

Walkability Checklist

How walkable is your community?

Take a walk and decide for yourselves.

Everyone benefits from walking. These benefits include improved fitness, cleaner air, reduced risks of certain health problems, and a greater sense of community. However, walking needs to be safe and easy. Take a walk and use this checklist to decide if your neighborhood is a friendly place to walk.

Then, email this checklist back to the City of Pittsburgh

(Richard.Meritzer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us).

The City is using this checklist to locate problem areas for pedestrians. Once enough data is collected, the City will start to address these problem areas. Complete this checklist and contribute to Pittsburgh's Pedestrian Plan!



Getting started:

First, you will need to pick a place to walk, like the route to school, a friend's house or just somewhere fun to go. The second step involves the checklist. 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, give each question a rating. Then add up the numbers to see how you rated your walk overall. After you've rated your walk and identified any problem areas, the next step is to figure out what you can do to improve your community's score. You'll find both immediate answers and long-term solutions under "Improving Your Community's Score..." on the last page.



Take a walk and use this checklist to rate your neighborhood's walkability.

How walkable is your community?

Location of walk _____

Rating Scale: 1 = awful, 2 = many problems, 3 = some problems, 4 = good, 5 = very good, 6 = excellent

1. Did you have room to walk?

Yes Some Problems

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

Locations of problems: _____

Ratings: 1 2 3 4 5 6

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
- Needed striped crosswalks or traffic
- 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: _____

Ratings: 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. Did drivers behave well?

Yes Some problems:

- Backed out of driveways without looking
- Did not yield to people crossing the street
- Sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through traffic lights
- Drove too fast
- Something

Locations of problems:

Ratings:

- 1 2 3 4 5 6

4. Was it easy to follow safety rules? Could you...

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Yes No

Locations of problems:

Ratings:

- 1 2 3 4 5 6

5. Was your walk pleasant?

- Yes
- Some unpleasant things:
 - Needed more grass, flowers, or trees
 - Scary dogs
 - Scary people
 - Not well light
 - Dirty, lots of litter or trash
 - Dirty air due to automobile exhaust

Locations of problems:

Ratings: 1 2 3 4 5 6

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

- | | | |
|----------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | 26-30 | Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking. |
| 2. _____ | 21-25 | Celebrate a little. Your neighborhood is pretty good. |
| 3. _____ | 16-20 | Okay, but it needs work. |
| 4. _____ | 11-15 | It needs lots of work. You deserve better than that. |
| 5. _____ | 5-10 | It's a disaster for walking! |

Now that you know the problems, you can find the answers.

Improving your community's score...

	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?		
<p>Sidewalks broken or cracked Sidewalks blocked No sidewalks, paths or shoulders Too much traffic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick another route for now • tell local traffic engineering or public works department about specific problems and provide a copy of the checklist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • speak up at board meetings • write or petition city for walkways and gather neighborhood signatures • make media aware of problem • work with a local transportation engineer to develop a plan for a safe walking route
2. Was it easy to cross streets?		
<p>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 or ramps needed repair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick another route for now • share problems and checklist with local traffic engineering or public works department • trim your trees or bushes that block the street and ask your neighbors to do the same • leave nice notes on problem cars asking owners not to park there 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • push for crosswalks/signals/ parking changes/curb ramps at city meetings • report to traffic engineer where parked cars are safety hazards • report illegally parked cars to the police • request that the public works department trim trees or plants • make media aware of problem
3. Did drivers behave well?		
<p>Backed without looking Did not yield Turned into walkers Drove too fast Sped up to make traffic lights or drove through red lights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pick another route for now • set an example: slow down and be considerate of others • encourage your neighbors to do the same • report unsafe driving to the police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • petition for more enforcement • request protected turns • ask city planners and traffic engineers for traffic calming ideas • ask schools about getting crossing guards at key locations • organize a neighborhood speed watch program
4. Could you follow safety rules?		
<p>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 Cross with the light</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • educate yourself and your child about safe walking • organize parents in your neighborhood to walk children to school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage schools to teach walking safely • help schools start safe walking programs • encourage corporate support for flex schedules so parents can walk children to school
5. Was your walk pleasant?		
<p>Needs grass, flowers, trees Scary dogs Scary people Not well lit Dirty, litter Lots of traffic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>point out areas to avoid to your child; agree on safe routes</i> • ask neighbors to keep dogs leashed or fenced <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report scary dogs to the animal control department • report scary people to the police • report lighting needs to the police or appropriate public works department <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • take a walk with a trash bag • plant trees, flowers in your yard • select alternative route with less traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • request increased police enforcement • start a crime watch program in your neighborhood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organize a community clean-up day • sponsor a neighborhood beautification or tree-planting day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • begin an adopt-a-street program • initiate support to provide routes with less traffic to schools in your community (reduced traffic during am and pm school commute times)

The “Walkability Checklist” can be found at:



Sponsors of the “Walkability Checklist” are:

