



# Confederation Suburban Centre Overview

The Confederation Suburban Centre is bordered by Circle Drive, W.A. Reid Park, Pedygrasse Road, Clancy Drive, Farimont Drive, Fairlight Drive, Diefenbaker Drive, Laurier Drive, Confederation Drive, and Charlottetown Park. The Confederation Suburban Centre was designed under the First Community Planning Scheme, which was in effect from 1966-1982. This was Saskatoon's first comprehensive neighbourhood plan that sought to design neighbourhoods as independent communities. As such, each neighbourhood was required to develop around a school site and neighbourhood park, and park space became standardized at 10 acres per 1000 people. Commercial types became distributed into neighbourhood and suburban centre uses. Core neighbourhoods became the focus for high density and mixed-use while suburban neighbourhoods became primarily single-family residential. Confederation Suburban Centre primarily has commercial uses designed to serve the commercial needs of its surrounding neighbourhoods.



*Confederation Mall welcome sign*



*This poorly defined crosswalk is difficult for motorists to notice*

## Safety

We rated each neighbourhood according to the presence or absence of certain neighbourhood elements that increase or detract from a feeling of personal security. Observing both the physical and social characteristics of the neighbourhood, security was measured both in terms of traffic and crime. These ratings suggest whether safety concerns affect an individual's related active living decisions in their neighbourhood.

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Confederation Suburban Centre rated **6.04** for Safety from Traffic, below Saskatoon's average rating of **6.06**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Confederation Suburban Centre rated **7.09** for Safety from Crime, below Saskatoon's average rating of **8.46**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Confederation Park rated **3.25** for Safety, below Saskatoon's average rating of **3.81**. (NALP)

The Confederation Suburban Centre's safety ratings suggest that pedestrian and vehicular travel areas are fairly well defined and relatively safe to navigate but there are some elements that reduce feelings of personal security. For example, some intersections are marked for pedestrian crossing, through many streets have high traffic levels. In terms of safety from crime, the constant presence of people provides plenty of opportunities for casual surveillance of the street. However, the perception of personal security is reduced by a large amount of graffiti and several concealed spaces that could be used for lurking.



*Graffiti*

# Destinations

We rated each neighbourhood according to the number, diversity, and density of its destinations. These ratings suggest whether destinations in a neighbourhood can motivate deliberate, localized active living choices by providing a place to go and a means to interact with others.

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Confederation Park rated **8.00** for Diversity of Destinations, above Saskatoon's average rating of **6.26**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Confederation Park rated **3.44** for Density of Destinations, below Saskatoon's average rating of **3.92**. (NALP)



*A Strip Mall*

The Confederation Suburban Centre's destination ratings suggest that there are many destinations of a wide variety. For example, observed destinations in the Confederation Suburban Centre include fitness and leisure centre, a library, churches, a medical clinic, banks, gas stations, restaurants and pubs, shopping centres, grocery stores, and a wide variety of retail and professional services.

# Activity Friendliness

We rated the activity friendliness of each neighbourhood based on specific features that encourage or present barriers to an active lifestyle. These ratings suggest whether a neighbourhood assists or limits the opportunities for physical activities such as walking, cycling, or skateboarding.



*Features such as this large sign and parking lot are oriented more towards vehicles than pedestrians*

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Confederation Park rated **5.38** for Pedestrian Access, above Saskatoon's average rating of **5.08**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Confederation Park rated **3.84** for Activity Friendliness, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.67**. (NALP)



*No defined pedestrian area where pedestrians frequently travel*



*There is no defined pedestrian area in this parking lot*

These activity friendliness ratings suggest that the Confederation Suburban Centre has both supports and obstructions for pedestrians. For example, most streets have a least one sidewalk, and when present, sidewalks are in fair condition. However, heavy traffic limits the route choices for cyclists. Further, there is a lack of clearly defined pedestrian areas near the shopping centres and other destinations; these areas are much more oriented toward vehicular travel.

## Attractiveness



*Public art*

We rated each neighbourhood based on specific features that could potentially increase or decrease the attractiveness of the neighbourhood. This rating suggests whether the level of attractiveness for each neighbourhood itself can encourage or discourage individuals to participate in an active lifestyle.

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Confederation Park rated **4.13** for Attractiveness, below Saskatoon's average rating of **4.80**. (IMI)

The Confederation Suburban Centre's attractiveness rating suggests that both attractive and unattractive features are present in the neighbourhood. For example, some store facades are faded and in disrepair. Litter was frequently observed throughout the area. Several wide open parking lots are dull, negative spaces that are beyond human scale and leave pedestrians exposed to the elements. However, some landscaping and public art considerably increase the attractiveness of the area.

## Universal Access

We rated the universal accessibility of each neighbourhood according to the presence or absence of specific features that help or prevent safe movement for those with mobility, visual, or hearing impairments. These ratings suggest whether people with reduced mobility are able to travel in the neighbourhood safely without assistance.



*Curb cut*



*The cut out in the boulevard provides universal access, though its location is unsafe*

- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Confederation Park rated **1.00** for Universal Accessibility, below Saskatoon's average rating of **2.19**. (NALP)

This universal accessibility rating indicates that the Confederation Suburban Centre has some elements that enable safe movement for those with reduced mobility. For example, some sidewalks are mountable, and there are curb cuts present at many observed intersections. Further, some of the observed pedestrian crossings are adapted for individuals with visual or hearing

**The principal investigator for this project is Nazeem Muhajarine, PhD. For a complete list of contributing researchers, partner organizations, project staff, and more information, please visit our website: [www.smartcitieshealthykids.com](http://www.smartcitieshealthykids.com)**

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