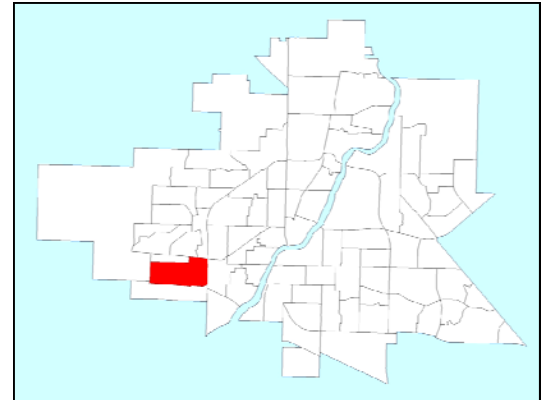


Montgomery Place



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).



Montgomery Place in Saskatoon



NALP Route Map

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.

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



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 Montgomery Place compare to Saskatoon neighbourhoods in general.

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Montgomery Place Overview

Montgomery Place is bordered by 11th Street, Dundonald Ave, Burma Road and Chappel Drive. Montgomery Place 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 often included early forms of curvilinear streets, where grid patterns give way to crescents linked by a collector street. Indeed, Montgomery Place, is composed of a mixture of grid and crescent patterned streets.



Montgomery Place 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.



School Zone near St. Dominic School

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Montgomery Place rated **4.86** for Safety from Traffic, below Saskatoon's average rating of **6.06**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Montgomery Place rated **8.15** for Safety from Crime, below Saskatoon's average rating of **8.46**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Montgomery Place rated **3.38** for Safety, below Saskatoon's average rating of **3.81**. (NALP)

Montgomery Place's safety ratings suggest that pedestrian and vehicular travel areas are somewhat defined and fairly safe to navigate and that there are few elements that reduce feelings of personal security. For example, although several observed intersections were uncontrolled and few were marked for pedestrian crossing, traffic levels were quite low, so observers felt most streets were safe to cross. However, an absence of sidewalks or a defined pedestrian area is a considerable hindrance to the safety from traffic for pedestrians, particularly children. In terms of safety from crime, well maintained homes, plenty of opportunities for casual surveillance of the street by residents, and minimal graffiti all contribute to the perception of personal security. However, we observed a high number of spaces concealed by trees or in alleyways that could be used for lurking.



Unmarked intersection

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.



Montgomery School



Corner store

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Montgomery Place rated **4.00** for Diversity of Destinations, below Saskatoon's average rating of **6.26**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Montgomery Place rated **2.56** for Density of Destinations, below Saskatoon's average rating of **3.92**. (NALP)

Montgomery Place's destination ratings suggest that there are few destinations of a limited variety. For example, observed destinations in Montgomery Place include two schools, a corner store, and two parks with playgrounds, playing fields, and a paddling pool.

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.



Playgrounds and paddling pool

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Montgomery Place rated **4.21** for Pedestrian Access, below Saskatoon's average rating of **5.08**. (IMI)
- Out of a possible highest rating of 6, Montgomery Place rated **3.17** for Activity Friendliness, below Saskatoon's average rating of **3.67**. (NALP)

These activity friendliness ratings suggest that Montgomery Place has both supports and obstructions for pedestrians. For example, sidewalks were absent from most of the streets, and there were few



Bike parking at St. Dominic School

defined pedestrian areas. Further, narrow streets can be difficult for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles to share. However, bike parking located at the schools increases bike friendliness considerably. The grid street pattern provides a wide range of route choices for pedestrians and cyclists, though misaligned streets can be challenging to navigate.

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.



Historic plaque

- Out of a possible highest rating of 10, Montgomery Place rated **4.91** for Attractiveness, above Saskatoon's average rating of **4.80**. (IMI)

Montgomery Place's attractiveness rating suggests that both attractive and unattractive features are present in the neighbourhood. For example, large street trees are present on several streets and provide shade for pedestrians. Amenities such as benches and well-kept garbage cans are present in the neighbourhood parks. An historical tribute to WWII is reflected in street and park names and plaques located throughout the neighbourhood. Further, mostly well maintained homes, architectural variety, and pleasant landscaping considerably increase the attractiveness of the neighbourhood.



Lieutenant Colonel D. Walker Park

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, Montgomery Place rated **1.00** for Universal Accessibility, below Saskatoon's average rating of **2.19**. (NALP)

This universal accessibility rating indicates that Montgomery Place has few elements that enable safe movement for those with reduced mobility. For example, there are few sidewalks or defined pedestrian areas in Montgomery Place. Therefore, because park pathways and roadways are at the same level, there are no issues ascending or descending from curbs. However, rough roadway surfaces and steep ditches could cause difficulty for people with reduced mobility.



Park paths are at the same level as roadways

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
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