

Healthy Places Walkability Study Westgate Mini-Pride

Columbus Public Health Healthy Places program is conducting walkability studies in the 2007 Neighborhood Pride areas. 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

Date	Wednesday July 11, 2007
Community Participation	13 community members (including 4 children walking; 2 on bikes)
Distance Walked	1.38 miles
Weather	Sunny and hot

Neighborhood Findings

Surveys completed	3
Findings of interest	2/3 residents gave the lowest rating to having room to walk, crossing the street and respectful drivers.
	Residents spoke about that they have some destination places but have safety concerns in walking there, especially with their children.
Most important aspects of walking (ranked in order of priority)	Safety, destination places, sidewalks, access to parks, nice things to see

It should be noted that residents love their neighborhood and are proud to live in Westgate. However, they note that there are barriers to enjoying an active lifestyle. The Westgate neighborhood does not have sidewalks, has on street parking, and drivers do not always yield to pedestrians. Safety is a major concern in enjoying their neighborhood in the evenings and in accessing the few business on Broad Street and Sullivant Avenue.

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Overall Comments

- Massey's Pizza is a locally owned business and there was a shooting associated with the tattoo parlor across the street. There is also a bar on the same corner. This corner is within blocks of the Rec Center, and two schools.
- Broad Street is not consumer businesses, it is temporary employment agencies, and cash advanced places. It is hard to bike on the street and Broad is a barrier in the neighborhood.
- There are no coffee or nice eating establishments in our area.
- Wicklow Rd-children walk to school, there are no sidewalks and it is a major thoroughfare. Where there are sidewalks-on school property-they are not very wide. This is an elementary school so the kids are young and the drivers do not pay attention.
- Children on the walk report that the alleys are scary and they are scared to walk to school when their big brother is not with them.
- S. Huron Ave is next to the Elementary school and is a drop off zone. There is also on street parking so kids are running in and out of the cars during drop off times. Neighbors are working with the Area Commission to designate the street as "no parking" during certain school hours.
- The crosswalks near the school-Wicklow Rd and S. Westgate Ave in particular- have to be monitored by teachers for fear drivers will not yield. Resident suggested raised crosswalks or another traffic calming measure.
- Drivers mostly yield
- Need to be cautious at night when out in the neighborhood-a house on Broad St and Crescent Dr had its door kicked in. While crime is an issue, some neighbors are still out.
- The intersection of Binns Blvd and Wicklow Rd. was difficult to cross. There were crosswalks (no sidewalks) but drivers do not always yield. This intersection is 2 blocks from the school.
- Powell Ave is the only street with a continuous sidewalk from Broad Street to Sullivant, however, the sidewalks are in poor condition and street is mostly renters who are not good neighbors. The other option is Hague, those sidewalks are not continuous, in poor condition and drivers park on the curbs.
- There is concern that people with strollers, elderly and children have trouble navigating the neighborhood due to the cars on the street, no sidewalks and some drivers. Some drivers are high school kids that do not watch carefully for children. Even if drivers are slow, pedestrians still need to cut around cars which reduce visibility. There are also a lot of joggers and dog walkers in the neighborhood.
- Fremont St is narrow, does not have a good shoulder and is heavily traveled by school children.
- The roundabouts on Fremont make pedestrians feel unsafe because the road narrows and there are no sidewalks.
- There is no access to the bike path and Broad Street is a barrier-bikers do not bike on Broad St because it is dangerous and drivers do not yield.
- Part of the Westgate Park has a multi-use path around its perimeter.

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- The residents knew of two bike accidents in the area, one was a neighbor that commutes to work via bike.
- There is an issue with bulk items in the alleys that are not picked up or the resident does not make the call for them to be picked up.
- Binns is a main thoroughfare between Broad St and Sullivant Ave because it is two way and connects straight through. It has cars parked on both sides and walkers/bikers spend a lot of time waiting behind cars for traveling cars to pass.
- The area has an issue with absentee landlords and abandoned property and people that do not take care of property.
- I don't feel safe at night, someone followed me home once.
- A lot of cars that park on street have alley access to garages. They feel the alley are not safe or want the convenience of being parked right in front of their homes.
- St. Mary Magdalene does have blinking cross walks.
- First alley north of Sullivant Ave is horrible. People are propositioned there. The corner opposite Massey's pizza at Sullivant Ave and Binns Blvd has had trouble (tattoo parlor shooting, the shooter knew someone in the tattoo parlor). Sullivant is not safe in general.
- Broad Street is the National Historic Road, it should be revitalized-especially between Hague and South Hampton.
- Intersections around Rec Center-particularly Wicklow Rd and Westgate Ave and Parkside Rd and Westgate Ave are very wide, and do not always have crosswalks.
- Ornamental lighting gives poor light and are intermittently spaced-a different type of bulb is needed. Street feels dark unless you are under a light.

This report will be used to create walking maps through the neighborhood. The 1, 3, and 5 mile 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 Christine Godward, Healthy Places Coordinator at 645-5318 or CLGodward@columbus.gov

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Addendum**

Route Walked
All Pictures

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Pictures of Westgate Walk (explanation of pictures below)



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Explanation: Westgate Walk pictures

Pictures	Explanation
1	Westgate and Wicklow intersection in front of Westgate Alternative Elementary School
2	Same as above, walkers reported cars do not yield and teachers must monitor the intersections in the morning
3	Crosswalk in front of school adjacent to above intersection
4	Sidewalks on the Westgate Rec Center property. The Rec Center, Westgate Alternative and St. Mary Magdalene schools have sidewalks but the rest of the neighborhood does not.
5	Intersection of Wicklow and S. Huron, Huron is a major drop off point for parents driving. This intersection is well marked but cars did not always yield
6	Same as above; the sidewalk does not continue, children must walk in the street to school
7	Westgate Alternative has sidewalks on the perimeter
8	Wicklow Road, no sidewalks and a heavily traveled street for school children
9	Intersection of Wicklow Rd and Binns Blvd
10	Same as above, crosswalks are worn, this is two blocks from Westgate Alternative and St. Mary Magdalene
11	Wicklow Ave east of Roys Ave, this road leads to the Library
12	Crosswalks on Wicklow in front of St. Mary Magdalene school
13	Same as above

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14	Walkers talked about cars parking on both sides of the street-this makes it difficult for families to walk or ride their bikes
15	Roundabout at Roys Ave and Fremont St. Fremont is another route used by school children
16	Walkers did not feel safe because cars do not watch and the road narrows on the west side of the roundabout
17	A neighbor maintains the garden in the roundabout
18	West side of the roundabout leading to Fremont St
19	South of Fremont on Roys Ave, the cars are parked on both sides of the street
20	South on Binns from Fremont St, pedestrian scale lighting is aesthetic and compliments the neighborhood, however, neighbors report the bulbs used are not bright and between the lights is very dark.
21	Binns looking north to Parkside Rd; Binns has a beautiful median just north of Sullivant
22	Alley behind Massey's Pizza, first alley north of Sullivant on Binns; neighbors report this alley has crime including prostitution
23	Massey's Pizza, a locally owned business
24	Binns Blvd
25	Intersection of Westgate and Parkside Rd; this intersection is very wide and neighbors do not feel safe. This intersection is adjacent to the Rec Center and does not have sidewalks on three sides and nor crosswalks.
26	Same
27	Same