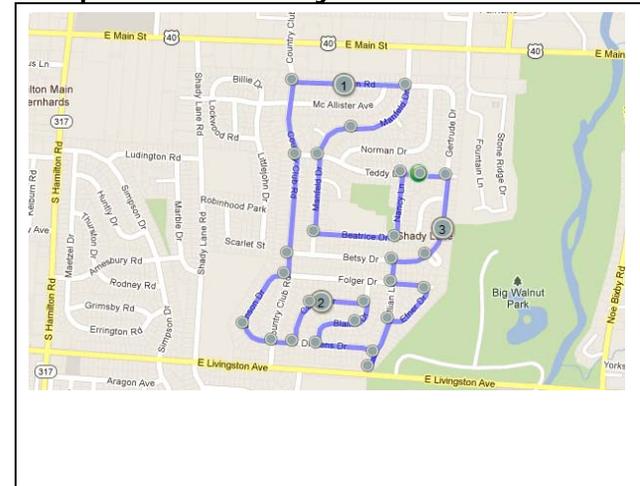


**Study Information**

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

**Map of Area Surveyed**



**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.

**Playability/Recreation**

**Playgrounds where these conditions were observed:**

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.	
Unsafe 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
		Few				Many

**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.



**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.



**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.

**Housing & Aesthetics**

**Streets and addresses where these conditions were observed:**

Houses are well-kept and yards are mowed.

Old growth trees lining the streets 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 environment in your neighborhood

**Rating:** (bold one)

1

2

**3**

4

5

Few

Many

**Photos:**



**Broken windows on vacant houses**



**Patches cover where there was graffiti in the street**



**Many homes with very overgrown lawns or hedges**



**Private fence broken by children waiting at the COTA bus stop with no seating**

**Healthy Places  
Be Healthy, Stay Safe**

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

			
<p><b>Vacant disrupts an otherwise pleasant street</b></p>	<p><b>Garbage on the lawn</b></p>	<p><b>Graffiti-marked tree</b></p>	<p><b>Scariest house in the neighborhood, fell victim to arson and flooding by vandals</b></p>
			
<p><b>Houses of suspected criminal activity</b></p>	<p><b>Unpleasant feeling path connection to school</b></p>	<p><b>Vans usually parked on the lawn – were cited in another location</b></p>	<p><b>Vacant home is the first thing you see when you enter the pride area is at Manfield and Justin</b></p>
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>			

