



The **DOABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD** Assessment Tool

How walk, bike, and transit friendly is your neighbourhood?

What is an 8-80 City?

8-80 Cities are communities built for everyone regardless of age or ability. These communities reflect social equality in the public realm and promote sustainable happiness. They are designed to foster vibrant streets and great public places where people can rest, relax and play.

What is a Healthy City?

8-80 Cities are also healthy cities. A healthy community nurtures our need to be physically active and encourages sustainable lifestyles, regardless of age, gender, ability, ethnicity, or economic background. Healthy communities accomplish this by providing safe, accessible and enjoyable places for everyone to walk, bike and be active as part of our daily routine.

How to use this tool.

This neighbourhood assessment tool is designed to help you identify the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities in your neighbourhood, related to active transportation and the built environment.

Step 1: Pages 2 to 4 will get you thinking about how well the physical elements of your neighbourhood support active transportation, parks, and public spaces.

Step 2: Pages 5 to 10 will measure the effectiveness of your neighbourhood's programming and atmosphere. These questions will assess the general social experience of walking and cycling in the community.



Ontario

GETTING TO KNOW THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

Location

What is the neighbourhood of focus?

Date:

Name of neighbourhood auditor:

Briefly, how would you characterize your neighbourhood (ie. city centre, residential area, new subdivision, etc.)

Where is the community “heart” or central gathering space (ie. public square, plaza, park, restaurant, or coffee shop)? Please list all the community meeting spaces you can think of.

Where is the neighbourhood main street, or primary commercial area?

Where is the major traffic thoroughfare in the neighbourhood?

What is the average speed limit in your neighbourhood?

Residential Streets: _____

Arterial Roads: _____

How wide are most streets in the neighbourhood?

3 lanes or more

2 lanes or less

COMMUNITY AMENITIES

What's happening in your neighbourhood? Tell us where and when people come together to socialize and play. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. No background research is necessary.

What recreational and community amenities are within a walkable distance?

Select all that apply.

- Public indoor recreation/fitness facility
Please name: _____
- Community centre
Please name: _____
- Public playground with equipment
- Public open space that is not a park
- Beach, lake, river, etc.
- Large public park
- Small public park
- Recreational trails
- Other

What kind of events, programming, and community organizing already occurs?

Select all that apply.

- Seasonal farmers markets
- Annual fairs, festivals, and/or parades
- Recreational sport events
- Jane's Walks or community tours
- Walking school bus
- Community gardens
- Other

MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

How do people in your neighbourhood get around? Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. No background research is necessary (estimations are fine).

What mode do the majority of people in the neighbourhood use to get to work?

- Walk
- Bicycle
- Public Transit
- Motor vehicle (either as driver or passenger)
- Don't know / NA

What mode do the majority of people in the neighbourhood use to do their grocery shopping?

- Walk
- Bicycle
- Public transit
- Motor vehicle (either as driver or passenger)
- Don't know / NA

What mode do the majority of children in the neighbourhood use to get to school?

- Walk
- Bicycle
- Public transit
- Motor vehicle (either as driver or passenger)
- School bus
- Don't know / NA



DENSITY + LAND USE

Help us understand what kind of shops, services, residential buildings, and institutional uses are present in your neighbourhood.

What land uses are present in the neighbourhood?

Check all that apply.

- Residential buildings
- Institutional / Office
- Parking lots or garages
- Parks and/or designated green space
- Undeveloped land (vacant lots / empty space)
- Industrial (ie. manufacturing)
- Commercial / Retail
- Other

How would you characterize the density of the area?

- The area is dominated by a few single storey buildings
- There are some multi-storey, but detached buildings
- There is a relatively high number of multi-storey buildings with little unused space

What is the predominant land use?

Check one or two that apply.

- Residential buildings
- Institutional / Office
- Parking lots or garages
- Parks and/or designated green space
- Undeveloped land
- Industrial
- Commercial / Retail
- Other

What types of residential uses are present?

Select all that apply.

- None
- Abandoned homes
- Single family homes
- Town houses / Row houses
- Multi-unit homes (2-4 units)
- Apartments or condos (1-4 stories)
- Apartments or condos (4+ stories)
- Apartment over retail
- Other (retirement homes, dorms, etc.)

What stores & services are located within a walkable distance in neighbourhood?

Select all that apply.

- Convenience store / small grocery store
- Supermarket
- Retail stores (ie. hardware, clothing, etc.)
- Shopping mall or big box stores
- Library
- School (elementary - high school)
- College or university
- Food (ie. restaurant, bakery, cafe)
- Entertainment (ie. movie theatre, arcade, etc.)
- Bar or night club
- Bank
- Pharmacy or drug store
- Public transit stops (ie. bus, subway, train)

What parking facilities are present?

Check all that apply.

- None (no parking allowed on street)
- On-street, including angled parking
- Surface parking lot
- Garage



PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE

This section will help us gauge the walkability of your neighbourhood. A safe, accessible, and attractive pedestrian environment is a key component of promoting physical activity and creating livable and healthy communities.

Are the streets in the neighbourhood well connected?

- No: there are many cul-de-sacs in the area
- Somewhat: there is a mix of dead-end streets/ cul-de-sacs and grid pattern streets
- Yes: the neighbourhood is comprised of short blocks that form a grid pattern

Are there sidewalks in the neighbourhood?

- No
List the streets without sidewalks:

- Yes: sidewalks on one side of most streets
- Yes: sidewalks on both sides of most streets

Generally, are sidewalks well connected to one another and to key destinations?

- No
- Yes, in some places
- Yes: all sidewalks are well connected in the neighbourhood

How wide are most sidewalks in the neighbourhood?

- One person can walk comfortably
- Two people can comfortably walk side-by-side
- More than two people can comfortably walk side-by-side

Are sidewalks well maintained and in good condition?

- No: they are uneven and hazardous (ie. cracks, debris, etc.)
- Somewhat: uneven and slightly hazardous in some places
- Yes: there are no tripping hazards and the pavement is in excellent condition

Which comment best describes the level of activity or 'life' on the sidewalks?

- Few people are generally on the street, little to no social interaction taking place
- People are on the street during certain times of the day, with some social interaction.
- There is often a mix of people interacting on the street at most times of the day.

Generally, what is the quality of the neighbourhood's sidewalk environment?

- Mixed – some attractive elements, but some unclean/degraded sights
- Vibrant – public art present, attractive buildings and design, strong natural elements
- Weak

Which of the following problems are present?

- Streetscape is barren
- Graffiti and litter is common
- Very few visually stimulating elements
- Commercial signage is disorganized and cluttered
- Storefronts are poorly maintained and/or have no windows facing onto the sidewalk

Is there street furniture present on the sidewalks (ie. benches, garbage cans, etc.)?

- No
- Some: but are in degraded shape, improperly located, and/or poorly designed
- Yes: the area has a variety of street furniture in good condition and well-located

Are there trees and/or plants present on the neighbourhood sidewalks?

- No
- Some, but they are not very well maintained
- Yes: many well-maintained trees/plants present

What does the traffic flow feel like from the perspective of a pedestrian?

- Fast and aggressive
- Moderate to fast speeds and flow
- Slow, calm, predictable

Is there a buffer between the sidewalk and the road on most neighbourhood streets (ie. a grass strip, trees, on-street parking)?

- No
- Yes, in some places
- Yes: present in most or all places

Are there obstructions on the sidewalks?

- No: most or all sidewalks are clear
- Yes: there are significant obstructions
Which of the following obstructions are present?
 - Utility poles
 - Construction zones
 - Commercial signage
 - Snow

Are sidewalks cleared shortly after snowfall?

- No
- Sometimes, and/or only a small path is cleared
- Yes

Are there adequate, convenient, and safe places to cross the streets?

- Somewhat: limited number of crosswalks and/or crosswalk infrastructure is degraded
- Yes: adequate crosswalks present; safe to cross the street at many locations
- No

In general, which of the following problems are present?

- Crossings do not have pedestrian signals
- Crosswalks are far apart
- Crosswalks are not visible to motorists
- Crosswalks infrastructure is degraded
- Signal does not give people enough time to safely cross the street
- Motorists don't stop/yield to pedestrians

Are intersections and sidewalks accessible to people in wheelchairs (ie. with ramps)?

- No
- Yes, in some places
- Yes: wheelchair accessible in most or all places

Do neighbourhood streets have traffic calming devices (ie. pedestrian corner bulges, roundabouts, pedestrian median refuges)?

- No
- There are one or two traffic calming devices on some streets
- Yes: there are numerous traffic calming devices

Which of the following devices are present?

- Traffic lights / Stop signs
- Pedestrian islands
- Traffic circle
- Speed bumps
- Sidewalk bulges / Curb extensions

Do motorists generally obey the posted speed limits in your neighbourhood?

- Yes
- No

8-80 TEST

How likely are you to encourage/allow your child or older relative to walk in your neighbourhood as a means of transportation?

- Very unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Neutral
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

Comments:

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

This section will help us gauge the safety and accessibility of riding a bicycle in your neighbourhood. Cycling is a healthy, sustainable, and fun mode of transportation that can be used by almost anyone and everyone, regardless of age, ethnic background, or economic status.

Are there designated bike lanes or bike-priority streets in the neighbourhood?

- No
- Some designated bike lanes are present
- Yes: designated bike lanes or bicycle-priority streets exist throughout the area

Which streets have bike lanes?

Where they exist, are bikeways connected to each other and to destinations?

- No: bike lanes end abruptly and/or do not connect to other bike routes or destinations
- Somewhat: bike lanes end abruptly in some locations and/or are weakly connected
- Yes: bike lanes/streets are continuous and well connected

If no designated bike lane is present, where is the closest bike path/lane/street?

- 4km+
- 1 - 3km
- 0 - 1km

Where is the nearest bike lane? Do the bike lanes feel safe?

Generally, is cycling in your neighbourhood an enjoyable experience?

- No: there is no space to bike and/or traffic is too aggressive for cyclists
- Somewhat: traffic is slower and shoulder is wide enough for cyclists in some locations
- Yes: bike lanes/streets are continuous and well connected

Do local buses have bike racks?

- No
- Some
- Yes

Is there adequate signage present to caution for cyclists and mark dedicated bikeways?

- No
- Somewhat: signage is minimal and/or not very visible
- Yes

Is there adequate space for bike parking available at major destinations?

- No: there are no bike racks present in the neighbourhood
- Somewhat: there are some bike racks but they are not very visible and/or secure
- Yes: almost all neighbourhood destinations have accessible bicycle racks (ie. commercial streets, workplaces, and institutions)

8-80 TEST

How likely are you to encourage/allow your child or older relative to ride a bicycle in your neighbourhood as a means of transportation or recreation?

- Very unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Neutral
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

Comments:

PARKS + OPEN SPACE

Great public places are the heart of vibrant and people-oriented cities. Parks, markets, public squares and lively streets are popular spots for neighbours to socialise, relax, play and engage with their community. This section will help evaluate the safety, accessibility, and quality of your neighbourhood's parks and public spaces.

Is there a central park, square, and/or open public space in the neighbourhood?

- No
- 1-2 small or medium public spaces are present
- 3+ parks and public spaces are present in the neighbourhood

List them:

If public spaces are not present, how far is the nearest park or plaza?

- 30+ minute walk
- 20 minute walk
- 10 minute walk or less

What activities take place in the neighbourhood's parks and public spaces? If there is no public space in the neighbourhood, please answer for the nearest public space.

Check all that apply.

- None - there are generally no people in the public spaces
- Eating/drinking
- Socializing
- Play
- Sports (organized or not)
- Community garden
- Off-leash dog park/dog walking
- Outdoor seasonal events (ie. farmers' market, picnics, etc.)
- Illicit behaviour (ie. alcohol, drugs, etc.)
- Other:

Generally, are the public spaces in this neighbourhood well maintained?

- No: trees, plants, and grass are in poor condition, pavement is broken, and/or there is litter and graffiti throughout the area
- Somewhat: some aspects of the spaces could be improved
- Yes: the natural elements are well manicured, the space is clean, and the pavement is in good repair

Do the public spaces have amenities to meet neighbourhood needs (ie. good lighting, benches, water fountains, playgrounds, etc.)

- No: the public spaces are poorly designed and have no amenities for people to enjoy
- Somewhat: the space is relatively well designed and there are some amenities in the area
- Yes: there are many amenities in the public spaces

Are the public spaces easily accessible from sidewalks and pedestrian routes?

- No: the public spaces are generally enclosed or fenced-off
- Somewhat
- Yes: all public spaces are easy to enter and explore by foot and by bike

8-80 TEST

How likely are you to encourage/allow your child or older relative to visit the parks and open spaces in your neighbourhood?

- Very unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Neutral
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

Comments:

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Reliable and accessible local transit can help reduce auto-dependency, and encourages multi-modal transportation, which can include bicycle and/or walking trips.

If your community does not have public transit, please skip this section and move onto the next.

Which of the following public transit options are accessible in the neighbourhood?

- Buses
- Vehicles for physically disable individuals
- Street cars / Light rail
- Subway

Are there transit stops in the neighbourhood?

- No
- 1 - 2 transit stops
- 3+ transit stops

List the streets with transit stops:

If transit stops are not present in the neighbourhood, how far is the closest stop?

- 4+km
- 1 - 3km
- 0 - 1km

Do transit stops have amenities for riders?

- No
- Yes, present at some stops
- Yes, present at all stops

In general, which of the following amenities are present?

- Heated shelters
- Basic shelters / Weather protection
- Bench(es)
- Real-time schedule information

Does public transit service connect the neighbourhood with key destinations?

- No: it is unreliable, infrequent, and/or does not connect
- Somewhat: it is fairly reliable, frequent and links residents to some destinations
- Yes: public transit is very reliable, frequent, and connects to all key destinations

Is route information available at transit stops?

- No
- Schedule and route info available at some stops
- Yes: schedule and route info available at all stops

Is the transit service frequent enough?

- No
- Yes

8-80 TEST

How likely are you to allow/encourage your child or older relative to use public transportation in your neighbourhood?

- Very unlikely
- Somewhat unlikely
- Neutral
- Somewhat likely
- Very likely

Comments:

PUBLIC SAFETY

A safe environment creates a more liveable neighbourhood by increasing everyone's level of comfort and sense of security. The public spaces in a safe neighbourhood will be populated at all hours of the day, and by all members of the community.

Generally, does the neighbourhood feel safe and secure at the pedestrian level?

- No: people generally feel threatened or uncomfortable in the area
- Somewhat: people generally feel a little uncomfortable in the area at certain times
- Yes: people generally feel safe and secure at all times of the day

List the area(s) that feel unsafe:

Is this area known as a hub of crime and/or illicit behaviour?

- Yes: this is a dangerous area with high crime rates
- Somewhat: there are places where people are known to loiter and/or commit minor offenses
- No: this area is very safe and secure

List the areas that feel safest:

What is the level of maintenance and cleanliness in the neighbourhood?

- Poor: graffiti and/or litter are common
- Average: some graffiti and/or litter is present
- Excellent: there is no graffiti and very little litter present

List the area(s) where graffiti/litter is a problem:

Are there vacant & derelict buildings in the area?

- Yes

List the locations:

- Some
- No

Are there "eyes on the street" in the neighbourhood (ie. are there people on the streets at most times of the day)?

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Yes

Is the neighbourhood well lit at night?

- No
- In some places and/or the lights are dim and poorly maintained
- Yes

8-80 TEST

Put yourself into the perspective of your child or older relative. How likely are you to feel safe and secure in your neighbourhood, regardless of the time of day?

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Very unlikely | Somewhat unlikely | Neutral | Somewhat likely | Very likely |

Comments: