



How Walkable is Your Community?

Everyone benefits from walking! But to realize those benefits—walking needs to be safe & easy. Take a walk by yourself or with a family member or friend & use this checklist to decide if your community is a friendly place to walk.

Before going for your walk, read over the checklist. As you walk note the positive parts of your walk & the things you'd like to change. At the end of your walk, give each question a rating. Then add up the numbers and see how your walk rated overall.

Use the following rating scale to answer the questions below:

1	2	3	4	5	6
Awful	Many Problems	Some Problems	Good	Very good	Excellent

_____ **Did you have room to walk?**

Consider...Some sections where I walked didn't have sidewalks & there were no paths or shoulders to walk on, sidewalks were in poor repair (cracked or broken), sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, shrubbery, dumpsters, etc, too much traffic, people rollerbladed or biked on the sidewalk

_____ **Was it easy to cross streets?**

Consider...The width of the road—was it too wide to cross safely?, traffic signals made me wait too long or didn't give me enough time to cross, crosswalks needed, traffic signals needed, parked cars blocked view of traffic, curb ramps needed or in disrepair.

_____ **Did drivers behave well?**

Consider... Drivers... backed out driveways without looking, did not yield to people crossing the street, turned into people crossing the street, drove too fast, sped up to make it through the light before it turned red or drove through red lights.

_____ **Was it easy to follow safety rules? Could you...**

- Cross at crosswalks or where you could be seen by drivers?
- Stop & look left, right and left again before crossing the street?
- Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic where there was no sidewalk?
- Cross with the light?

_____ **Was your walk pleasant?**

Consider... Needed more grass, flowers & trees to make atmosphere more pleasant, scary dogs &/or scary people along route, not well lighted, dirty—lots of litter & trash.

How does your neighborhood rate?

A Score of

- 26-30 Celebrate! You have a great neighborhood for walking!!
- 21-25 Celebrate a little! Your neighborhood is pretty walkable!
- 16-20 Conditions for walking are OK but not great. There's plenty of opportunity for improvement.
- 11-15 Conditions are poor & you deserve better! Call your Council member or Town supervisor to talk about improving walkability in your neighborhood!
- <10 Oh dear! You & your neighbors have lots of work ahead of you!

Now that you know...What can you do?

- **No room to Walk?**
 - Let the Public Works Dept know about specific problems & provide a copy of your checklist
 - Talk with your councilperson or town supervisor about your concerns
 - Write or petition the city or town for sidewalks or wide paved shoulders on roads so you can walk safely
 - Make the media aware of the problems
- **Not easy to cross the street?**
 - Let the Public Works Dept. know about specific problems & provide a copy of your checklist
 - Trim trees or bushes that block the view of the street & ask neighbors to do the same. Request that the Public Works Dept. trim trees & bushes if they are the City's responsibility.
 - Leave neighborly notes on problem cars asking owners not to park there.
 - Talk with your councilperson or town supervisor about your concerns. Push for crosswalks, signals, parking changes, curb ramps & pedestrian crossing signs were needed.
 - Report illegally parked cars to the police.
 - Make media aware of the problems
- **Drivers not behaving well?**
 - Set an example when you drive—give pedestrians the right of way, slow down & be considerate.

- Talk with your councilperson or town supervisor about your concerns. Petition for more enforcement if needed.
 - Support implementing traffic calming ideas
 - Organize a neighborhood “speed watch” program
 - Encourage schools to have crossing guards at key locations
- **Unable to follow safety rules?**
 - Encourage & help the school, city or town to organize a Safe Routes to School Program.
 - Encourage schools to teach safe walking
 - Encourage corporate support for flexible schedules so parents can walk young children to school.
- **Walk wasn't pleasant??**
 - Ask neighbors to keep dogs leashed or fenced so they don't bother walkers
 - Report dogs roaming free to the Coulee Region Humane Society
 - Report unfamiliar people who harass you as you walk to the police
 - Walk with a trash bag & pick up trash as you walk
 - Plant trees & flowers in your yard
 - Report lighting needs to police and/or your councilperson or town supervisor
 - Organize a neighborhood clean up day
 - Organize a neighborhood beautification project