

10 TIPS FOR PLANNING AND LEADING A SUCCESSFUL WALK AUDIT

CREATED BY AMERICA WALKS AND THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION (NVRC)



1 SET SOME GOALS

Decide what you want to accomplish by conducting a walk audit



2 PICK YOUR PLACE

Choose the route carefully, scout it ahead of time, and make sure everyone will be safe



3 KEEP IT SHORT

Don't make it too long - a one-mile walk audit can easily last an hour with stops for discussion

4 CURATE YOUR CREW

Identify participants from the neighborhood and others whom you want to recruit as advocates



5 BRING IN LOCAL LEADERS

Invite one or two public officials such as planners, engineers or City Council members



6 USE TOOLS

Choose a specific guide such as the AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit and send it to participants in advance



7 GRAB GEAR

Bring along clipboards, printed guides, and pens, as well as a tape measure and a camera

8 BE UNIVERSAL

Before starting, remind everyone to prioritize safety and to imagine a small child or a person with a disability on this walk (a great tool is to bring a stroller to identify mobility)

9 TAKE PAUSE

Stop every few blocks to analyze the conditions, make notes, and take photos

10 CHAT AND ASSESS

At the end, ask everyone to share their "take-aways"



RESOURCES FOR PLANNING AND LEADING A SUCCESSFUL WALK AUDIT



What is a Walk Audit?

A walk audit is a brief, invaluable activity that you or anyone can facilitate to identify unsafe spaces for pedestrians - in an effort to bridge connections and make your community more safe, equitable, accessible and enjoyable.



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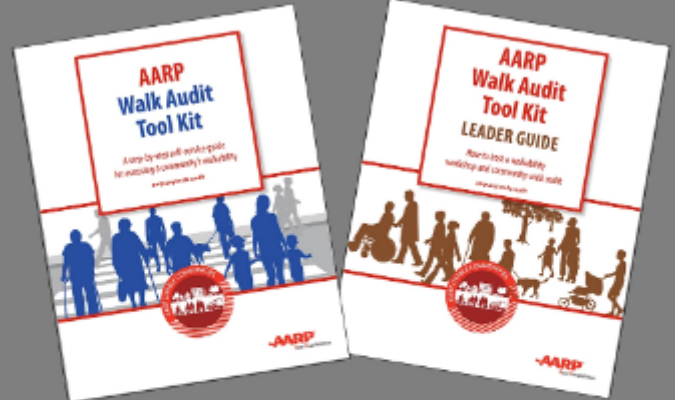
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Walk Friendly Communities

A national recognition program developed to encourage towns and...

walkfriendly.org



AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit and Leader Guide

Use this survey kit to observe and document the safety and safety risks of the streets in your community.

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Walkability Checklist

How walkable is your community?

Take a walk with a child and decide for yourselves.

Everyone benefits from walking. These benefits include improved fitness, cleaner air, reduced risks of certain health problems, and a greater sense of community. But walking needs to be safe and easy. Take a walk with your child and use this checklist to decide if your neighborhood is a friendly place to walk. Take heart if you find problems, there are ways you can make things better.

Getting started:

First, you'll need to pick a place to walk, like the route to school, a friend's house or just somewhere fun to go. The second step involves the checklist. Read over the checklist before you go, and as you walk, note the locations of things you would like to change. At the end of your walk, give each question a rating. Then add up the numbers to see how you rated your walk overall. After you've rated your walk and identified any problem areas, the next step is to figure out what you can do to improve your community's score. You'll find both immediate answers and long-term solutions under "Improving Your Community's Score..." on the third page.

Let's Go For A Walk. A Toolkit for Planning and Conducting a Walk Audit

Photo Credit: Orange County Health Care Agency