 15	It needs lots of work. You deserve better than that.
5 - 10	Call out the National Guard before you walk. It's a disaster area.

Did you find something that needs to be changed?

The next page has suggestions for making neighborhoods better places for walking that match up with the problems you identified. During your walk **how did you feel physically?** Could you go as far or as fast as you wanted? Were you short of breath, tired, or did you have sore feet or muscles? The next page also has suggestions about walking for exercise.

MAKING YOUR COMMUNITY MORE WALKABLE

You have collected valuable information about walking in your neighborhood. Listed below are some suggestions for making it easier to walk in your community. Your local traffic engineer may be the key person to contact about many of the things you want to change. But before you do, learn about ideas other communities are trying. A new concept called traffic calming is transforming neighborhood streets from roads that encourage speeding to places that invite people to walk.

What you and your child can do IMMEDIATELY? What you and your community can do with more time?

1. Did you have room to walk safely? Sidewalks or paths started and stopped Sidewalks broken/cracked Sidewalks blocked No sidewalks, paths or shoulder Too much traffic

- Pick another route for now
- Tell local transportation engineers or public works department about specific problems, and provide a copy of checklist
- Speak up at board/development meetings
- Write or petition the city for walkways
- Gather neighborhood signatures
- Make media aware of problem
- Pick another route for now

2. Was it easy to cross streets? Road too wide Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross Crosswalks/traffic signals needed View of traffic blocked by parked cars, trees, or plants Needed curb ramps; ramp needed repair

- Pick another route for now
- Share problems and checklist with local transportation engineers or public works department
- Trim your trees and bushes that block the street, and ask neighbors to do the same
- Leave nice notes on problem cars, asking owners not to park there
- Push for crosswalks, signals, or parking changes at city meetings
- Give report identifying parked cars that are safety hazards to transportation engineer
- Report illegally parked cars to the police
- Request that public works department trims trees and plants Make media aware of problem

3. Did drivers behave well? Backed without looking Did not yield Turned into walkers Drove too fast Sped up to make traffic lights or drove through red lights

- Pick another route for now
- Set an example: slow down and be considerate of walkers
- Encourage your neighbors to do the same
- Report unsafe driving to police
- Organize neighborhood speed watch program
- Petition for more enforcement Ask city planners and traffic engineers for traffic calming ideas
- Request protected turn signals ask schools about getting crossing guards at key locations where children cross

4. Could you follow safety rules? Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen Stop and look left, right, left before crossing Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic (if no sidewalks) Cross with the light

- Educate yourself about safe walking and teach your child
- Organize parents in your neighborhood to walk children to school
- Encourage schools to teach pedestrian safety
- Help schools start Safe Routes to School programs
- Encourage corporate support for flex schedules so parents can walk children to school

5. Was your walk pleasant?

Needs grass, flowers, trees; Scary dogs; Suspicious activity; Not well lit; Dirty, littered

- Pick another route for now
- Ask neighbors to keep dogs leashed or fenced
- Report scary dogs to animal control department
- Report suspicious activity to police
- Report lighting needs to the city
- Take a walk with a trash bag
- Plant trees, flowers, and bushes in your yard
- Request increased police enforcement
- Start a crime-watch program in your neighborhood.
- Organize a community cleanup day
- Sponsor a tree planting day
- Sponsor a neighborhood beautification day

Quick health check

Could not go as far or as fast as you wanted; Were tired, short of breath, or had sore feet or muscles

- Start with short walks and work up to 30 minutes of walking most days
- Invite a friend or child along
- Replace some driving trips with walking trips
- Get media to do a story about the health benefits of walking
- Call parks and recreation department about community walks
- Encourage corporate support for employee walking programs