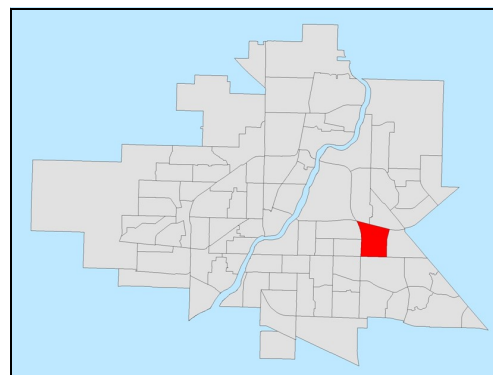


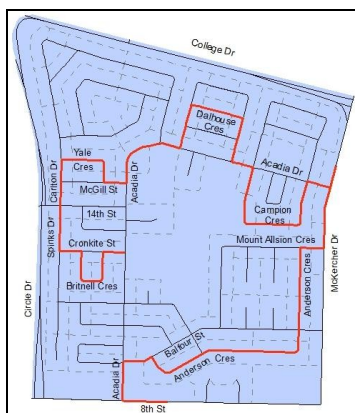
College Park



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).



College Park in Saskatoon

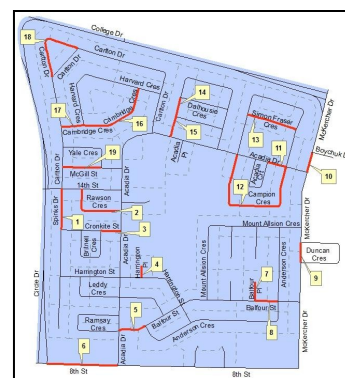


NALP Route Map

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 College Park compare to Saskatoon neighbourhoods in general.

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 4-5 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

Smart Cities Healthy Kids

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College Park Overview

College Park is bordered by College Drive, McKercher Drive, 8th Street, and Circle Drive.

College Park was designed under the First Community Planning Scheme, which was in effect between 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. As a suburban neighbourhood, College Park is primarily residential, though it has access to a considerable amount of commercial uses located along 8th Street.



College Park streetview



Well marked pedestrian crossings

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, College Park rated **5.70** for Safety from Traffic, below Saskatoon's average rating of **6.06**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, College Park rated **8.34** for Safety from Crime, below Saskatoon's average rating of **8.46**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, College Park rated **4.00** for Safety, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.81**. (NALP)

College Park's safety ratings suggest that pedestrian and vehicular travel areas are fairly well defined and safe to navigate and that there are only few elements that reduce feelings of personal security. For example, while many streets had heavy traffic levels, pedestrian crosswalks were in place where most needed. In terms of safety from crime, well maintained homes, plenty of opportunities for casual surveillance of the street by home owners, and a low amount of graffiti all contribute to the perception of personal security. However, we observed a number of spaces in alleyways, or concealed by bushes, that could be used for lurking.



Although this pedestrian crossing is well marked, the width of the street makes it difficult for pedestrians to cross

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.



Commercial area along 8th Street



Playground and neighbourhood park

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, College 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, College Park rated **5.00** for Density of Destinations, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.92**. (NALP)

College Park's destination ratings suggest that there are many destinations of a wide variety. For example, observed destinations in College Park include a high school, two elementary schools, and a neighbourhood park with playgrounds, playing fields, and an outdoor community pool. Further, there is a neighbourhood strip mall and a commercial area along 8th Street that includes a variety of restaurants, retail, and professional and medical 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.



Pedestrian access way

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, College Park rated **5.10** for Pedestrian Access, above Saskatoon's average rating of **5.08**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, College Park rated **3.33** for Activity Friendliness, below Saskatoon's average rating of **3.67**. (NALP)



Wide streets are supportive of cyclists

These activity friendliness ratings suggest that College Park has both supports and obstructions for pedestrians. For example, all observed streets had well maintained sidewalks on both sides of the street. Further, wide streets and bike parking at the schools increase bike friendliness. However, the layout of the streets can be confusing and difficult to navigate. Alleyways are present throughout the neighbourhood and join disconnected streets, increasing route choice for pedestrians and cyclists.

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, College Park rated **5.39** for Attractiveness, above Saskatoon's average rating of **4.80**. (IMI)



Dr. Gerhard Herzberg Park

College Park's attractiveness rating suggests that both attractive and unattractive features are present in the neighbourhood. For example, sidewalk amenities, such as benches and well-kept garbage cans, were present on some observed streets. The street trees observed on several streets provide partial shade for some of the sidewalks. Further, neighbourhood parks and pleasant landscaping 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, College Park rated **2.67** for Universal Accessibility, above Saskatoon's average rating of **2.19**. (NALP)



Curb cut

This universal accessibility rating indicates that College Park has few elements that enable safe movement for those with reduced mobility.

For example, few sidewalks in College Park are mountable, though curb cuts are present at some intersections. However, none 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.