



WALKABILITY CHECKLIST

How walkable is your community?

Everyone benefits from walking and other forms of active transportation. These benefits include: improved fitness, cleaner air, reduced risks of certain health problems, and a greater sense of community. Walking is easy to do. It can fit into even the busiest of schedules. Best of all it's free! But not all neighbourhoods are created equally when it comes to walking. We invite you to use the following checklist to explore the walkability of your neighbourhood.

How to use the checklist

- Pick a place to walk to, like a friend's house, to a store or for some exercise.
- Your walk can be as long or as short as you wish.
- Read the checklist over before you go.
- As you walk, watch for items from your checklist.
- Try to think about what your walk would be like in the dark, or for someone in a wheelchair or a parent pushing a stroller.
- Take note of good things and problems along your walking route.
- Pay attention to where you are going. Stop first, and then check off items on your list.
- Write down the location of any problems you find.
- If the item does not apply to your route, go to the next section.

After your walk

- Fill in the rating for each section.
- Total up the ratings to see how your neighbourhood scores overall for walkability.

You can use the results to:

- Choose walking routes in your neighbourhood that are safe and pleasant. Let your friends and neighbours know about good places to walk.
- Use the checklist results to improve the walkability of your neighbourhood. (see page 8)



1. Sidewalks, stairs and ramps, and winter safety

Yes No

- ☐ ☐ There are sidewalks all along my route.
- ☐ ☐ Sidewalks are wide and even, with no cracks or holes.
- ☐ ☐ Sidewalks are level.
- ☐ ☐ Sidewalks are clear of poles, signs, bushes, trash, parked bicycles, etc.
- ☐ ☐ Edges of stairs and ramps are marked with a contrasting color.
- ☐ ☐ Stairs and ramps feel safe to use – not too steep, no cracks or breaks.
- ☐ ☐ Stairs and ramps have railings on both sides.
- ☐ ☐ Stairs are safe to use in wet weather-not slippery.
- ☐ ☐ Sidewalks are safe to use in winter – clear, well salted or sanded.
- ☐ ☐ There are grit boxes in the neighbourhood.

Other:

Location of problems:

Rating:

1 Point 2 Points 3 Points 4 Points 5 Points

☐ ————— ☐ ————— ☐ ————— ☐ ————— ☐

Many problems	Some problems	OK	Good	Very good
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2. Crossings

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Curbs have ramps at sidewalks. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I can clearly see traffic before I cross the street – nothing blocks my view |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | On wide roads, there is an island in the middle of the road to wait for the next light. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is a crosswalk where I need one. I don't have to walk all the way to a corner to get across the street. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drivers give pedestrians the right of way at crosswalks and at stop signs and stop lights. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I can get across the street before the light changes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The traffic light changes soon after I push the crosswalk button. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I can cross the street in time and within the crosswalk lines even if there are many people crossing at the same time. |

Other:

Location of problems:

Rating:

1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Many problems	Some problems	OK	Good	Very good
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3. Traffic

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There is space between the sidewalk and the street. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The traffic is light enough to make walking pleasant - not too many large trucks, exhaust fumes and noise. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drivers obey the speed limit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The speed limit is suitable for this neighbourhood. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Road design (extend curbs, speed bumps) help slow down traffic. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drivers are careful – they watch out for pedestrians at driveways, crosswalks and parking lots. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drivers are careful not to splash walkers when there are puddles on the streets. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cyclists are careful around pedestrians. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The parking lots I walk through have sidewalks or crosswalks. |

Other:

Location of problems:

Rating:

1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Many problems	Some problems	OK	Good	Very good
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4. Personal Safety

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | At night the street is well lit. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I feel safe because there are lots of other people around. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are houses and stores where I could go in case of trouble. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are phones I could use to call for help. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | My route is free of suspicious people, vandalism, crime and graffiti. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are police, security guards or park patrol on my walking route. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drivers are careful not to splash walkers when there are puddles on the streets. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dogs are properly controlled by their owners. |

Other:

Location of problems:

Rating:

1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Many problems
Some problems
OK
Good
Very good

5. Pleasant and supportive routes for walkers

Yes No

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The route has natural elements such as water, gardens, green space, birds, flowers, trees or wildlife to look at. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is clean – no litter including houses and businesses. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are interesting things to see such as statues, fountains, interesting old buildings or beautiful architecture. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shady places with benches can give me a comfortable place to sit and take a rest. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | There are public washrooms that I can use easily and safely. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trees, building awnings and bus shelters give protection from sun, rain and wind. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I can access public transit nearby. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I can get a drink at a water fountain. |

Other:

Location of problems:

Rating:

1 Point	2 Points	3 Points	4 Points	5 Points
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Many problems
Some problems
OK
Good
Very good



Summary

Date of Walk: _____ Neighbourhood: _____

Route: _____

Add up your ratings.	Score
1. Sidewalks, stairs and ramps, and winter safety	
2. Crossings	
3. Traffic	
4. Personal Safety	
5. Pleasant and supportive routes for walkers	
Total	

How did your neighbourhood score?

20 - 25	Congratulations, you have a great neighbourhood for walking.
15 - 19	Not bad, a couple of things to fix up.
10 - 14	Your neighbourhood needs some work to make it pedestrian friendly.
5 - 9	You deserve better than this, a lot of work needs to be done.

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Improving your neighbourhood's score...

After you've rated your walk and identified any problem areas, the next step is to figure out what can be done to improve your community's score. You'll find both short & long term suggestions below...

	What you can do now	What you can do with more time
Sidewalks, stairs, ramps & winter safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sidewalks or paths started & stopped. - Sidewalks broken or cracked. - Sidewalks blocked - No sidewalks, paths or shoulders. - Too much traffic. - Sidewalks, paths, ramps or stairs slippery in wet or snowy weather. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure all bushes on your property are trimmed so they don't obstruct walkers. • Make sure snow & ice is removed from your walks in a timely manner. • Carry a small bag of sand with you to spread on slippery spots • Wear good shoes when you are out for walking • Call Transportation dept. to identify hazards for immediate attention. • Pick another route for now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask building owners to make sure their ramps and stairs are safe. • Get together with your neighbours to clean up problem areas. • Write or petition the City for safe sidewalks.
Crossings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road too wide - Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross. - Crosswalks or traffic signals needed. - View of traffic blocked by parked cars, trees or plants. - Curb ramps needed or in poor repair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a courteous driver yourself. • Trim any trees or bushes that block the street or drivers' views 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the police department to do more to enforce traffic laws. • Ask Transportation Dept. for more crosswalks, curb ramps, greater visibility for pedestrian crosswalks, traffic light timing that puts pedestrian safety first, raised medians
Traffic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cars backed without looking. - Did not yield. - Turned into walkers. - Drove to fast. - Sped up to make traffic lights or drove through red lights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick a time for your walk when there is less traffic. • Set an example when you are driving. • Report unsafe driving to police. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the police department for speed enforcement. • Work with the City to see if traffic calming measures would work. • Ask the City to repair potholes • Ask the City to make walking routes a priority in all new developments and infill projects.
Personal Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not enough lighting at night. - Suspicious people - Scary dogs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a friend to go with you on your walk. • Walk in daylight hours. • Report suspicious people to police. • Ask neighbours to keep dogs leashed or fenced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a Neighbourhood Watch program, or be involved. • Start a walking club to have company. • Request more police presence in your neighbourhood. • Ask property owners to put lights in dark spaces. • Ask property owners to repair vandalism and graffiti promptly.
Pleasant and supportive routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs grass, flowers & trees. - No place to rest for seniors or children. - Lots of traffic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smile and say hello to people you pass. • Plant trees and flowers in your own yard. • Take a trash bag with you on your walk. • Take a drink with you. • Walk on the shady side of the street. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a community clean-up day. • Sponsor a neighbourhood beautification or tree-planting day. • Begin an adopt a street program. • Install benches along popular walking routes. • Ask Transit to improve bus routes in your neighbourhood. • Create a community garden. • Work with the City to build parks with shade, public telephones and water fountains.

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