



# FACILITATION GUIDE: WALK RADIUS MAP

PARTICIPATORY MAPPING ACTIVITY THAT DEMONSTRATES KEY DESTINATIONS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

**Activity Type:** Understand

**Participant Audience:** Residents, Organizational Partners, Researchers

## Objectives

Five to ten minutes is considered the amount of time that a traveller would almost always choose walking over other modes of transportation. The Walk Radius Map gives us a picture, from our focus areas, of how many places you can get to in these time intervals and how far you can go on the established sidewalks/paths.



## Using the Tool

### Materials needed

1. Participant handout (includes basemap, instructions, and note taking portion, see sample materials). To create your own basemaps, refer to 'How to Create a Basemap' guide on [participatoryplanning.ca](http://participatoryplanning.ca).
2. Clipboards
3. Pens/pencils
4. Timer (phone or watch)

### Facilitation Process

1. Pick 1-2 central spots within the neighbourhood as starting points. Meet with a group at the starting point.
2. Instruct participants to walk ten minutes at a standard pace, following a common route. Split participants up to have them fan out in different directions.
  - Instruct participants to mark a spot on their map for where they end up after 5 minutes of walking, and again after 10 minutes.
3. After 10 minutes, participants should begin to walk back along the same route. They should mark the route on the map as they go, and observe and record any key destinations they pass (such as shops, restaurants, parks, public art, schools, medical offices, or more).
  - To record the destinations, put a number on the map at the location of the destination, and use the back of the sheet to record the name of the destination that corresponds with the number.
4. Meet back at the starting point. If all directions/routes were not covered in the initial walk, give participants a clean recording sheet and repeat the process along a different route.
5. Compile all of the data: Map the routes, and the 5 minute end-points and 10 minute end-points on a digital map. Draw radii connecting all of the 5 minute points, and all of the 10 minute points.



**Tip:** Try this activity during different weather conditions to see if icy sidewalks or other weather factors limit the walk radius.



**Tip:** You can pair this with the Empathy Walk and imagine how the walk radius might be impacted by mobility limitations.



Sample Materials

- Participant handout given out in Peterborough (via GreenUP and TCAT)

**WHERE CAN YOU WALK IN 5 OR 10 MINUTES?  
 HELP US CREATE A WALK RADIUS MAP!**



**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!**

- Start at one of the two locations starred on the map to the left. Circle the location you start from.
- Choose a direction to walk, start a timer, and walk for 10 minutes at a standard pace along a prominent walking route. Mark where you end up in 5 minutes, and again at 10 minutes.
- Begin to walk back along the same route. Mark the route on the map as you go, and observe and record any key destinations you pass (such as shops, restaurants, parks, public art, schools, medical offices, or more). To record the destinations, put a number on the map at the location of the destination, and use the back of this sheet to record the name of the destination that corresponds with the number.
- Return to the original spot, and repeat the activity, travelling in a different direction. Use a fresh recording sheet.



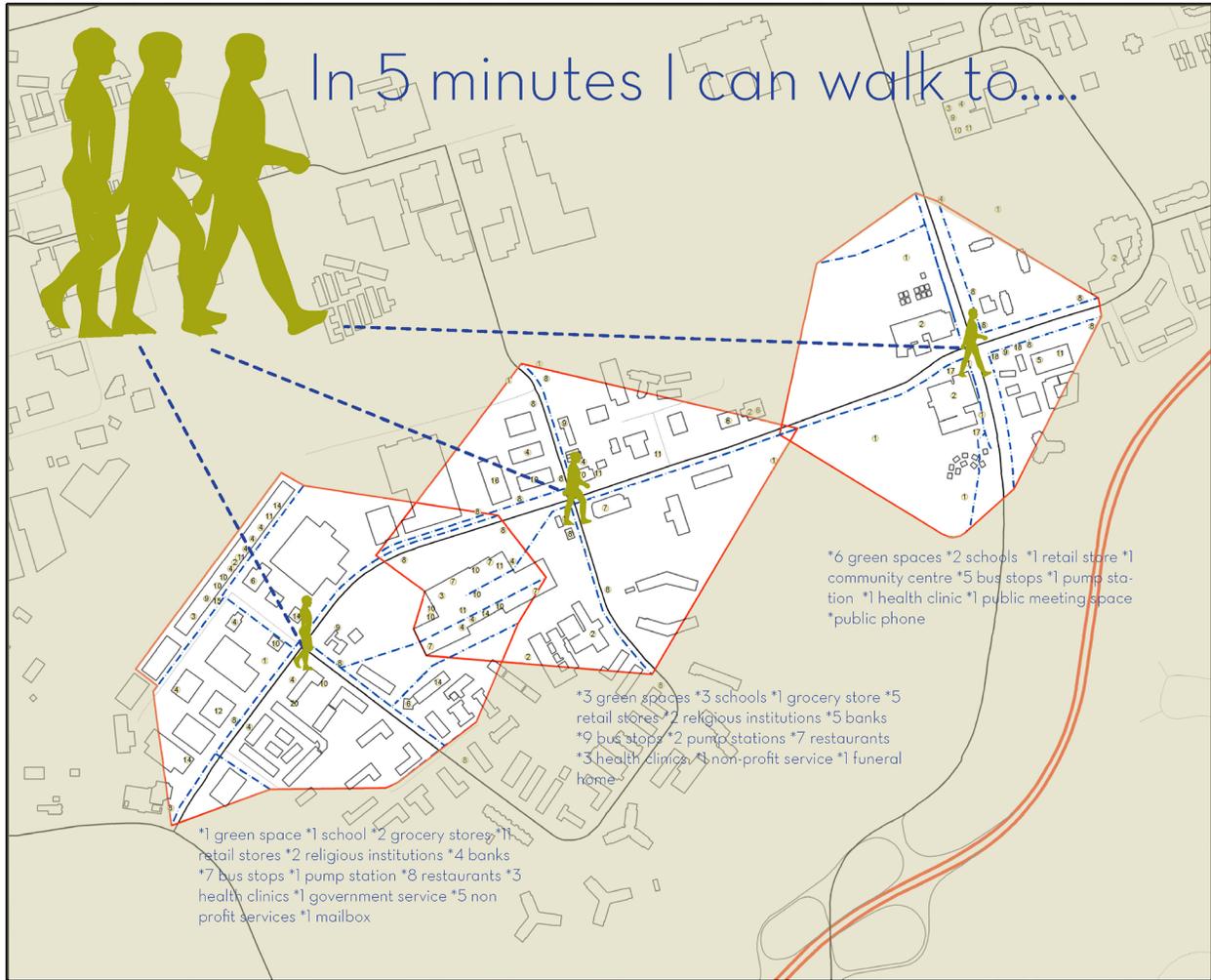
NEIGHBOURPLAN

**KEY DESTINATIONS I PASSED:**

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

**OTHER OBSERVATIONS:**

2. Sample tool output from Toronto (via TCAT)

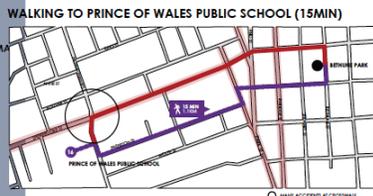
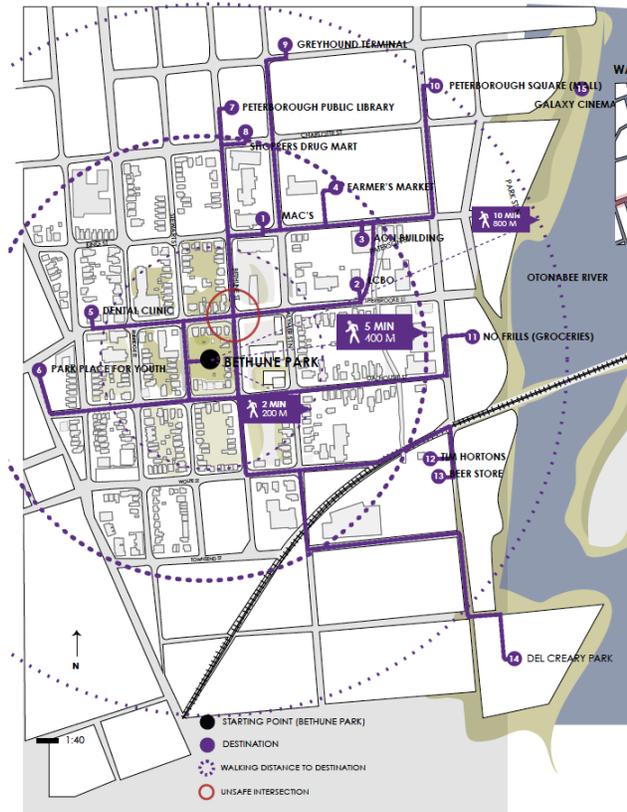


3. Sample tool output from Peterborough (via TCAT and GreenUP)

2-5-10 minute walk map

This map explores travel times and recorded experiences along routes from the residential centre of the neighbourhood

to selected important destinations. This map both shows that there are an impressive amount of important destinations within walking distance, though there are many areas that feel unsafe due to lacking infrastructure such as poor lighting, or a lack of assisted crossings on busy arterials, such as at George and Dalhousie Streets.



"This walk has no traffic lights. You have to cross Rubridge St and Park St which are very busy. One on Patterson you have to cross Monaghan Rd to get to the school. If there are no crossing guards it is near impossible - the lights at Sherbrooke are not safe - often speeders, and blind spots. It is a crosswalk with many accidents."

**SITTING SPACES**  
 "AON has benches, MAC's has stairs people often sit on. In Farmer's Market area there are no benches but planters are large so people sit on those"



**TRAIN BRIDGE**  
 "If in the day or with a group, we always take Wolfe St to train bridge, crossing Alymer St with no lights. Train bridge is poorly lit and scary. Also a popular drinking spot."



**SPARSE LIGHTING**  
 "The lighting on the outskirts of Sowntown is sparse - especially in the park and on Bethune St - better lighting once you are on Alymer St N and Charlotte St"



**BETHUNE ST. NEAR PARK ENTRANCE**  
 "Most of these walks include crossing Sherbrooke St and Bethune St, a busy road with no traffic lights."

**ALYMER ST**  
 "In order to get to the Greyhound, Shoppers, and the Library, we cut through the AON building because Alymer's sidewalk is small and sidewalks feel unsafe"



○ ALYMER ST. & DALHOUSIE ST.

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