LET’S TAKE A WALK

How to Conduct an Effective Walk Audit
Presentation Overview

• Introductions
• What is a Walk Audit?
• Why conduct a Walk Audit?
• Who should participate?
• Determining the best route
• Conducting the Walk Audit
• Creating an Action Plan
• Walk Audit tools
• Let’s go outside!
Health by Design is a coalition of diverse partners working to ensure that communities throughout Indiana have neighborhoods, public spaces and transportation infrastructure that promote physical activity and healthy living.
The Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity (DNPA) provides statewide leadership for healthy eating and active living strategies that work to reduce the burden of overweight, obesity, and related chronic diseases. The DNPA, in partnership with organizations statewide, works to create healthier environments in schools, communities, worksites, and healthcare settings.
WHAT IS A WALK AUDIT?
• Unbiased examination of the walking environment
• A tool to identify concerns for people walking
  – Safety
  – Access
  – Comfort
  – Convenience of the environment
• A method to identify solutions
### II. Think about major intersections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Total marks in this column</th>
<th>Multiply by points per item</th>
<th>Intersection Walkability points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are there marked crosswalks at major intersections in your neighborhood?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>X 2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there functional crossing signals at major intersections in your neighborhood?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>X 0</td>
<td>X 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III. Think about your safety when walking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel safe to walk alone in your neighborhood during the day?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel safe to walk alone in your neighborhood at night?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### IV. Think about the places that are within a 10 minute walk of your home...

**Are these destinations connected to your home by sidewalks or paved paths?** In other words, would it be possible to get there by walking on a sidewalk or paved path? (Be sure to answer and score both parts of the question.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is this destination within a 10 minute walk of your home?</th>
<th>IF YES, is this destination connected to your home by sidewalks or paved paths?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grocery store / supermarket</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of worship</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School or childcare facility</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park or Recreational Facility (including basketball court, ball field, YMCA, or other place for recreation - indoors or outdoors)</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurant or other places to eat</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail stores or other shopping</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal services (hair care, nail salon, dry cleaners, laundry, etc.)</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post office</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical clinic</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workplaces such as offices or businesses</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus stop</td>
<td>Mostly connected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total marks in this column</th>
<th>Multiply by points per item</th>
<th>Destination Walkability points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>X 0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 1</td>
<td>X 0</td>
<td>X 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 0</td>
<td>X 1</td>
<td>X 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X 2</td>
<td>X 0</td>
<td>X 0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To which of these destinations do you walk most often?

To which of these destinations would you most like to walk, but can’t?
Informal
WHY CONDUCT A WALK AUDIT?
Education

- “Guides people to *experience* and assess the walk-friendliness of an area, not just look at it theoretically”*
- Demonstrates a need to decision makers
- Can be done before, during, or after project completion

*Mark Fenton*
Inspiration

• “Helps leaders and policy makers to explore what could be possible”*
• Can be used to kick start projects and provide insight
• Empowers community groups

*Mark Fenton
Practical Planning

• “A good way to get everyone – professionals and not actively involved in project or policy development, valuing everyone’s opinion” *

• Facilitates relationships between partners
  - City staff
  - Residents
  - School officials
  - Business owners
  - Etc.

• Identifies gaps in network

• Supports grant writing

*Mark Fenton
WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?
Formal

- Multidisciplinary team of trained professionals, including engineers, planners, transportation researchers, pedestrian specialists, etc.
Informal

- Any individual or group that is affected by the built environment
- People with disabilities
- Youth
DETERMINING THE BEST ROUTE
- Should be determined ahead of time
- Ideally should be pre-scouted by the facilitator
- Should include a mix of supportive and challenging environments
- Depending on the purpose, could include a mix of land uses
- Ensure there is enough time to walk entire route
The Good
The Bad
Surprises
CONDUCTING THE WALK AUDIT
• Introductions
• Education and set-up
  – Longer presentation on community design
  – Brief discussion of the elements that make up a walkable community
• The walk
  – Formal: use checklists and other sheets to record
  – Informal: use a 1–10 rating system; have notetaker
• Debrief immediately after the walk
Places for People

- Make places for people, not just cars
  - Accommodates all users, but not overwhelmed by cars
  - People are buffered from traffic by trees, grass or parked cars
  - Cars are moving at speeds safe for the area
  - Children are safe to play outside
Placemaking

- Celebrate community character and create reasons to visit
  - Buildings create “eyes on the street” and define the pedestrian space
  - Historic buildings
  - Parks and public spaces
  - Destinations within a 5-10 minute walk
Connections to Nature

- People want to feel connected to nature
  - Trees, plants and water are attractions that can also offer comfort like shade
  - Fauna such as birds and animals animate a place
  - Plantings and landscape restoration bring back natural elements that have been lost
Authenticity

- Honor the character and history of the place
  - People are attracted to authentic neighborhood and downtowns
  - People love places that are organic with a true sense of how they came to be
  - What makes you unique?
Diversity and Variety

- Walkable places are not boring!
  - Walkable and livable communities have diverse people, housing and businesses
  - They offer a variety of places and experiences
  - They have a “funky factor”
CREATING AN ACTION PLAN
• Identify elements that need to be changed/improved
• Prioritize needed improvements
  – Could be based on time/money needed
  – Could be based on participant voting
• Plan for additional walk audits or ways to identify similar issues throughout community
WALK AUDIT
TOOLS
• Health by Design Walkability Survey

• AARP Walk Audit Toolkit & Leader Guide

• Safe Routes to School Walkability Checklist
Questions?

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LET'S GO OUTSIDE!