

# Trail Community Walking Assessment

Trail and Community Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Instructions:

1. Break into small groups of 2-3 people and spend the allotted time completing this walking assessment to the best of your ability. If you are not very familiar with the community, join a group that is. They will learn from your perspective!
2. Typically, participants are given 60-90 minutes to walk both the downtown area and the local trail access. Some groups enjoy biking, but walking allows a unique vantage point.
3. If you are unable to walk or ride, please complete the assessment per your discretion. Everyone's feedback is valued and needed in this process.
4. While you are encouraged to move around in groups, each person participating should complete their own form with their own unique responses.
5. While completing the assessment is important, don't let this be just an assessment exercise. Take the time to really notice your surroundings. What do you appreciate? What can work better in service of the community?
- 6. If you are familiar with the community, it is important to imagine yourself as a first-time visitor and what your first impressions might be.**
7. Upon completion of the assessment, be prepared to turn in your assessment form (your responses are needed to identify trends) and to participate in a debrief discussion. If you are completing the form digitally via SurveyMonkey, please remember to complete the survey.
8. Have fun!

## IN TOWN

What are you noticing as you walk throughout town? What are you noticing about the business district, about your surroundings, about how you feel in the space?

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Check one

<b>Overall Impressions:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>
Does the business district feel distinct or special?			
Does the community look and feel like a “trail town” or a place that appreciates trails and its outdoor assets?			
Does the community feel safe?			
Is a walk through the business district generally a pleasant experience?			
Is there a gateway point to enter/leave town (e.g. a piece of art; mural; sign)?			
Are business signs clearly visible and well-designed?			
<b>Buildings and Storefronts:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>
Are the structures in overall good condition?			
Are storefronts well maintained (attractive displays, clean windows, flower boxes, etc.)?			
Are there enough benches in public spaces?			
Are the sidewalks swept and kept neat and free of debris?			
Are there bike racks near businesses and public spaces?			
<b>Safety:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>
Are sidewalks in good shape?			
Are crosswalks well-marked?			
As a pedestrian, do you feel safe crossing the street?			

**AVAILABLE BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES (Check one per line)**

	<b>Widely Available</b>	<b>Available</b>	<b>Limited Availability</b>	<b>Not Available</b>
Traditional indoor lodging (hotel, B&B, etc.)				
Private rentals (Airbnb, VRBO, etc.)				
Camping				
Bike rental (or bike share)				
Bike shop/repair				
Other businesses offering basic bike repair tools/parts				
Bike repair stations (self-serve, free)				
Outfitter/shop selling outdoor clothing and gear				
Guides who lead outdoor-related trips and activities				
Businesses that cater to motorized trail users				

Adapted from the Trail Towns Assessment (developed by the Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy) and the Appalachian Trail Community Program Application

Bait shop and/or places for hunting and fishing gear				
Restaurants				
Coffee shop				
Bakery				
Bar/craft brewery				
Grocery store				
Farmers market				
Pharmacy/medical facility				
Library/computer/internet				
Visitor or welcome center				
Post office				
Public restroom				
ATMs				
Laundry				
Shuttle services				
Public transportation				
Taxi or car rental				
Active ride share community (Lyft, Uber)				
Trail souvenirs				
Bike racks (ideally, they should support the full weight of the bike, not just the front wheel)				
Trailhead parking				
Chamber of Commerce				
Main Street organization				
A relatively current community comprehensive plan				
Other local organizations & resources in support of trails				

What’s working well in the community (best practices, attractions, locals’ favorite spots, partnerships and collaborations, etc.) that may not have been covered in the questions above?

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What’s working well in nearby trail communities?

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## ON THE TRAIL

What are you noticing as you walk this section of trail? What are you noticing about the trail, about your surroundings, about how you feel in the space?

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*Check one*

<b>Trail Access / Trailhead:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>
<b>General:</b>			
Does this part of the trail feel distinct or special?			
Is there a gateway point to enter/leave the trail at this location (e.g. a piece of art or a welcome sign)?			
Does the trail at this location (including trailhead amenities) seem accessible?			
<b>Signage:</b>			
Is there adequate signage for motorists to find the trail from town?			
Is there signage that accommodates pedestrians and cyclists?			
Is there adequate signage from the trail leading to the town?			
Is there an informational kiosk at the trail access that includes a map and info about both the trail and the community?			
Is there interpretive information at the access area?			
<b>Amenities:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>
Are there toilet facilities available to the public?			
Are there picnic tables, pavilions, or shelters?			
Are there bike racks (ideally, they should support the full weight of the bike, not just the front wheel)?			
Are there trash receptacles near the trail entrance?			
Is there cell phone reception?			
<b>General Access Between Trail and Town:</b>			
How long might it take to bike to the nearest business services?	<b>In Minutes</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>

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Is there a walking or bicycling connection between the business district and the trail?			
Is it easy and safe for people to bike or walk between this trail access and business services? Consider elevation changes, signage, sidewalks, bike lanes, and vehicular traffic.			
Does there seem to be an “invitation” into town (signs, art, connector trails, or some other “compelling offer”)?			
From town, does there seem to be an “invitation” to the trail?			
<b>Engaging Residents:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>
Does it seem that residents use and value the trail?			
Are there plans for engaging <i>every</i> demographic in connecting to and using the trail?			
<b>Engaging Visitors:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Somewhat / Maybe</b>
Are local ambassadors (shopkeepers, residents, etc.) knowledgeable and enthusiastic about their community?			
Are local ambassadors (shopkeepers, residents, etc.) knowledgeable and enthusiastic about trails & the outdoors?			
Do business owners and other locals exhibit warm hospitality and exceptional customer service?			

What is working well about the trail at this location?

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Is there anything else you want to share?

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