

Neighborhood Environment Walkability Scale (NEWS)

We would like to find out more information about the way that you perceive or think about your neighborhood. Please answer the following questions about your neighborhood and yourself. Please answer as honestly and completely as possible and provide only one answer for each item. There are no right or wrong answers and your information is kept confidential.

A. Types of residences in your neighborhood

Among the residences in your neighborhood...

1. How common are detached single-family residences in your immediate neighborhood?

1	2	3	4	5
None	A few	Some	Most	All

2. How common are townhouses or row houses of 1-3 stories in your immediate neighborhood?

1	2	3	4	5
None	A few	Some	Most	All

3. How common are apartments or condos 1-3 stories in your immediate neighborhood?

1	2	3	4	5
None	A few	Some	Most	All

4. How common are apartments or condos 4-6 stories in your immediate neighborhood?

1	2	3	4	5
None	A few	Some	Most	All

5. How common are apartments or condos 7-12 stories in your immediate neighborhood?

1	2	3	4	5
None	A few	Some	Most	All

6. How common are apartments or condos more than 13 stories in your immediate neighborhood?

1	2	3	4	5
None	A few	Some	Most	All

B. Stores, facilities, and other things in your neighborhood

About how long would it take to get from your home to the nearest businesses or facilities listed below if you walked to them? Please put only one check mark (✓) for each business or facility.

	1-5 min	6-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	31+ min	don't know
example: gas station	1. _____	2. _____	3. ✓_____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
1. convenience/small grocery store	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
2. supermarket	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
3. hardware store	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
4. fruit/vegetable market	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____

	1-5 min	6-10 min	11-20 min	21-30 min	31+ min	don't know
5. laundry/dry cleaners	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
6. clothing store	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
7. post office	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
8. library	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
9. elementary school	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
10. other schools	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
11. book store	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
12. fast food restaurant	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
13. coffee place	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
14. bank/credit union	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
15. non-fast food restaurant	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
16. video store	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
17. pharmacy/drug store	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
18. salon/barber shop	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
19. your job or school	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
[check here _____ if do not have work away from home or do not attend school]						
20. bus or trolley stop	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
21. park	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
22. recreation center	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____
23. gym or fitness facility	1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	8. _____

C. Access to services

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood. Both local and within walking distance mean within a 10-15 minute walk from your home.

1. I can do most of my shopping at local stores.

1
strongly
disagree

2
somewhat
disagree

3
somewhat
agree

4
strongly
agree

2. Stores are within easy walking distance of my home.

1
strongly
disagree

2
somewhat
disagree

3
somewhat
agree

4
strongly
agree

3. Parking is difficult in local shopping areas.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

4. There are many places to go within easy walking distance of my home.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

5. It is easy to walk to a transit stop (bus, train) from my home.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

6. The streets in my neighborhood are hilly, making my neighborhood difficult to walk in.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

7. There are many canyons/hillsides in my neighborhood that limit the number of routes for getting from place to place.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

D. Streets in my neighborhood

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. The streets in my neighborhood do not have many, or any, cul-de-sacs (dead-end streets).

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

2. There are walkways in my neighborhood that connect cul-de-sacs to streets, trails, or other cul-de-sacs.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

3. The distance between intersections in my neighborhood is usually short (100 yards or less; the length of a football field or less).

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

4. There are many four-way intersections in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

5. There are many alternative routes for getting from place to place in my neighborhood. (I don't have to go the same way every time.)

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

E. Places for walking and cycling

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. There are sidewalks on most of the streets in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

2. The sidewalks in my neighborhood are well maintained (paved, even, and not a lot of cracks).

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

3. There are bicycle or pedestrian trails in or near my neighborhood that are easy to get to.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

4. Sidewalks are separated from the road/traffic in my neighborhood by parked cars.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

5. There is a grass/dirt strip that separates the streets from the sidewalks in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

F. Neighborhood surroundings

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood

1. There are trees along the streets in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

2. Trees give shade for the sidewalks in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

3. There are many interesting things to look at while walking in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

4. My neighborhood is generally free from litter.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

5. There are many attractive natural sights in my neighborhood (such as landscaping, views).

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

6. There are attractive buildings/homes in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

G. Safety from traffic

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. There is so much traffic along the street I live on that it makes it difficult or unpleasant to walk in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

2. There is so much traffic along nearby streets that it makes it difficult or unpleasant to walk in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

3. The speed of traffic on the street I live on is usually slow (30 mph or less).

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

4. The speed of traffic on most nearby streets is usually slow (30 mph or less).

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

5. Most drivers exceed the posted speed limits while driving in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

6. There are crosswalks and pedestrian signals to help walkers cross busy streets in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

7. The crosswalks in my neighborhood help walkers feel safe crossing busy streets.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

8. When walking in my neighborhood, there are a lot of exhaust fumes (such as from cars, buses).

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

H. Safety from crime

Please circle the answer that best applies to you and your neighborhood.

1. My neighborhood streets are well lit at night.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

2. Walkers and bikers on the streets in my neighborhood can be easily seen by people in their homes.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

3. I see and speak to other people when I am walking in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

4. There is a high crime rate in my neighborhood.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

5. The crime rate in my neighborhood makes it unsafe to go on walks during the day.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

6. The crime rate in my neighborhood makes it unsafe to go on walks at night.

1	2	3	4
strongly disagree	somewhat disagree	somewhat agree	strongly agree

I. Neighborhood satisfaction

Below are things about your neighborhood with which you may or may not be satisfied. Using the 1-5 scale below, indicate your satisfaction with each item by placing the appropriate number on the line preceding that item. Please be open and honest in your responding. The 5-point scale is as follows:

- 1 = strongly dissatisfied
- 2 = somewhat dissatisfied
- 3 = neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
- 4 = somewhat satisfied
- 5 = strongly satisfied

How satisfied are you with...

- (example) 3 the number of pedestrian cross-walks in your neighborhood ?
- a. the highway access from your home?
 - b. the access to public transportation in your neighborhood?
 - c. your commuting time to work/school?
 - d. the access to shopping in your neighborhood?
 - e. how many friends you have in your neighborhood?
 - f. the number of people you know in your neighborhood?
 - g. how easy and pleasant it is to walk in your neighborhood?
 - h. how easy and pleasant it is to bicycle in your neighborhood?
 - i. the quality of schools in your neighborhood?
 - j. access to entertainment in your neighborhood (restaurants, movies, clubs, etc.)?
 - k. the safety from threat of crime in your neighborhood?
 - l. the amount and speed of traffic in your neighborhood?
 - m. the noise from traffic in my neighborhood?
 - n. the number and quality of food stores in your neighborhood?
 - o. the number and quality of restaurants in your neighborhood?
 - p. your neighborhood as a good place to raise children?
 - q. your neighborhood as a good place to live?