



FOSTERING AGE FRIENDLY, WALKABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

Walkability is a key component of optimal aging in Age Friendly cities. Walkable neighbourhoods promote physical and mental health and well-being, support access to amenities and foster a sense of belonging. Age Friendly walkable neighbourhoods enhance quality of life for people of all ages.

Use this Checklist on your own, or with a group of walkers, to audit the walkability and safety of an area of Hamilton that is important to you. Information on how to forward concerns and suggestions for improvement are provided.

All Season Age Friendly Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Checklist *

for Hamilton, Ontario, 2017

The Council
on Aging
of Ottawa



Le Conseil sur
le vieillissement
d'Ottawa

* Checklist developed by the Council on Aging of Ottawa,
Pedestrian Safety Committee. 2015
Modified for Hamilton, Ontario, with permission.

All-Season Age-Friendly Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Checklist, 2017

Instructions for Using this Checklist in Hamilton, Ontario

1. Choose your route and/or neighbourhood and fill in the information requested on page 2. If possible, start your review, with a map or drawing of the area you will be walking. Photos are also useful for documentation.
2. The checklist is divided into four sections that foster walkability:
 - **Safety:** Street lighting, intersections, traffic flow and well-maintained walkways promote sense of security and reduce risk of injuries .
 - **Accessibility:** Streets, pathways and street crossings do not impose barriers to walking; people of all abilities can easily move about.
 - **Convenience:** Connected routes and pathways create shorter distances between destinations, and convenient access to amenities .
 - **Comfort and Attractiveness:** Routes are attractive and clean, with protective shelter and rest areas.
3. For each question, please check [✓] either Yes or No or NA [not applicable].
At the end of each section, total the numbers of checks in the Yes, No and NA columns. Complete the sections at the end of each checklist, providing details of your concerns and suggestions for improvement.
4. Who to Contact With Concerns

For maintenance requests, contact the City of Hamilton's Customer Service Division at 905-546-2489 or email askcity@hamilton.ca

For other significant walkability & safety concerns, contact your City Councilor, who can advise you and/or forward your concerns to Public Works. Infrastructure improvements may be addressed through routine accommodation, under Hamilton's 'Pedestrian Mobility Plan'.

Information on contacting your City Councilor can be found here www.hamilton.ca/council-committee/mayor-councillors/city-councillors or contact City of Hamilton's Customer Service.

Checklist developed by Council on Aging of Ottawa - adapted from Australian Heart Foundation Check List, Edmonton Walkability Audit and the Easter Seal Checklist for Assessing the Accessibility of Transportation and Mobility.

About the Walk

Area / Neighbourhood: _____

Names of streets on route: _____

Approximate distance of walk:

less than 1 km 1 km 1.5 km more than 1.5 km

Today's Date (day/ month/ year): _____

Time of day: a.m. pm

About the Walkers

Your Name _____

How to Contact You: _____

Who Went on this Safety & Walkability Audit:

Walker 1: Age: _____ Walks with a cane or mobility aid: No Yes

Walker 2: Age: _____ Walks with a cane or mobility aid: No Yes

Walker 3: Age: _____ Walks with a cane or mobility aid: No Yes

Walker 4: Age: _____ Walks with a cane or mobility aid: No Yes

We generally walk this route for [check all that apply]

- Transportation – to reach a specific location e.g. store, service, bus stop, etc
- Recreation – walking for enjoyment and/or physical activity

1	SAFETY	YES	NO	NA
1.1	Do you feel safe on this walk?			
1.2	If you were to walk this route at night, would it be well lit?			
1.3	Are shared-use pathways safe for both pedestrians and cyclists?			
1.4	Are sidewalks or other safe walkways available on every street on your route?			
1.5	Are sidewalks and other walkways in good repair?			
1.6	Are sidewalks/walkways and public transit stops ploughed for safe walking and wheeling in winter?			
1.7	Are there lights or pedestrian crossings at busy intersections?			
1.8	Are pedestrian lights and pedestrian crossings safely and conveniently located near schools, parks, retirement homes, shops, public transport stops, etc.?			
1.9	Do pedestrian lights allow enough time for older people and young children to cross safely?			
1.10	Do you feel safely separated from the road traffic, e.g., pedestrian islands in the middle of wide street crossings, adequate curbs, etc.?			
1.11	Are there roundabouts, speed bumps or other traffic calming measures?			
1.12	Is the neighbourhood free from debris, litter, dog waste, overflowing waste bins, and broken glass?			

(Safety - continued on next page)

	SAFETY (cont'd0	YES	NO	NA
1.13	Are crossing points free of obstructions such as plants, or parked cars that limit your view of the traffic? In wintertime, do snow banks obstruct crossing point views?			
1.14	Are speed limits for cars appropriate and clearly posted?			
1.15	Is there appropriate/adequate signage identifying the need to slow down near schools and residences for older adults?			
TOTAL (add each column)				
Location of Identified Issues : the No's [also mark on map, if possible]				
SAFETY Comments / Suggestions:				

2	ACCESSIBILITY	YES	NO	NA
2.1	Can people walk or wheel side-by-side on the sidewalks and walkways, including individuals with strollers and walkers, and those using wheelchairs?			
2.2	Are sidewalks and walking areas free from obstructions such as overgrown plants, advertising boards, snow piles and ice?			
2.3	Are construction areas safe and accessible?			
2.4	Are toilets available to the public along your route?			
2.5	Are the sidewalks/ walkways easy to walk or wheel on, with even surfaces for strollers and wheelchairs?			
2.6	Are there smooth curb ramps at street crossings for people using walkers, scooters, wheelchairs and strollers?			
2.7	Are there audible signal devices at crosswalks and lights?			
TOTAL (add each column)				
Location of Identified Issues : the No's [also mark on map, if possible]				
ACCESSIBILITY Comments / Suggestions:				

3	CONVENIENCE & CONNECTEDNESS	YES	NO	NA
3.1	Is there pedestrian signage on the route, identifying hospitals, recreation, libraries and public transit locations?			
3.2	Does this route link with public transit services? If yes, please circle: Bus/ Train/ Other			
3.3	Does this route lead to a destination such as a school, café, library, workplace, place of worship, sports field or recreational facility?			
3.4	Are sidewalks and pathways continuously linked?			
3.5	Is the dog off-leash area separated from children's play areas?			
3.6	If you walked into a cul-de-sac or dead end, was there a safe route connecting you through to another street?			
TOTAL (add each column)				
Location of Identified Issues : the No's [also mark on map, if possible]				
CONVENIENCE & CONNECTEDNESS Comments / Suggestions:				

4	COMFORT & ATTRACTIVENESS	YES	NO	NA
4.1	Are there places to shelter from rain, hot sun, wind and snow?			
4.2	Are there benches/places to stop and rest, particularly for older people and young children?			
4.3	Are there trees along the route to provide shade and a pleasant environment?			
4.4	Are there enough garbage and recycle bins available?			
4.5	Are there transit shelters with adequate seating at key transit stops?			
4.6	Are there any points of interest (e.g. historical markers, public art, parks, community gardens)?			
4.7	Is the neighbourhood free from graffiti and vandalism?			
4.8	Are park areas well maintained?			
4.9	Are there drinking fountains in parks or in other places along the route?			
4.10	Are the street frontages interesting and attractive (e.g. landscaping, fences, shop fronts)?			
TOTAL (add each column)				
Location of Identified Issues : the No's [also mark on map, if possible]				
COMFORT & ATTRACTIVENESS Comments / Suggestions:				