



Tips,
Tools and
Resources for
Organizers

Sidewalks and Streets Survey

Sidewalks and Streets Survey is designed so that communities can make walking safer by teaching small groups to take simple “walkability” surveys and to take recommended actions for community improvements.

Your involvement will make a difference to people you care about.

INCLUDED IN THIS KIT:

- 1** Safe Community Walkability Tool Kit: Step-by-step Approach
- 4** Sidewalks and Streets Survey
- 13** Take Action: How to Improve Your Community Rating From the Sidewalks and Streets Survey
- 15** Further Steps to Improve Your Community's Rating



Sidewalks and Streets Survey

Review the checklist before you go, and as you walk, note the locations of things that you'd like to change. Take photos of problem areas and things you like and would like to see more of. Suggestions for photos to take include:

- Crossing signals
- Overhead traffic lights
- Turning lanes
- Curb cuts
- Sidewalks
- Crosswalk lines and vehicle stop lines
- Important signage

The survey contains the following sections to help guide and record your observations:

- Section A: Mapping Out Your Walk Survey Area
- Section B: Crossing the Street (Intersections)
- Section C: Sidewalks
- Section D: Driver Behavior
- Section E: Safety
- Section F: Comfort and Appeal
- Section G: Overall Ratings and Observations

Each section asks you to rate your streets or intersections as Excellent, Good, Fair or Poor. Here's what each rating means:

- Excellent: Area is very walk-friendly and safe
- Good: Area is moderately walk-friendly and safe
- Fair: Area is somewhat walk-friendly and safe
- Poor: Area is not walk-friendly or safe

Finally, explore how to improve your community's rating by reviewing the ideas in "Take Action: How to Improve Your Community's Rating From the Sidewalks and Streets Survey" (on page 14).

So...got your cameras, street maps and other gear? Then get ready, set, go!



Section A: Mapping Out Your Walk Survey Area

This survey will tell you what to look for on sidewalks and streets within the walkable area that you choose. Your walkable area could be as small as one intersection or could include several streets and intersections. Consider starting small, with one or two intersections and a connecting street.

Remember, the smaller your walk survey area, the easier it is to follow up and get results.

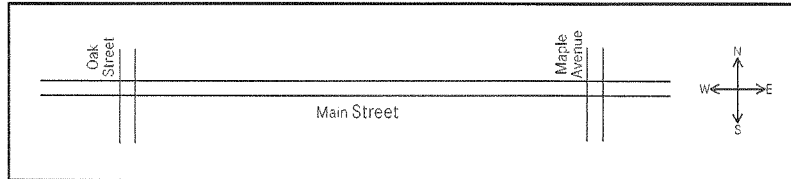
Please record the following for your walk survey area:

County _____ City/Town _____

State _____ Zip code _____

Next draw a simple map of your walk survey area and label the streets. Here is an example:

Survey Map



Now draw your own walk survey area. Be sure to write in N, E, S and W (North, East, South and West) next to the arrows to show which direction the streets are facing.

Your map will help you organize fellow walkers and review the area you have surveyed. Make a copy for each fellow walker to make notes on. For example, they can note the spot where a telephone pole blocks the sidewalk or where a curb cut is needed and then take photos of what they find. If you are creating a final report, include a clean copy of your map along with the photos taken.



Section B: Crossing the Street (Intersections)

Please complete one Section B page for each intersection you observe within your walkable area. We suggest allowing 20-30 minutes per intersection.

Intersection observed: location at _____ and _____
Street Name 1 *Street Name 2*

Day of week: _____ Time observations began: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ Time observations ended: _____ a.m. p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Place a √ below next to any items that are a problem for walkers and note:

- What might especially be a problem for a child, senior or person with disabilities?
- What is the exact location(s) of each problem? Record a landmark or side of street (north, south, east or west) on the blank line to the right of each item you check.

Problems for walkers

Location

- Crossing doesn't have a pedestrian signal or audible signal _____
- Pedestrian signal doesn't give people walking at average speed enough time to cross (WALK+DON'T WALK)
Time allowed on signal (minutes:seconds) _____:_____
- Pedestrian signal doesn't give people who walk more slowly enough time to cross _____
- Traffic signal makes pedestrians wait too long before crossing _____
- Need a traffic signal or crosswalk _____
- Push-to-walk signal is not available/operating _____
- Crosswalk is not marked or poorly marked _____
- Have to walk too far (>300 ft.) for a safe place to cross the street _____
- Road is too wide to cross safely _____
- No median on streets with 2+ lanes _____



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- Parked cars on the street or utility poles are blocking the view of traffic _____
- Other issues and observations **(please specify)**

Who is using the crosswalk?	Make hatch marks to indicate number of people/ things observed
People walking at average speed	total #:
People using assistive devices (canes, wheelchairs, walkers)	total #:
People with young children or strollers	total #:
People crossing against signal	total #:
Cyclists	total #:
Skateboarders	total #:
Scooters	total #:
Other	total #:

Overall rating of street crossings in walk survey area: Excellent Good Fair Poor



Section D: Driver Behavior

Please complete one page for the entire walkable area on your survey map.

Day of week: _____ Time observations began: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ Time observations ended: _____ a.m. p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Place a ✓ below next to any items that are a problem for walkers and note:

- What might especially be a problem for a child, senior or person with disabilities?
- Note landmarks, streets or sides of streets (north, south, east or west) on the blank line to the right of each item you check.

Problems for walkers

Location

Drivers do not stop at stop signs

Drivers do not obey traffic signals

Drivers seem to be speeding

Drivers do not yield to pedestrians, especially at right turns

Drivers do not stop behind the crosswalk

Drivers don't look when leaving or backing out of driveways

Drivers make unexpected turns/maneuvers

Other (**please specify**)

Overall rating of driver behavior in walk survey area:

Excellent Good Fair Poor



Section E: Safety

Please complete one page for the entire walkable area on your survey map.

Day of week: _____ Time observations began: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ Time observations ended: _____ a.m. p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Place a ✓ below next to any items that are a problem for walkers and note:

- What might especially be a problem for a child, senior or person with disabilities?
- Note landmarks, streets or sides of streets (north, south, east or west) on the blank line to the right of each item you check.

Problems for walkers

Location

Don't feel safe walking here because:

- Car speeds are too fast
- Too much traffic
- Drivers are distracted (for example, using cell phones)
- There is loitering or suspicious/criminal activity
- Unleashed dogs
- Unclear signs or directions for drivers or pedestrians
- Other **(please specify)**

Overall rating of safety in walk survey area:

Excellent Good Fair Poor



Section F: Comfort and Appeal

Please complete one page for the entire walkable area on your survey map.

Day of week: _____ Time observations began: _____ a.m. p.m.

Date: _____ Time observations ended: _____ a.m. p.m.

DIRECTIONS: Place a √ below next to any items that are a problem for walkers and note:

- What might especially be a problem for a child, senior or person with disabilities?
- Note landmarks, streets or sides of streets (north, south, east or west) on the blank line to the right of each item you check.

Problems for walkers

Location

Don't feel safe walking here because:

- Need shade trees
- Need grass, flowers, landscaping
- Need benches and places to rest
- Grass/landscaping needs maintenance
- Need water fountains and bathrooms
- Need sidewalk leading to bus stop
- Bus stop doesn't have shelter
- Bus stop doesn't have adequate lighting
- There is graffiti or vacant/run-down buildings
- There is trash on the route
- Other **(please specify)**

Overall rating of comfort/appeal in walk survey area: Excellent Good Fair Poor



Section G: Overall Ratings and Observations

Now it's time to tally your scores from each observation section. Place a ✓ below next to each rating from the previous sections. If you observed more than one location for Sections B and C, record the average of your observations.

Section	Rating
B: Crossing the Street (Intersections)	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
C: Sidewalks	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
D: Driver Behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
E: Safety	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor
F: Comfort and Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor

Total checkmarks: _____

Overall rating

Your Overall Rating will be more than just your checkmark total. Think about your observations as a whole. Were some areas much better or worse than others? For example, the sidewalks might be Good for walking, but intersections might be Poor for crossing the street. This might justify reducing the Overall Rating of your walk survey area.

With this in mind:

Overall Rating of the entire walk survey area: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Additional comments on what works well and what needs improvement:



Sidewalks and Streets Survey

Thank you for participating and making the community more livable for everyone.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Number of participants in this survey activity _____

AARP would like to thank the Institute of Transportation Engineers for providing the original content for this survey.

Now that you've identified the problems, read the next section. It will help you take action to fix the flaws.

Completed Forms can be dropped off at:

- Any Health Department Office
- Any Office for the Aging Location
 - Holly Loft Ski & Bike

Or Mail to:

Chautauqua County Health Network
200 Harrison Street Suite 2
Jamestown, New York 14701