

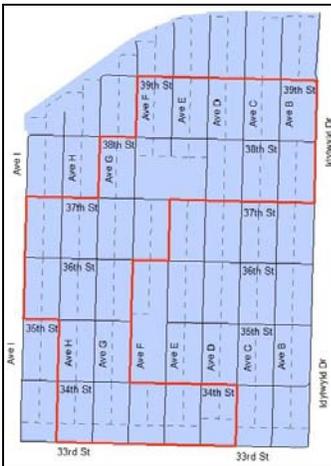
Mayfair



The **Smart Cities, Healthy Kids** research project looks for solutions to childhood obesity by investigating how neighbourhood design affects children's ability to be physically active. Research suggests that safety from traffic and crime, the presence of destinations and built features supporting an active lifestyle (eg. parks, playgrounds, and bike lanes), a neighbourhood's attractiveness, and its accessibility are all very important in determining whether people will be active there. To determine which Saskatoon neighbourhood designs are the most supportive of active living, researchers walked each neighbourhood in Saskatoon in the summer months of 2009/2010, collecting data on these areas using two research surveys: the Neighbourhood Active Living Potential (NALP) and the Irvine-Minnesota Inventory (IMI).



Mayfair in Saskatoon

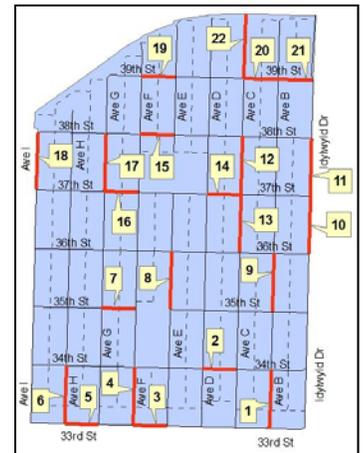


NALP Route Map

NALP consists of 22 items within four areas: Activity Friendliness, Safety, Density of Destinations, and Universal Accessibility. Using this method, observers rated each item on a 6-point scale after walking a pre-defined route in each neighbourhood that connected 10 randomly-selected street segments. The route, typically 4 to 5 kilometres in length, is shown in red on the map.

IMI consists of a 229-item inventory of neighbourhood features within five areas: Attractiveness, Diversity of

Destinations, Pedestrian Access, Safety from Traffic, and Safety from Crime. Twenty percent of street segments in each neighbourhood were randomly selected and observed. Each segment is the two facing sides of a street block and is indicated by a numbered flag on the map.



IMI Segments Map

The NALP tool is more subjective in nature and takes into account the impression of the entire neighbourhood based on the systematic observations of the researchers. In contrast, the IMI is more objective in nature and is based on observations of each individual segment. The following report will discuss how the characteristics of Mayfair compare to Saskatoon neighbourhoods in general.

Smart Cities Healthy Kids

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Mayfair Overview

Mayfair is bordered by Idylwyld Drive, 33rd Street, Avenue I, and Circle Drive.

Mayfair was developed under the Yorath Plan, which was in effect from 1913-1930. This plan was the first growth plan for Saskatoon with a city-wide focus. It identified general areas for residential, industrial, and greenspace, although neighbourhoods with discrete boundaries were not yet identified. As such, there was little consideration for localized neighbourhood facilities, such as schools, community centres, leisure facilities, or park space. Rather, development was focused on grand, city-wide initiatives that would improve the image and quality of urban life at the time. Over time, Mayfair has evolved into a more defined neighbourhood including schools, park space, and other amenities and places of interest.



Mayfair street view

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.



A cement and tree buffer separates the sidewalk from the roadway

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Mayfair rated **5.76** for Safety from Traffic, below Saskatoon's average rating of **6.06**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Mayfair rated **7.36** for Safety from Crime, below Saskatoon's average rating of **8.46**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Mayfair rated **4.13** for Safety, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.81**. (NALP)



Well marked pedestrian crossing

Mayfair's safety ratings suggest that pedestrian and vehicle areas are fairly well defined and easy to safely navigate and that there are few elements that reduce feelings of personal security. For example, many streets had moderate to high traffic levels. Some high traffic intersections included crosswalks or other safety measures for pedestrians, but there were places where better consideration for the safety of pedestrians was necessary. Many streets have grass or cement buffer strips separating the sidewalk from the roadway, but other streets were missing sidewalks altogether. In terms of safety from crime, a low amount of graffiti and plenty of

opportunities for casual surveillance of the street by home owners contributes to the perception of personal security. However, in some areas, we observed many poorly maintained homes and spaces concealed by bushes or in alleyways that could be used for lurking.

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, Mayfair rated **10.00** for Diversity of Destinations, well above Saskatoon's average rating of **6.26**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Mayfair rated **5.06** for Density of Destinations, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.92**. (NALP)



33rd Street Commercial Area



Mayfair Public Library

Mayfair's destination ratings suggest that there are some destinations of a wide variety. For example, observed destinations in Mayfair include a school, a park, playing fields, an outdoor water park, a library, and commercial areas along 33rd Street and Idylwyld Drive including a variety of restaurants, retail stores, hotels, entertainment, and professional services.



Mayfair Community School

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.

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Mayfair rated **4.81** for Pedestrian Access, below Saskatoon's average rating of **5.08**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Mayfair rated **4.33** for Activity Friendliness, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.67**. (NALP)



Path through a playground

These activity friendliness ratings suggest that Mayfair has both supports and obstructions for pedestrians. For example, grid street patterns provide route choice and easy access for pedestrians and cyclists, though many streets were missing sidewalks. Sidewalks that were present were in fair condition, though tree roots caused some sidewalks to lift unevenly. Narrow streets with street parking can prove difficult for cyclists, but bike parking located at some of the destinations considerably increased bike friendliness.

Attractiveness

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, Mayfair rated **4.73** for Attractiveness, below Saskatoon's average rating of **4.80**. (IMI)



A.H. Browne Park

Mayfair's attractiveness rating suggests the absence of some attractive features and the presence of some unattractive features. For example, large street trees are present on most streets and they provide shade for the pedestrians on the sidewalks. Sidewalk amenities, such as benches and well-kept garbage cans, were absent from the neighbourhood except in the parks. Some architectural variety, pleasant landscaping, and A.H Browne park considerably increase the attractiveness of the neighbourhood.

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.

- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Mayfair rated **1.83** for Universal Accessibility, below Saskatoon's average rating of **2.19**. (NALP)



Curb cut

This universal accessibility rating indicates that Mayfair has few elements that enable safe movement for those with reduced mobility. For example, few sidewalks in Mayfair are mountable, though there are curb cuts at many intersections. Further, few of the observed pedestrian crossings are adapted for individuals with visual or hearing impairments.

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

If you have any further questions about the project, please contact our research co-ordinator tracy.ridalls@usask.ca or call 966-2237.