



A Place to Call HOME

How Walkable is Your Neighbourhood?

A neighbourhood that is built to accommodate access to local amenities without the reliance on vehicles of transportation contributes to its degree of walkability. Providing health, environmental and economic benefits, walkability is an important factor for many when deciding which community to settle in. A town that is easy to maneuver also gives residents the opportunity to increase their social interactions, become more involved in local issues and reduce crime as more people walk around and watch over their communities.

Characteristics that Define Walkable Communities:

- *Intact town centres.* The centre has a main street with a variety of conveniences such as grocery stores, restaurants, libraries and salons.
- *Public space.* Many places are available for adults and children to socialize within their neighbourhood.
- *Universal design.* Appropriate ramps, medians, crossings of driveways and sidewalks are on all streets where needed to make walking comfortable and enjoyable for everyone.
- *Speed controlled streets.* Speed bumps and other methods are used to ensure traffic moves at safe speeds.
- *Well-linked paths.* The town is set up in a connected pattern that provides paths for residents to easily walk from one destination to another.
- *Properly scaled design.* Parks are within 0.2 km, services and elementary schools are within 0.4 km and high schools are accessible within a 1.6 km radius of most homes.
- *Community vision.* Budgets are set aside for sidewalks, trails and parks.

For the majority of potential homebuyers, walking paths are considered a “must have” feature in the neighbourhoods where they choose to live.

Source: AVID Ratings, What Homebuyers Want in 2010

Source: walkable.org

Walkable communities can be desirable places to live and result in higher property values.

Source: canawalks.ca



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