



# Neighbourhood Design

In this activity you will measure distances from your school to public places in your community and then evaluate how safely you and other community members can travel to these locations.

## Mapping

→Materials required: pencil, paper, compass, and a city map with a scale

1. List 10 public places you visit in your community regularly (examples: swimming pool, library, town hall, grocery store).
2. On a photocopied city map with a scale label each of these 10 places.
3. Look at the scale on your map. Use a compass to measure **1 kilometre**.
4. Stick the point of the compass on your school and use the compass pencil to draw a circle around the school. Every point on your circle is 1 kilometre away from your school. Everything inside that circle is 1 kilometre or less away from your school.
5. Using the scale, change the compass so it measures 2 kilometres. Put the point of your compass on the school and draw a 2 kilometre circle. Draw circles for 3, 4, and 5 kilometres if possible.



## Walking

→Materials required: paper, pencil.

1. In a small group select one of the closer mapped locations to travel to. You will need a teacher or parent to travel with you.
2. Each person in the group must play a role. Suggestions: a mother pushing a stroller, a person in a wheelchair, a blind person with a guide dog, a dad walking with three-year-old triplets, or a senior citizen carrying groceries.
3. As your group walks to your destination, identify and record the issues/dangers that the person you are "playing" might experience.
4. When you return, meet with other students who were playing the same role as you and answer the following questions:
  - On a scale of 1 (easiest) - 10 (hardest) rate if it was easy or hard to make your trip. Explain your rating.
  - Name one improvement you would suggest to your mayor or town planners to make your trip easier.
  - How do you normally travel to this location - by walking, bicycle, bus or car? How safe is it to walk or bicycle there?
  - Look at the place on your map farthest away from your school. How do you normally travel to that destination?
  - Do you think you live in a walkable community? How many places do you walk to? Support your answer with examples from the map and your walking trip.
  - What would you change to make your community more walkable and cyclable?



This resource was produced for the **iwalk/iwheel club**, an initiative of Green Communities | Active and Safe Routes to School