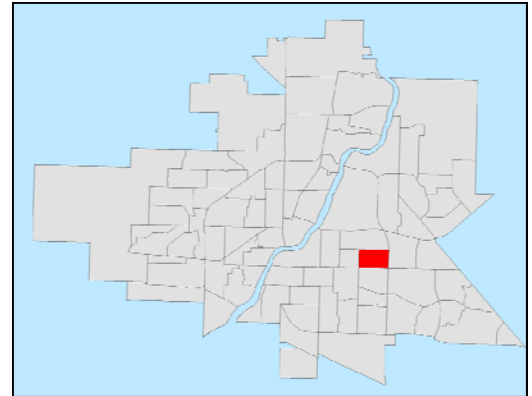




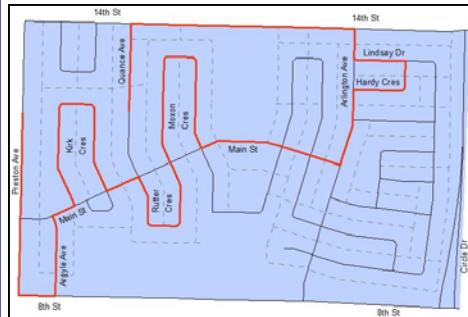
# Greystone Heights



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).



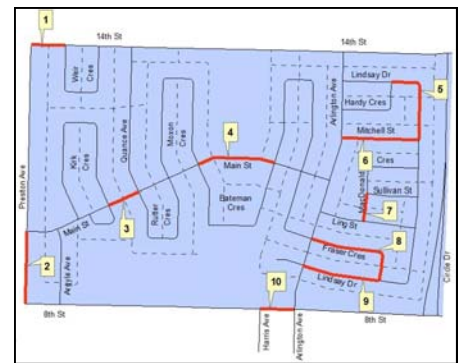
Greystone Heights in Saskatoon



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 Greystone Heights compare to Saskatoon neighbourhoods in general.

## Smart Cities Healthy Kids

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# Greystone Heights Overview

Greystone Heights is bordered by 14th Street, Circle Drive, 8th Street, and Preston Avenue.

Greystone Heights was designed under the First Zoning Bylaw, which was in effect from 1930—1966. This Bylaw marked the beginning of a formal land use classification system that separated land use types into more defined categories for the purposes of controlling land uses and protecting property values. This Bylaw also marked the beginning of a street classification system that separated volumes of traffic into classes (local, collector, and arterial). Neighbourhoods developed under the First Zoning Bylaw include early forms of curvilinear streets, where grid patterns give way to crescents linked by a collector street. Indeed, most of Greystone Heights has long, deep crescents, with a fusion of crescent and grid patterns on the eastern edge of the neighbourhood.



*Greystone Heights streetscape*

## 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.



*Well marked pedestrian crossing*

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Greystone Heights rated **6.17** for Safety from Traffic, above Saskatoon's average rating of **6.06**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Greystone Heights rated **8.87** for Safety from Crime, above Saskatoon's average rating of **8.46**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Greystone Heights rated **4.13** for Safety, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.81**. (NALP)

Greystone Heights' 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, heavy traffic streets on the periphery and through the neighbourhood have traffic calming measures and make considerations for the safety of pedestrians, particularly in the area near the school on Main Street. In terms of safety from crime, well maintained homes and an absence of graffiti contribute to the perception of safety. However, there were a high number of areas concealed by bushes and landscaping that were not visible for passive surveillance by home owners.



*Landscaping prevents casual surveillance*

# 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 strip on 8th Street*

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Greystone Heights rated **7.00** for Diversity of Destinations, above Saskatoon's average rating of **6.26**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Greystone Heights rated **4.56** for Density of Destinations, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.92**. (NALP)



*Playground*

Greystone Heights' destination ratings suggest that there are some destinations of a moderate variety. For example, observed destinations in Greystone Heights include a large neighbourhood park, a school, a paddling pool, playgrounds, churches, and a commercial strip along 8th Street with services, retail, entertainment and restaurants.



*Bike parking*

# 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, Greystone Heights rated **5.41** for Pedestrian Access, above Saskatoon's average rating of **5.08**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Greystone Heights rated **4.42** for Activity Friendliness, above Saskatoon's average rating of **3.67**. (NALP)



*Pedestrian/bicycle pathway 14th Street*

These activity friendliness ratings suggest that Greystone Heights has some supports and few obstructions for pedestrians. For example, most streets have well maintained sidewalks on both sides of the street. Although the street design with several crescents limits the route choices and access for pedestrians and cyclists, there are many pedestrian access ways and alleys throughout the neighbourhood linking disconnected streets. Wide streets providing adequate room for cyclists, bike parking located at the schools, and a separate pedestrian and cyclist path along 14th Street considerably increases bike friendliness.



*Attractive wide streetscape*

## 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, Greystone Heights rated **5.12** for Attractiveness, below Saskatoon's average rating of **4.80**. (IMI)

Greystone Heights' 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 most observed streets. However, the trees provided partial shade for some of the sidewalks. Further, well maintained homes, some architectural variety, a large neighbourhood park, and pleasant landscaping considerably increase the attractiveness of the neighbourhood.



*Graded curb cut*

## 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, Greystone Heights rated **2.00** for Universal Accessibility, below Saskatoon's average rating of **2.19**. (NALP)

This universal accessibility rating indicates that Greystone Heights has some elements that enable safe movement for those with reduced mobility. For example, although few sidewalks in Greystone Heights are mountable, curb cuts are present at the corners of many intersections. However, only one of the observed pedestrian crossings is 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.**