



KANSAS CITY WALKABILITY PLAN



Neighborhood Walking Survey

How to use this tool:

1. Gather friends and neighbors to help with ideas.
2. Follow the instructions to create a map for each of the three sections.
3. Fill out the additional questions in sections two and three.

Submit the completed package to City Planning staff.

Walking is the most basic form of transportation. People walk everywhere – from home to work, to shop, to school, and to the park. During the day, workers might walk to lunch or to conduct personal business. Both ends of all trips in a car or bus are also walk trips.

In spite of how important walking is, it is often overlooked when planning our city. That changed with *FOCUS Kansas City*, which states that walking is an important mode of transportation and that we should plan for the pedestrian.

The NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING SURVEY tool has been developed to help people who live and work in a neighborhood decide for themselves and make clear to the City what they need and want in terms of walking.

The survey will probably take 1-2 hours to complete. We encourage you to get out and see your neighborhood while you complete the survey.

This survey is divided into three sections. Section 1 tells us where you are walking to and from today, and where you might want to walk in the future. Section 2 tells us how walking conditions in your neighborhood rate. Section 3 determines how you walk in your community and what improvements would make your neighborhood more walkable.

Where do you want to go?

What are the places in your neighborhood that you get to by walking? Accompanying this assessment are 3 maps and 4 colored pens. On the map marked “Where do you walk/want to get to by walking?”, please do the following:

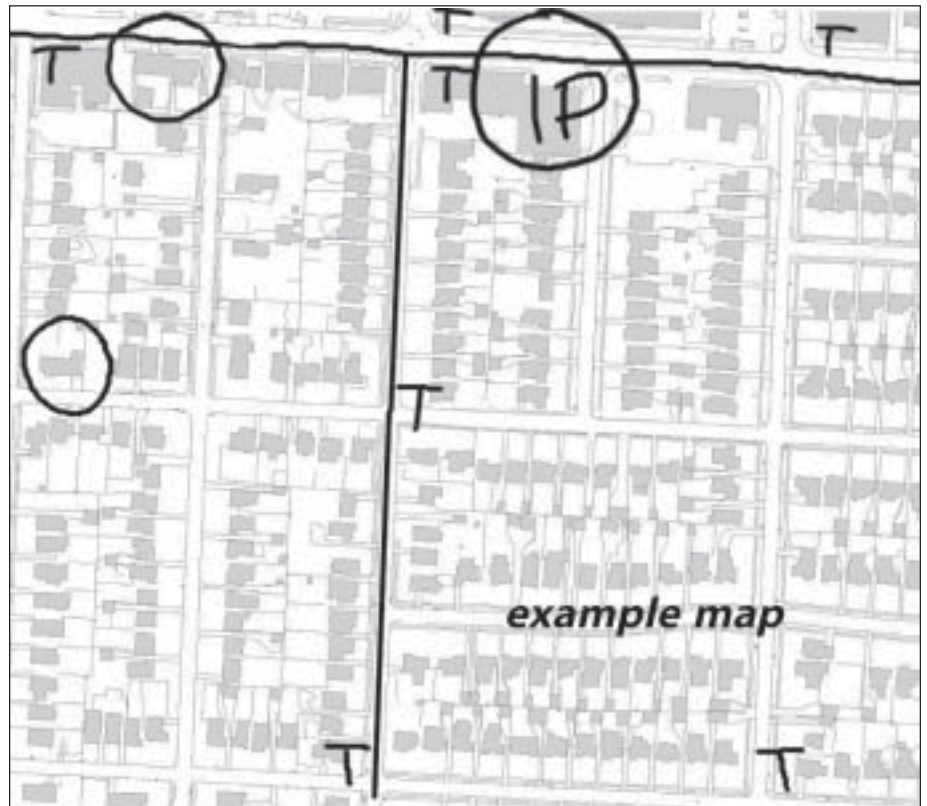
Circle Places You Go

Circle **all** major places you go in the following colors:

RED – shopping locations

BLUE – workplaces

GREEN – schools, parks, places of worship



Draw Bus Routes

Using a black pen, draw the bus routes within your neighborhood and place a “T” where there are bus or other transit stops.



Add Important Places You Go

Please place an “IP” for “important places” you go most often, or have a need to go. Choose the 1 or 2 most important places.



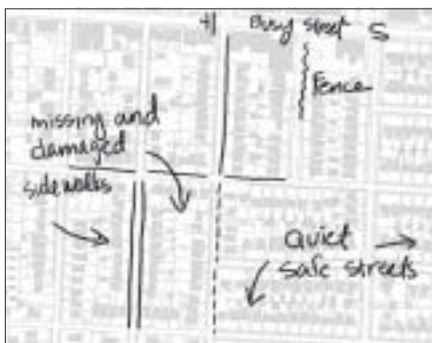
How do walking conditions in your area rate?

The next step of the neighborhood walkability survey is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your neighborhood for walking. On the map called “Rating Walking Conditions” there are five categories of information.

COMPLETENESS: It is important to know how complete your sidewalk system is. Are there whole parts missing? Are there major parts that are broken and where you can’t walk?

Draw Sidewalks in Blue

1. Use the blue pen to draw a dashed line to identify all locations of major problem areas, such as cracked sidewalks.
2. Draw a solid line for any sidewalks not shown on the map.



example map

STREET CROSSINGS: The ability to safely cross streets is an important part of the walking system. It might be relatively easy to cross a local two lane street, but it is harder to cross a street with 3-4 lanes and lots of traffic. How safe are your street crossings?

Draw Street Crossings in Red

1. Circle the most important places to cross in red.
2. Draw a red “S” for each traffic signal.
3. Draw in crosswalks in red.

DIRECTNESS: The distance the walker must go affects whether they choose to walk. If they have to go a long way to get around barriers, they might decide to drive instead. How direct are walking paths in your neighborhood?

Draw Barriers in Black

1. Draw a jagged black line to show barriers to walking.
2. Write a short explanation on the map. (These barriers might be physical – such as a freeway, deep ditch, or fence – or they might be barriers like a wide, busy street which is unsafe to cross.)

PHYSICAL INTEREST AND AMENITY: Walkers like places that are pleasant, visually interesting and well maintained. Do you enjoy walking in your neighborhood?

Draw the Best and Worst Places in Green

1. Highlight the best places to walk with a solid green circle.
2. Highlight the worst places to walk with a dashed green circle.
3. Write a short explanation for your choices. Explain why each of these places are either good or bad.

SECURITY: If people feel unsafe walking in an area, they will typically choose not to walk there. In general, how safe do you feel walking in your neighborhood?

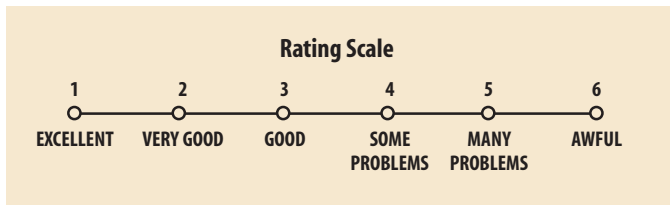
Draw Security Issues in Red

1. Circle and label any areas where you think you are unsafe walking.
2. Write the 2 or 3 reasons you feel an area is unsafe on the edge of the map.

Take a walk and decide for yourself.

Walking needs to be safe, easy and pleasant. Grab this checklist, take a walk, and use it to decide if your neighborhood is a friendly place to walk. Take heart if you find problems; there are ways you can make things better.

GETTING STARTED: Take a walk through your neighborhood and think about the five categories in section 2a. Read over this 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 an overall rating to each question and then add up the numbers to see how you rated your walk.



LOCATION OF YOUR WALK:

From _____

To _____

1. Did you have room to walk?

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

Locations of Problems: _____

Rating (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. Was it easy to cross streets?

- There were crosswalks and walk/don't walk signals Yes No
- Road was too wide Yes No
- Timing on walk signal was long enough Yes No
- Parked cars blocked our view of traffic Yes No
- Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic Yes No
- There were curb ramps in good repair Yes No
- Something else? _____

Locations of Problems: _____

Rating (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. Did drivers behave well?

- Looked before backing out Yes No
- Yielded to people crossing the street Yes No
- Turned into crosswalk when people were crossing Yes No
- Drove Slowly Yes No
- Sped up to make it through traffic lights or drove through red lights Yes No
- Something else? _____

Locations of Problems: _____

Rating (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6

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

- Cross at crosswalks where you could see and be seen by drivers? Yes No
- Easily see both directions before crossing streets? Yes No
- Walk on sidewalks or shoulders facing traffic where there were no sidewalks? Yes No
- Cross with the light? Yes No
- Something else? _____

Locations of Problems: _____

Rating (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6

5. Was your walk pleasant?

- Some unpleasant things Yes No
- Needed more grass, flowers, trees, or interesting sights Yes No
- Scary dogs Yes No
- There was good lighting Yes No
- Clean, little litter Yes No
- Something else? _____

Locations of Problems: _____

Rating (circle one): 1 2 3 4 5 6

Where do you walk/want to walk?

Look back at the maps you prepared in Section 1 and Section 2. Think about how these maps describe both where you would like to go in your neighborhood and how you feel when walking to and from these places.

Create a Summary Map

1. Draw the most important destinations and walking routes on your summary map in **BLUE**.
2. Pick the most important positive and negative things about where you walk, and add them to your summary map in **GREEN**.

Walking Wishes

Now that you have reviewed and summarized your work, think about the five most important changes you would like to see in your neighborhood. Write down five specific "walking wishes" in the space provided below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Name of Neighborhood:

Boundaries:

Contact Person:

Mailing Address:

Daytime Phone:

E-mail

Thank you for letting the City know what you think about improving walkability in Kansas City! You can use survey results to help justify requests for resources needed for important improvements in your neighborhood.

Return Survey & Maps to:

City Planning and Development Department
15th Floor, City Hall
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2705
(816) 513-2855
planning@kcmo.org



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