

## Healthy Places Walkability Study Walnut Bluff/Kingston Crossing Block Watch

The goals of the walkability study are to increase neighborhood residents walking in their neighborhood and to identify destination places that are within walking distance. This will be done by walking with neighborhood residents to 1) identify positive places to walk in their neighborhood; 2) inventory barriers to pedestrians and bikers; and 3) identify neighborhood destinations.

### Synopsis

<b>Date</b>	May 17, 2011
<b>Community Participation</b>	1 adult, 1 city staff
<b>Distance Walked</b>	3.02 miles
<b>Weather</b>	Cloudy, low 50's, misty

### Neighborhood Findings

#### Recreation

- There are no park or recreation facilities directly within the pride area. The closest open spaces are Independence High School and a park in Madison Township off of Noe Bixby Road.
- Residents in the pride area can access the Alumn Creek bike path via a shared use path on Chatterton Road, however there are no sidewalks or bike facilities that connect them to the path.

#### Neighborhood Streets

- With the exception of Chatterton, the entire pride area has sidewalks. However, many of the sidewalks are less than 4 feet wide and are deteriorating. Children walking home from school were observed walking in the street, even on roads with sidewalks, because they could no walk side by side with their friends.
- Residents complain of a lack of street lighting in the pride area.
- There is one crosswalk within the pride area on Reynard Drive at Paladim. Residents have expressed great interest in seeing crosswalks or signalized facilities installed at various intersections along Chatterton Road.

#### Safety

- Overall, residents feel safe walking in this neighborhood during the day and did not mention fears of crime or of their personal safety in the neighborhood.
- Limited lighting, speeding on residential streets, no crosswalks on busy streets, and a lack of sidewalks on Chatterton are the biggest safety concerns to residents in their pride area.

#### Housing

- Most homes in the neighborhood are well maintained, though the most observable maintenance needs are lawn-care related.

Commercial & Community Gathering:

- The only commercial area accessible to this neighborhood is along Chatterton Road at Falcon Bridge Drive. The neighborhood is otherwise in a “food desert”.
- Apart from the Church and Independence High School on Refugee Road, there are no public gathering places in the neighborhood.

This report will be used to create walking maps through the neighborhood. The mile-marked maps will highlight neighborhood features, safe paths and destinations. The report will also be forwarded to City of Columbus departments that can assist neighborhoods in addressing their needs.

The mission of the Healthy Places program is to enhance healthy and active living by establishing development policies and practices to reduce negative health impacts and by creating places that foster physical activity as a part of everyday life. For more information, please contact Betsy A. Pandora, Healthy Places Coordinator at 645-5318 or [EAPandora@Columbus.gov](mailto:EAPandora@Columbus.gov).

## **Addendum**

Site Specific Comments

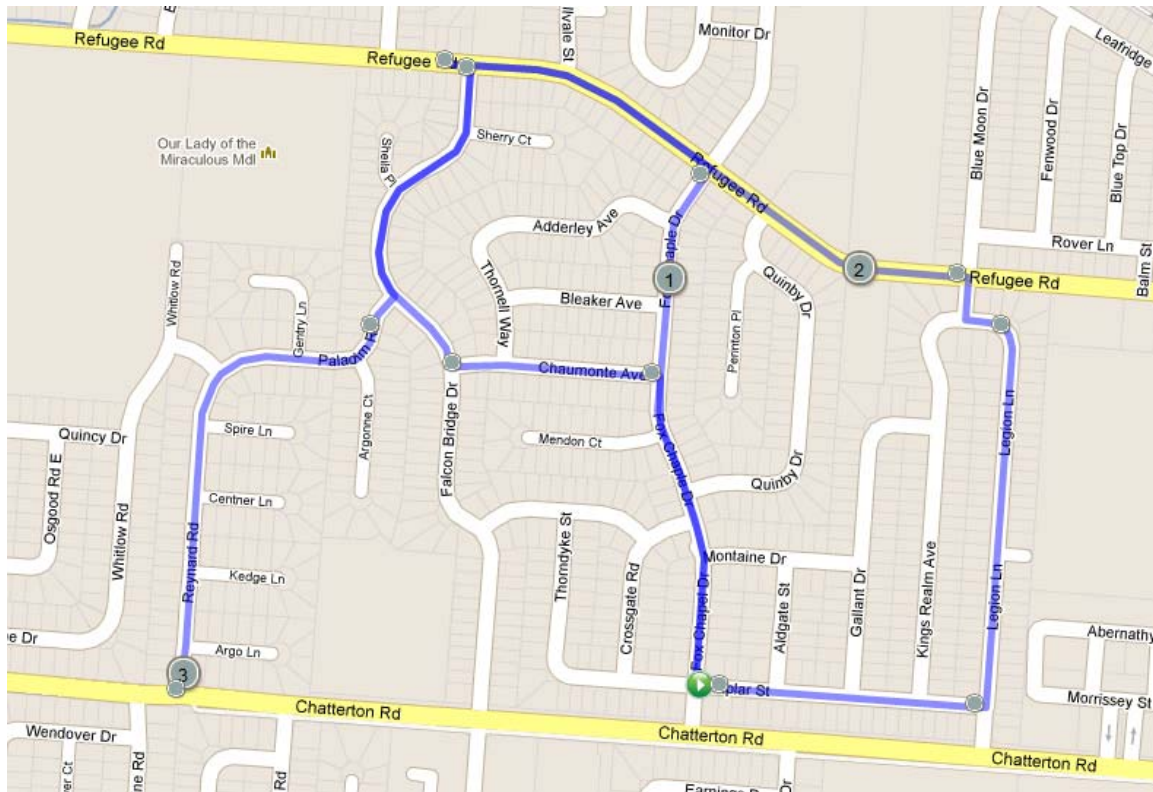
Routes

All Pictures

## Site Specific Comments

No Sidewalks	Sidewalks
Chatterton Road (North Side)	All other streets in the pride area have sidewalks
Refugee Road (west of Glenbriar Street)	

## Route Walked



**Pictures (Explanation of pictures below)**

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### Picture Explanation

Picture Number	Explanation
1	Both Walnut Bluff and Kingston Cross have issues with speeding throughout the neighborhood. Safe Communities signs are displayed throughout Fox Chapel Drive
2	There are several overgrown, vacant/undeveloped lots in the neighborhood. The neighborhood has been trying to pursue grant funding to acquire the lot at Fox Chapel and Quincy for community garden space.
3	There are gaps in the internal sidewalk network where there are vacant parcels.
4	Overall, sidewalks in the pride area are in good condition. There are some that are worn and crumbling.
5	Sheriff sale home on Chaumonte Avenue has been abandoned for a while and is now following apart.
6-7	The storm water sewer on Falcon Bridge Drive at Chaumonte is seen as unsafe by the community. The ground slopes steep toward the open waterway and there is graffiti in the exposed pipe.
8	Car parked on the front lawn of Sherry Court
9	Overgrowth and confusion over who is to maintain the grass buffers on Refugee Road.
10-11	Drainage ditch on Refugee Road has frequent standing water and fills with liter.
12	Residents view storm water ditch as unsafe. Located on Refugee Road but extends into the neighborhood in images 6-7.
13	Broken glass on the sidewalk on Fox Chapen Drive – in front of a home where children live.
14	No sidewalks on the northern side of Chatterton Road – problematic for COTA bus riders who have to stand and wait in the road or on the sloped grass.
15	No sidewalks on the northern side of Chatterton Road and no crosswalks across Chatterton - problematic for individuals who want to cross the street to access the only commercial strip in the pride area.
16	No sidewalks on the northern side of Chatterton Road and children walking home from nearby Independence High School must walk in the street facing traffic to access the pride area.