## Where Should I Walk: Walk Study Checklist



**Study Information** 

Study Information	
Community Name	Willis Park
Date of Walk Study:	April 20, 2012
Participants:	City Staff: 1
	Adults: 6
	Children: 0
Distance Walked:	3.2 miles
	(ex.1.78 miles)
Weather Conditions:	Warm, sunny, high 70s
	(ex. Partly Cloudy, low 50's)



#### **General Comments:**

In general, there is a pleasant feel to the streets throughout the pride area. Residents have access to a mostly connected sidewalk network and recreation opportunities nearby. However, real and perceived issues with crime and safety along with issues of aesthetics (attributed to poor maintenance and vacancies) serve as the greatest barriers to walking for daily physical activity.

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Playability/Recreation

Playgrounds where these conditions were ob	oserved:				
Available shade.	The community is served by several parks: Big Walnut Park, Shady Lane Park, and Willis Park				
Benches or tables for seating.	While Big Walnut has many play facilities, the other parks do not feature as much for children of all ages				
Water Fountains.					
Play equipment appropriate for young children.					
Smooth asphalt playground.					
Regularly mowed open spaces.					
Lack of available shade.	Willis Park and Shady Lane Park are both attached to schools and do not provide a lot of shade around their open spaces.				
No benches or tables for seating.					
No working water fountain.					
Jnsafe playground equipment.					
Deteriorated asphalt.	Sidewalks around Patriot Preparatory Academy and Willis Park are in poor condition and there are buildings on the property that could be dangerous for children.				
Open spaces that are not mowed.					
Overall, how would you rate the recreational opportunities in your neighborhood?	<b>Rating:</b> (bold one) 1 <b>2</b> 3 4 5				
opportantios in your noighborhood:	Few Many				

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#### Photos:



**Patriot Preparatory Academy in the** center of the pride area has a playground - but it's unclear if the community is permitted to use it.



Big Walnut Park has a recreation center and playground, but is difficult to walk to from the pride area

Big Walnut High School is also across the street and features athletic fields



Dilapidated building on school property that is both visually unappealing and potentially dangerous for children

Comments: While there are some great play facilities within and around the area, residents expressed that children might not all have safe means to get to all of these play areas. Additionally, older children engaging in suspicious activity congregate in the parks and make some parents uncomfortable in taking their children to parks or allowing them to go alone.

> Residents remarked that they wished there were play equipment in Willis Park and that many view Big Walnut Park as creepy as a result of issues with trash, found condoms, and other maintenance issues.

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**Neighborhood Streets and Sidewalks** 

Streets and addresses where these condition Sidewalks are wide with room to pass other walkers or walk with a friend.	ns were observed:			
Sidewalks are continuous throughout the walk.				
Sidewalks are uneven, cracked or broken.	The condition of sidewalks throughout the pride area is very poor. Most sidewalks are almost too narrow for two adults to walk side by side.			
Sidewalks are missing or stop in places.	There is a connected sidewalk network throughout almost the entire pride area. However, there are interruptions were the residential meets the adjacent commercial areas at both Livingston and Main Street – making it difficult for residents to safely walk to daily destinations.			
There are no sidewalks or designated walking areas.				
Overall, how would you rate the sidewalks within you neighborhood?	r Rating: (bold one)	1 2 Few	3 4	5 Many
Photos:				
Crumbled sidewalk leading to a school	Tree roots breaking sidewalks	Broken walk t		ause

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Comments:

Residents expressed a lot of concern over the quality and condition of sidewalks in the pride area. With present rates of foreclosure in their neighborhood, they believe that many people do not have the means to adequately address the necessary sidewalk repairs required by code of property owners. Residents gave the feedback that they wish there were a grants program or community funding source that would provide some support in upgrading their very old sidewalk infrastructure.

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Safety

Streets and addresses where these condit Lighting is bright.	ions were observed:				
Neighbors are outside.	Throughout the walk, people were seen throughout the neighborhood on porches, with their children, and many stopped to speak with block watch members and share concerns.				
Dogs are secured.					
Traffic is calm.					
Drivers obey stop signs and crosswalks.					
No one else is outside.	Many homes have dogs that	make residents und	comfortal	ble	
Dogs are intimidating or not secured.					
There is no lighting.					
Drivers ignore stop signs and crosswalks.	Traffic heaviest on Country Club Rd, the main entry to the area				
Traffic is fast or unsafe.					
Overall, how safe do you feel walking in your	Rating: (bold one)	1 2	3	4 5	
neighborhood?		Few		Many	
Photos:					
Crosswalks by schools are deteriorated	Repaved road filled curbs cause	e standing water	Can't c	ross Livings	ston

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#### Comments:

Residents remarked that the COTA buses fly through the neighborhoods at speeds that are too high for their small residential streets. School buses also drive way too fast down area streets. While there is one road with speed bumps, residents feel like more traffic calming is needed.

Main Street and Livingston Avenue are nearly impossible to cross from the pride area as both roads are wide, lack good cross walks, or connectivity in general from the pride area. Residents really wish that a paved connection could be built from Dickens to Big Walnut Park alone what has become a trafficked foot path.

Many residents have fears that there is gang activity in the neighborhood – and that it possibly concentrates in school parking lots.

### Where Should I Walk: **Walk Study Checklist**



#### **Housing & Aesthetics**

Streets and addresses where these cond Houses are well-kept and yards are mowed.	itions were observed: Old growth trees lining the str	eets create a pleasant	feeling for walking	
There is no excessive noise.				
There is a pleasant feeling about the street.				
Houses are not well maintained.	Many homes are well-cared for, but are overshadowed by many vacancies			
Excessive noise comes from houses.	Residents can name homes where they suspect there is criminal activity			
Criminal activity may be taking place.				
Overall, how would you rate the housing	Rating: (bold one)	1 2	<b>3</b> 4 5	
environment in your neighborhood		Few	Many	



### Where Should I Walk: Walk Study Checklist





Vacant disrupts an otherwise pleasant street



Garbage on the lawn



**Graffiti-marked tree** 



Scariest house in the neighborhood, fell victim to arson and flooding by vandals



Houses of suspected criminal activity



Unpleasant feeling path connection to school



Vans usually parked on the lawn – were cited in another location



Vacant home is the first thing you seen when you enter the pride area is at Manfield and Justin

#### **Comments:**

# Where Should I Walk: Walk Study Checklist



**Community Gathering Places** 

Streets and addresses where these condition Neighbors can buy food and groceries.	s were observed: There is a Kroger at Main and	d Hamilton		
Neighbors can gather with friends.				
Neighbors can worship together.	There are many churches surrounding the pride area			
Overall, how would you rate the opportunities for	Rating: (bold one)	1 2 <b>3</b>	4 5	
community building in your neighborhood?		Few	Many	
Photos:				
Big Walnut Recreation Center				

Comments: Residents can gather at schools, churches, or the recreation center – but there are not a lot of "third places" for people to meet. Residents remarked that many of the businesses they used to like to patronize on Main Street have closed and there are lots of vacancies there now.