How walkable is your neighborhood? Let’s find out with a WALK AUDIT

While walking around the neighborhood, identify problem areas and record on this survey and on the map handout.

1. While walking around the neighborhood, identify problem areas and record on this survey and on the map handout.

2. Make your neighborhood more enjoyable by using short-term and long-term improvements on last page.

3. Discuss problems and solutions from this audit with students, family, and community leaders.
DIRECTIONS
Print a copy of this checklist along with a map of your route. Fill out the checklist to note problems on your walk. You may use the checklist either for each block you walk, or for your entire route. Place a ‘x’ on the checklist to any problem and note the location of the problem on your map. Explain problem on your map.

VISUALS
Below are examples of high to low quality sidewalks.

EXAMPLE AUDIT
1. SIDEWALKS
☐ No sidewalks or paths
☒ Sidewalks are broken, cracked, or have trip hazards
☒ Sidewalks are blocked by overgrown landscaping, poles, signs, plants, vehicles, etc.
☐ Sidewalk is not continuous
☒ Sidewalk is not wide enough (two people cannot easily walk together side by side)
☐ Sidewalk has nothing separating it from the street (grass, trees, parked cars)
☐ Other problems: The sidewalks were really muddy and hard to walk on

OVERALL, THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF SIDEWALKS IS: 😞😞😞😞
1. SIDEWALKS
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- Other problems: ________________________________

OVERALL, THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF SIDEWALKS IS: 😞😞😊😊😊

2. STREET CROSSINGS AND INTERSECTIONS:
- The road is too wide to cross easily
- Traffic signals do not give enough time to cross the street
- The crossing does not have a pedestrian-activated button
- There is no crosswalk or it is poorly marked
- The crosswalk is well-placed and safe
- The physical roadway is in good condition and forces drivers to slow down
- Intersection does not have a curb ramp for carts, wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, etc.
- There is a dedicated school zone sign
- Other problems: ________________________________

OVERALL, THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF STREET CROSSINGS AND INTERSECTIONS IS: 😞😞😊😊😊

3. DRIVER BEHAVIOR:
- Drivers do not stop at stop signs or stop behind the crosswalk
- Drivers appear to be speeding
- Drivers do not yield to people walking
- Drivers are distracted (on the phone, texting, paying attention to passengers rather than road)
- Drivers aren’t looking out for people walking, make unexpected turns, or seem hostile
- Other problems: ________________________________

OVERALL, THE QUALITY AND SAFETY OF DRIVER BEHAVIOR IS: 😞😞😊😊😊
4. SAFETY:
- Car speeds are too fast
- There’s too much traffic
- Street lights are few or not present
- My personal safety feels threatened along the walk, including seeing or experiencing street harassment
- Unleashed dogs or other loose intimidating animals are present
- There is a lack of eyes on the street (e.g., absence of people, no houses or store fronts)
- Law enforcement is/is not present (circle)
- Other problems: ______________________________________________________

OVERALL, THE FEELING OF SAFETY IN THIS AREA IS: 😞😞😞😊😊

5. COMFORT:
- There is not enough shade from canopies, awnings, or trees
- There are few or no street trees or other landscaping
- There are vacant lots or rundown buildings
- The street needs benches and places to rest
- Other problems: ______________________________________________________

OVERALL, THE COMFORT AND APPEAL IN THIS AREA IS: 😞😞😞😊😊

6. NEIGHBORHOOD APPEARANCE:
- There is vandalism (e.g., damaged signs, vehicles, etc.)
- There is excessive litter (e.g., noticeable amounts of trash, broken glass, etc.)
- Abandoned buildings or poorly maintained properties
- There are parts of the park that feel isolated and hidden from view
- Other problems: ______________________________________________________

OVERALL, THE NEIGHBORHOOD APPEARANCE IS: 😞😞😞😊😊
7. SURROUNDING LAND USES
☐ Lots of driveways
☐ Industrial areas
☐ Walk up commercial uses (stores, coffee shops, convenience stores, etc.)
☐ My personal safety feels threatened along the walk, including seeing or experiencing street harassment
☐ Parks or recreational areas
☐ Other problems: ____________________________________________________________

OVERALL, THE FEELING OF SAFETY IN THIS AREA IS: 😞😞😞😞😞

8. LIGHTING:
☐ Is it comfortable in the evening?
☐ In the morning?
☐ Can you see someone walking down the street towards you?
☐ Can you see approaching vehicles or bicycles?
☐ Other problems: ____________________________________________________________

OVERALL, THE COMFORT AND APPEAL IN THIS AREA IS: 😞😞😞😞😞

9. PARK APPEARANCE:
☐ There is vandalism (e.g., damaged signs, vehicles, etc.)
☐ There is excessive litter (e.g., noticeable amounts of trash, broken glass, etc.)
☐ Abandoned buildings or poorly maintained properties
☐ There are parts of the park that feel isolated and hidden from view
☐ Other problems: ____________________________________________________________

OVERALL, THE PARK APPEARANCE IS: 😞😞😞😞😞
10. NEIGHBORHOOD AND SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE FEATURES:

☐ There is no direct, convenient access from street to enter or exit parking lot/loop
☐ There are no walking/bike paths that connect the park entrances/exits
☐ There are no ball fields, courts, gardens, trails, or other quality playground features
☐ There are parks/community gathering spaces within 1/2 mile of the school
☐ There are no restrooms
☐ There is no bike parking
☐ There are no benches outside the school
☐ The gates/entrances to the school are locked during the day and/or night (circle day or night)
☐ There is no physical activity programming at or near the school
☐ There is more than one entrance/exit to the school
☐ The entrance/exit is in a convenient place
☐ Other problems: ________________________________________________________________

OVERALL, THE QUALITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE FEATURES IS: 🙁🙁🙂😀😃

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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Survey adapted in part from the Safe Routes to School Walk Audit Tool Kit and NHTSA’s Walkability Checklist.