

# WALKABILITY AUDIT TOOL FOR RURAL AND UNINCORPORATED AREAS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Purpose: The Walkability Audit Tool is a guide to measure the walkability of small towns and rural areas. The purpose of the tool is to help identify places to walk in the community as well as identify areas which could become good walking locations but which need more planning and work.

Directions: Pick a neighborhood, community, school ground, park (or other area) for which you want to evaluate walkability. It is suggested that the area be no more than about one-half mile (about a 15-minute walk) in each direction. **If there are separate areas with their own walking opportunities, such as a neighborhood and a school ground, use a separate form for each.**

As you walk, complete the checklist which will provide an evaluation of the area's potential for walking and identify things that need to be changed to make the area more "friendly" for walking. Your thoughts and sketches are encouraged. Space has been provided for both. The last page of the form includes space for a sketch. You are also asked to take photographs of good and bad points that you saw during your walk. Keep a list so that photographs can be identified later.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start/End Times: \_\_\_\_\_

Walking Area (identify landmarks or attach map):

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1. What types of homes are present?
  - a.  Single-family homes
  - b.  Duplex/Triplex homes (walkups)
  - c.  Apartment Building or Condominium
  - d.  Apartment over retail/commercial in multi-story building
  - e.  Mobile home
  - f.  Mobile home park or community
  - g.  Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What types of businesses are present? Where there is more than one of a type of business, feel free to indicate the number of them to the right of the business type.
  - a.  Gas station (any place that sells gas)
  - b.  Fast-food restaurant (national chain or local)
  - c.  Other restaurant
  - d.  Convenience or small grocery store (not listed under a or e)
  - e.  Supermarket (e.g., Kroger, Food Lion, Foodland)
  - f.  Bank or credit union
  - g.  Pharmacy or drug store (e.g., CVS, Rite-Aid, Walgreens)
  - h.  Coffee shop
  - i.  Laundry or dry cleaners
  - j.  Hardware store
  - k.  Movie theater
  - l.  Other entertainment (entertainment provided on-site)
  - m.  Hotel or motel
  - n.  Antiques, crafts or other specialty store
  - o.  Indoor mall or supercenter or big name store
  - p.  Strip mall or center (multiple shops housed in linked buildings)
  - q.  Warehouses, factories or industrial buildings
  - r.  Office Building
  - s.  Bar or liquor store
  - t.  Auto shop (car repair, detail, tires, oil, brakes, car wash)
  - u.  Other retail (video rental, florist, card shop, bakery)
  - v.  Other services (beautician, lawyer, accountant, title/licensing service)
  - w.  Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

3. What types of public or government service buildings/destinations are present?
- a.  Post Office
  - b.  Library
  - c.  Place of worship (church, synagogue, convent, chapel)
  - d.  Day care or pre-school
  - e.  Elementary school
  - f.  Middle school or junior high school
  - g.  High school
  - h.  Junior college, college or university campus
  - i.  Health or social services (hospital, clinic, health dept., adult day care)
  - j.  Senior center
  - k.  Fire department and/or ambulance service
  - l.  Museum
  - m.  Community Center
  - n.  Other (military, correctional facility, utilities, \_\_\_\_\_)
4. What types of recreational areas are present?
- a.  Indoor fitness center (e.g., Curves)
  - b.  Park
  - c.  Playground
  - d.  Outdoor pool
  - e.  Golf Course
  - f.  Sports (playing field, basketball court, tennis court)
  - g.  Running track or wellness trail
  - h.  Public fishing area
  - i.  Other recreational area (describe: \_\_\_\_\_)
5. What other man-made or natural features are present?
- a.  Parking lot
  - b.  Abandoned building(s)
  - c.  Large body of water (e.g., lake or large river)
  - d.  Small body of water (e.g., pond or stream)
  - e.  Natural open space (e.g., wooded area, wetland, meadow)
  - f.  Other (describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

If there was not enough space to write about the areas you checked above, add your comments below:

**Quality of Walking Environment**

6. Are there places just for walking? If so, put a check in one or more of the spaces below. If separate places are not present, skip to Question 12.

- a.  Sidewalk
- b.  Multi-Use path (trail)
- c.  Wellness trail (associated with: \_\_\_\_\_)

For trails or paths, write how long it is (approx.) and what the surface is made of. For sidewalks, write either the length or the proportion of streets/roads in the area that have sidewalks. \_\_\_\_\_

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For trails or paths, were people walking on the trail or path while you were filling out this form?

Yes     No

If no one was seen, how much does the trail appear to be used?

- a.  rarely
- b.  occasionally
- c.  frequently

7. If there are places just for walking, are there problems with the walking surface?

- a.  Heaved up sidewalk slabs
- b.  Broken concrete or asphalt
- c.  Potholes
- d.  Sewer grates with large openings
- e.  Mud
- f.  Standing water
- g.  Overgrowth of weeds or other vegetation
- h.  Loose stones or gravel on sidewalk or paved path
- i.  Other (describe:\_\_\_\_\_)

8. If there are places just for walking, is the walking surface wide enough for two people to walk side by side?     Yes     No

9. If there are places just for walking, are there things blocking the walkway?

- a.  Utility poles
- b.  Signs
- c.  Trash bins
- d.  Overgrown vegetation
- e.  Parked vehicles
- f.  Trees
- g.  Newspaper boxes or advertising materials
- h.  Other obstacles (describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

10. If there are places just for walking, are there safety concerns?

- a.  Close to high-speed traffic
- b.  Dogs running loose
- c.  Dark and/or obscured areas
- d.  Suspicious activity or people
- e.  Other (describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

11. If there are places just for walking, are they continuous  are there gaps  ?

Write what you think about walking in this area.

12. If there are no places just for walking, can you walk safely along the road?

Yes  No

13. If you feel walking along the road is not safe, why not (check all that apply)?

- Roadway too narrow
- No shoulder
- Shoulder present but not in walkable condition
- Shoulder present, but too narrow
- Too much traffic
- Traffic speeds
- Blind curves and hillcrests

14. Is it easy to cross the road?  Yes  No

15. If it is not easy to cross the road, why not (check all that apply)
- a.  Too wide
  - b.  Too much traffic
  - c.  Signal doesn't give enough time
  - d.  Limited sight distance
  - e.  Hard to go from curb to street
  - f.  Other (describe: \_\_\_\_\_)
16. Is there evidence of marked crosswalks?  Yes  No
17. If there are crosswalks, are:
- a.  markings clearly visible across entire road width?
  - b.  markings visible but worn in wheel paths?
  - c.  markings almost completely worn away?
  - d.  markings white paint?
  - e.  crosswalks made of paver block, brick or stone?
  - f.  crosswalk warning signs present along the road?
  - g.  in-roadway signs present at the crosswalk?
18. What types of pedestrian-friendly features are present?
- a.  Water fountains
  - b.  Benches
  - c.  Shade trees
  - d.  Restrooms
  - e.  Vending machines
  - f.  Public telephones
  - g.  Trash bins
  - h.  Bike racks
  - i.  Other (Describe: \_\_\_\_\_)
19. Are there attractive things in view?
- a.  Nice or interesting buildings
  - b.  Natural scenery
  - c.  Vegetation
  - d.  Pedestrian and bicycle traffic
  - e.  Other (describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

20. If you saw people walking or on bicycle, about how many did you see?

- a.  one
- b.  a handful
- c.  more than a few
- d.  many

Write about the types, ages and other characteristics of the people you saw walking and biking (e.g., people in wheelchairs, baby strollers, etc.).

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21. What things do you find attractive as you walk through the area?

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22. Can you see or smell air pollution?  Yes  No

23. Did you hear loud noises (trucks, trains, construction equipment, industry)?  
 Yes  No

Say more about what you smelled or heard. \_\_\_\_\_

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24. What did you see that does not look good in the walking area?

- a.  Cans and/or broken bottles
- b.  Condoms, syringes or drug-related paraphernalia
- c.  Garbage or litter
- d.  Abandoned cars or car parts
- e.  Household goods (appliances, furniture, building materials)
- f.  Graffiti on buildings, signs, walls
- g.  Broken windows in buildings
- h.  Other (describe: \_\_\_\_\_)

Additional comments. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

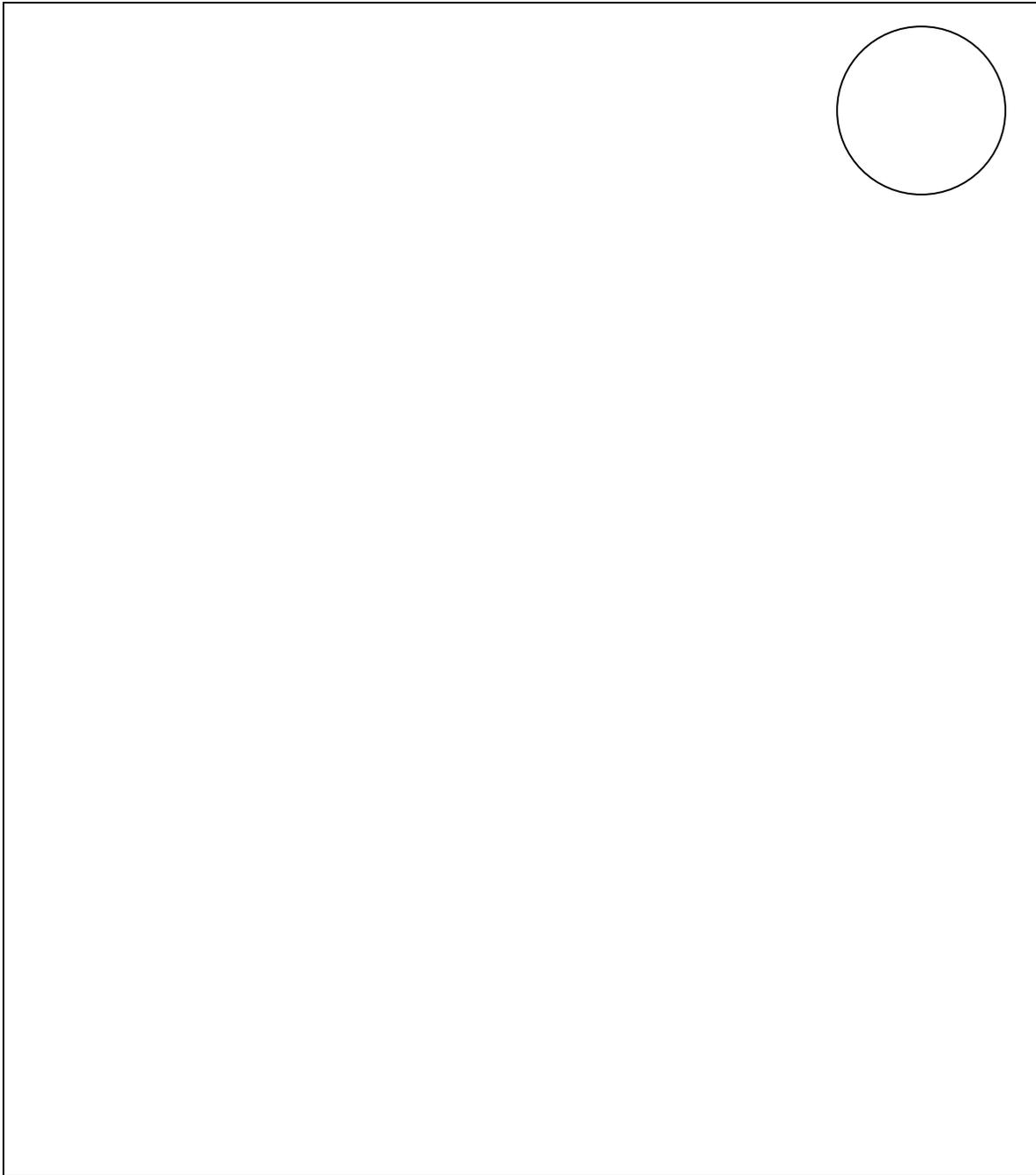
25. Based on the responses above and your comments, what is your overall rating of the area you just walked?

Poor  Fair  Satisfactory  Good  Excellent

Explanation. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Drawing/Sketch

This space is provided for those who wish to draw or sketch the route walked and features found along the way. Label the drawing so that information about walkability is clear to someone else who might look at the drawing. Be sure to show a north arrow in the circle. Refer to a roadway intersection or utility pole number to help locate the area of your walk.

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing or sketch. In the top right corner of this box, there is a simple black circle, which is meant to be used for drawing a north arrow as instructed in the text above.