

WALKABLE CITIES

Like cycling, walking is an affordable, emissions-free mode of transportation that has many co-benefits, such as improved personal health, reduced air pollution, and a stronger sense of place and community. However, in many places, streets are not safe or inviting for walking. “Walkable” cities and towns are designed to be safe and welcoming for walkers of all ages and abilities, through minimization of traffic noise and pollution and provision of adequate sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, interconnection with public transit, tree canopy, and “walk appeal.” Cities can also focus on reducing subsidies that encourage driving, such as free and abundant parking places. New approaches to city planning, such as mixed-use development (an alternative to single use zoning, in which residential and commercial areas are separates), can reduce distances traveled and make walking a more viable and enjoyable option.

- Fishery friendliness: Walking is a fishery friendly practice without any potential impacts to fishery ecosystems and resources.
- Co-benefits: Promotion of walkable cities has many co-benefits, including cost savings (individual and public), health benefits associated with exercise and fresh air, improvement to urban air quality, and public safety.
- Environmental externalities: Walking can improve air quality by taking cars off the road.
- Policy catalysts: Walkable cities can be promoted through grants to municipalities and workplaces, tax incentives to walkers and employers, reduction of incentives to drive, and mixed-use zoning.
- More information:
 - [Drawdown: Walkable cities](#)
 - [Andrews, Eve \(July 6, 2016\). “The key to fighting climate change and mortality? Walkable cities.” *Grist*.](#)
 - [Winkless, Laurie \(August 26, 2021\): “Walk this way: Why pedestrians hold the key to sustainable cities.” *Forbes*.](#)

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