

Neighbourhood Assessment Walk



Activity Guidelines:

Complete communities work well for **everyone** – this means that:

- People of **all** ages, backgrounds, needs and abilities can live, work, shop, learn and play in their neighbourhood.
- Things that are important for people are a 10-minute walk, or a 5-minute bike-ride away, although some may also require a short commute by car or bus.

Think about your neighbourhood and how you move around it: Are there things close by? Can you walk or bike to them safely? Or do you have to drive to get to the places you want to go? Are there lots of busy roads or quiet streets? Think about where you can go by yourself, and where you need your parents/guardians to take you. It's important to think about how your neighbourhood can affect you, and your health. Your answers to these questions can show how complete your community is and what changes might improve completeness!

Activity Goal:

The City of Vancouver is planning the future and would like to know more about how kids and teens experience their city. The plan's ten goals aim to make our city more just (equitable, inclusive and fair), more green (sustainable for people and the environment), and more fun (a happy and healthy place to grow up and live).

The Neighbourhood Assessment Walk was designed so kids and teens like you can give us a 'visual tour' of your community and show city planners your perspectives on what works well and what needs changing.

The activity takes about two hours in total - 30 minutes to get ready, and 1.5 hours of walking and recording your ideas. You can explore the neighbourhood around your school, or your home (or you can explore any neighbourhood you want)!

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Young Planners Map: Whether or not you have the chance to go on an actual ‘tour’ to assess your neighbourhood, you can provide feedback on our [Young Planners Map](#). If you are going on the walk, add your ideas to the map after your neighbourhood assessment, or during if you have a smartphone with access to data.

Getting Ready: You can begin this activity by first mapping out your favourite places or things to do, or maybe you prefer to be more spontaneous and just head straight out for an hour-long walk along whatever route you want.

Pre-Mapping (optional):

1. Think of the things you enjoy doing outside of your home:
 - After school hours
 - On weekends
 - Winter break
 - Spring Break
 - Summer break
2. Circle the activities that take place within a 10 - 15 minute (maximum) walk from your home (or school, or wherever you might be starting your walk from).
3. Find the circled activities’ location on Google Maps (or you can use a paper map).

Things to bring: Phone, camera, mask, rain gear, water and snacks!



Optional:

- A household member to accompany you (parent, sibling) if that helps you be safe.
- If you want to bring a friend, be sure to check [Dr Henry’s advice](#) (see “Activities allowed under the order”) first, and wear a mask!
- A clip-board or note-book to take notes or sketch out ideas.

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The Walk! (or bike or roll): If you completed the mapping activity: Head out with the goal of visiting the mapped places within a 10-15 minute walk of your home. If you don't think you'll have time for all of them, select 3 - 4 of your favourites and at least one spot that you use, but think could be improved for kids and teens.

If you didn't complete the optional mapping activity: Head out to a place you like to visit or spend time in your neighbourhood (Maybe you go there before/after school, on weekends, or during winter, spring or summer break). Try to visit 4-5 of these places around your neighbourhood, but make sure they are no more than a 10-15 minute walk away from your home (or wherever you are starting your walking from).

On your way to, and at each location:

- Take pictures of things you like and want the city to keep (or have more of)
- Take pictures of things you dislike or that need to be changed to work for people.
- Optional: note why you like or dislike each space and any ideas on how to change it.

Things to think about: how each space is **Just – Green – Fun**

- Is it?
- How would you make it more just, more green, more fun?

Young Planners Map: After (or during) the walk

- Go to the [Young Planners Map](#) site
- Pin each location where you took photos. Use a 'Happy face' for the places you liked, and the 'Not-so-happy' pin for places you'd change.
- Upload photos and comments: like why do you like this space, or why and how would you change it?

Optional:

- You can make designs or sketches of your changes for a space and upload them!
- You can look for great examples of public spaces around the world and add them in the map as recommendations on what Vancouver could do to improve the space.
- Or, you can upload images of your student projects to the map as recommendations for redesign.
- If you don't want to share things on the map you can email your ideas to the Vancouver Plan team at stina.hanson@vancouver.ca

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