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):

______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
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. __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   __________________________________________________________

   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.).

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

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

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

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. ________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
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.