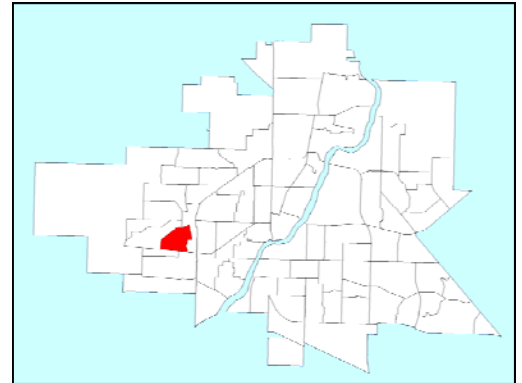


# Fairhaven



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).



*Fairhaven 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 Segments 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.

**Smart Cities Healthy Kids**

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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 Fairhaven compare to Saskatoon neighbourhoods in general.

# Fairhaven Overview

Fairhaven is bordered by Fairlight Drive, Fairmont Drive, Clancy Drive, and Pendency Road. Fairhaven 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, Fairhaven is primarily residential, with most of its commercial needs intended to be served by nearby Confederation Park Suburban Centre.



*Fairhaven street view*



*Well marked pedestrian crossing*

## 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, Fairhaven rated **5.77** for Safety from Traffic, below Saskatoon's average rating of **6.06**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Fairhaven rated **8.32** for Safety from Crime, below Saskatoon's average rating of **8.46**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Fairhaven rated **3.88** for Safety, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.81**. (NALP)

Fairhaven's safety ratings suggest that pedestrian and vehicular traffic areas are well defined and



*Pedestrian crossing with overhead illuminated sign and traffic calming features*

easy to safely navigate and that there are only few elements that reduce feelings of personal security. For example, there were crosswalks and traffic calming measures on many of the busiest streets and near schools. In terms of safety from crime, mostly well maintained homes, a low amount of graffiti, and plenty of opportunities for casual surveillance of the street by home owners all contribute to the perception of personal security. However, we observed a high number of spaces concealed by bushes or in pedestrian access ways 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.



*Convenience Store*

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Fairhaven rated **7.00** for Diversity of Destinations, above Saskatoon's average rating of **6.26**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Fairhaven rated **3.25** for Density of Destinations, below Saskatoon's average rating of **3.92**. (NALP)



*Bike route street sign*

Fairhaven's destination ratings suggest that there are few destinations of moderate variety. For example, observed destinations in Fairhaven include two schools, some churches, a convenience store, and neighbourhood park space with playgrounds and playing fields.

## 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, Fairhaven rated **4.92** for Pedestrian Access, below Saskatoon's average rating of **5.08**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Fairhaven rated **4.00** for Activity Friendliness, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.67**. (NALP)

These activity friendliness ratings suggest that Fairhaven has both supports and obstructions for pedestrians. For example, all observed streets have well maintained sidewalks on both sides of the street. Further, wide streets provide adequate room for cyclists, and bike route street signs increase bike friendliness. The street design with several crescents and culs-de-sac can limit the route choice and access for pedestrians and cyclists, though several pedestrian access ways are located throughout the neighbourhood to link otherwise disconnected streets.



*Pedestrian access ways are located throughout the neighbourhood*

## 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.



*Herbert S. Sears Park*

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Fairhaven rated **4.77** for Attractiveness, below Saskatoon's average rating of **4.80**. (IMI)

Fairhaven'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 absent from all observed streets, and litter was commonly observed. Although trees were observed on several front lawns, few were close enough to the sidewalk to provide shade for pedestrians. However, well maintained homes, the neighbourhood park, 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, Fairhaven rated **2.67** for Universal Accessibility, above Saskatoon's average rating of **2.19**. (NALP)



*Curb cut*

This universal accessibility rating indicates that Fairhaven has some elements that enable safe movement for those with reduced mobility. For example, some sidewalks in Fairhaven are mountable, and there are graded curb cuts 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](http://www.smartcitieshealthykids.com)**

**If you have any further questions about the project, please contact our research co-ordinator [tracy.ridalls@usask.ca](mailto:tracy.ridalls@usask.ca) or call 966-2237.**