

Exploratory Walks, Safety and security walks

Experiences – Examples

“This activity is usually associated with concerns about particular geographical areas and involves meeting ‘on site’ to discuss those concerns and explore ideas about how they could be addressed. Participants might be a cross-section of local people, a particular interest group or a mixed group that includes agency representatives. Ideas are developed during the walkabout and can then be communicated to the audit team. Using disposable cameras to capture information can assist groups to communicate their views and concerns to a wider audience.

The walkabout is particularly suited to looking at matters that relate to the physical environment, such as building design or street lighting, or the use of an area, for example by street drinkers, speeding traffic or youth gangs. Walking about in the location and at a time when problems are evident can be very effective in raising awareness, clarifying what is wrong, increasing engagement and developing responses. The practical nature of the process gives it a realism that local people tend to find more appealing than a meeting room, and participants seem to move naturally from problems to responses. Walkabouts have been used very effectively as part of women’s safety audits and, more generally, to assess safety issues along routes to and from transport nodes. The process should begin with clarification of objectives and methods to be used. The group then observes or walks through the area, discussing and recording points along the way. This can be made more systematic with a checklist of questions to consider, and it may be useful to repeat the process at different times, days or months, and even with different groups. (EFUS, Safety Audit, 117¹)”

Exploratory walks were created in Montreal, Canada by METRAC² as a part of preventive policies on the violence against women and children in the beginning of 1990’s. Since that the approach has been broadened into a general tool for the decision makers to gain “user knowledge” on the city, and vice versa, for the residents to pass their experiences straight to the people in charge.

Advantage of the walks is in the situational and participative approach it offers for analysing and mediating the neighbourhoods’ safety and security issues. Safety and security walks bring into focus the physical environment, street lights, litterbins, general conditions of public spaces, but also broader social aspects. The residents’ individual sense of safety and the situational angle, time of day and period for instance, are highlighted.

An analysis of Université Libre de Bruxelles on exploratory walks, pointed to the need for tools with which to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of everyday urban life. “Local politicians and people in charge lean too often on aerial views on cities and

¹ Guidance on Local Safety Audits: A Compendium of International Practice

² Metro Action Committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children

quantitative analyses rather than on the perspective from the streets³”. In Gothenburg, Sweden, safety and security walks are seen as a “soft” component to avoid so called drain pipe problem, where highly specialised organizations look after solutions but forget to look around and co-operate with other organizations in the field. According to the *Safer and more humane Gothenburg* (“Tryggare och Mänskligare Göteborg”) –program⁴, only well defined problems can be solved in an isolated space; when faced with complex social issues like crime prevention, more co-operative and multilevel approach is needed.

Exploratory walks might be conducted by the city officials, community workers or NGOs, who work at the local area, but also neighbourhood associations and the residents themselves are able to organize such walks. The essential point of the walks is to hear the residents’ views about their neighbourhoods, to democratize the process of planning and designing of areas and to empower the residents into taking care of - and being active in their neighbourhoods. Walkabouts should increase the feeling of safety and belonging to the community by finding good ways in which to use public spaces, improving areas which are problematic and by fostering citizens’ and authorities’ partnerships and trust on each other.

1.1 From feminist approach to an all inclusive safety and security tool

Exploratory walks have been used to listen and empower different groups in a planning process on safety and security issues. As the sense of safety and the threat of violence differ significantly depending on personal qualities (sex, age, culture etc.), the need of participative process in planning has been recognized. The first versions of exploratory walks were created to understand better women’s perceptions on urban safety and to empower women to “take back the streets” from the threat of harassment and insecurity. Especially the women’s fear of sexual attack in the public spaces awoke a need for a way to counter it. Subsequently, the concept of *Women’s safety audit* was initiated in Montreal, Canada, in the beginning of 1990’s. The first version of the audit tended to focus on physical environment primarily from the perspective of reducing fears of sexual attack.

At present, the original concept of women's safety audits has widened into a method not only fighting the threat of sexual attack but also of looking at all the elements affecting people's ability to share and enjoy urban areas together with their co-residents.

The original feminist approach brought with it a situational perspective on the exploratory walks. Some studies and guides on women’s exploratory walks still emphasise the inclusiveness of a women-centred view, claiming that “[i]f an area is considered safe by women, it is safe for everyone.⁵” However, most current approaches tend to be more inclusive, aiming explicitly to benefit all citizens.

³ http://www.grootstedenbeleid.be/content/what/expertise-development/knowledge-production/researches/rapport_marches_cru-1fev.pdf

⁴ http://www.tryggaremanskligare.goteborg.se/pdf/engelska/Safety_and_security_walks.pdf

⁵ http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5544_32059_WSA%20Centrum%20report.pdf

Emphasis on developing prevention strategies through partnerships between local grassroots organizations, communities and municipal governments and services also arose already with the first feminist wave, with its effort to engage women in the planning process. Today, the partnerships strategy is intensively used in the exploratory walks. To empower “ordinary” citizens into taking care of the safety and security issues of their respective neighbourhoods’ is a clearly visible trend in recent uses of exploratory walks, as for instance in the case of Gothenburg.

In the study of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (2006) exploratory walks were used as a methodology for a participative and “from below” bottom up approach to city planning and administration. They also used the concept of accessibility in place of security and safety, which is more analytic approach to the study of urban areas⁶.

Nowadays, examples of exploratory walks can be found in North and South, from Tanzania to Sweden. The role of women is often emphasised in the South, where their lack of safe public spaces is often dire. In South-America, the exploratory walks are already quite well known method to mediate women’s safety and security issues in the cities. Obviously, the questions and threats vary a lot depending on the location and the city. In the United States and Australia, more examples are found regarding the general pedestrian safety issues, and the promotion of safe and climate friendly walking instead of motorised transport. In Europe, Sweden and Belgium for instance, the questions of participative planning and from-below approach in the urban design are stressed.

1.2 Problems to avoid

Even though exploratory walks are relatively light, cheap and even fun way to analyse urban localities, they might turn against their purpose, if certain preparations and conditions are not taken care of.

It is important to think who the residents of the area are, and for whom the walkabout is designed. Specific groups, women, elderly people, men, teenagers, or mixed heterogeneous groups are all good focus groups, if it is guaranteed that the voices of the area are not based on one singular group’s feelings. Women, men, disabled people; all might found the same area different regarding their personal feeling of safety and security of the area. Sometimes the voices of homeless people or children for instance should be represented by some authority in charge. In Gothenburg, Sweden the coordinators of the Safety and security walks have used role plays to enlarge one group’s perceptions of their neighbourhood; elderly people are asked to analyse the area from the viewpoint of youths and vice versa.

It is also important to communicate clearly about the realistic possibilities and objectives of the walks, so that expectations could be set at a reasonable level and major disappointments could be avoided. A coordinator of the walk should be named and preferably city officials in charge of the areas would attend the walk and have possibilities to respond to the needs pointed at the walk.

⁶ http://www.grootstedenbeleid.be/content/what/expertise-development/knowledge-production/researches/rapport_marches_cru-1fev.pdf

Exploratory walks should not increase the sense of insecurity and deprivation, therefore not only target the negative sites of the areas, but also to look at those areas which are seen as positive and good at the neighbourhood. How those good examples could be used and dispersed in the more problematic areas?

After the walk it is important to continue the work with follow-ups and feedback. Perhaps another walk or a session could be arranged, where the areas mentioned could be re-analysed and the possible improvements noticed. Also neighbourhood's newsletters, local newspapers or other possibilities to inform the residents are good ways to guarantee the accountability of the walks and follow the situations. For instance in Rinkeby, Sweden at the beginning of the For instance in Rinkeby, Sweden at the beginning of the walks in 2003, 270 "insecurity problems" were found, while by 2007 they were down to c.140.

Erik Amnå, a professor of political science at Örebro University sees Safety and security walks as a new kind of approach where subjects, citizens, consumers, clients are now also co-creators. When traditionally democratic welfare state has provided elected politicians and officials to carry out the responsibility of public areas and citizens' security especially, now residents are replacing professional evaluations. Residents are becoming "*co-producers with a public sector which is no longer sufficient unto itself*"⁷.

Amnå continues to warn about the risk of the identity of co-producer citizen: "*I see a risk that people are playing with our identities as citizens. That we are being brought across from the import side of politics, where values and conflicts are dealt with openly and critically, to its output side in order to discuss small details with a view to reaching agreement. Without for a moment questioning anyone's goodwill*"⁸.

Still Amnå do take apart in the Safety and security walks of Gothenburg because: "*The safety tour is about asserting democracy both as a form and as content meetings and discussions about our common anxiety can feed our search for an inclusive social development which out of our anxiety engenders equitable social conditions. For this reason the safety tour has within it such interesting potential*"⁹.

2. Exploratory walks as an integrated instrument to the local politics: Experiences from Gothenburg, Belgium and France

2.1 Gothenburg – Safety and security walks (tryggare och mänskligare Göteborg)¹⁰

Safety and security walks started in Gothenburg in the beginning of 21st Century. The aim is to learn from and work with the residents; how they perceive the safety and security in their neighbourhoods, and share the ideas with the city planners, youth and social workers, police, city engineers, politicians etc.

⁷ http://www.tryggaremanskligare.goteborg.se/pdf/Trygghv_conf_eng.pdf

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ http://www.tryggaremanskligare.goteborg.se/pdf/stegforsteg_version2.pdf

General observations from the walks concern often lighting, green areas, walkways, litter baskets, park benches etc. Other more long term consideration relates to public areas like common meeting places: which kind of places gather people and let them know their neighbours in a safe and enjoyable environment?

Questions and remarks about the physical environment are often heard during the debriefing sessions. Still it is not only physical environment which matters on local safety and security issues, also social aspects of neighbourhood play a crucial role: by greeting neighbour one can also learn to know him/her and trust to ask more help when needed.

It is recommendable to invite a heterogeneous people to a safety and security walk. An ideal group could consist of residents of the area, representatives of local associations, housing enterprises, politicians and the police. Approx. 20 is a recommended size of attendants, where min. 5 should be residents, preferably from different groups (ethnic, sex, age...). It is good to acknowledge the demography of the neighbourhood, who are presented in the walks, and whose voices are missing. Also role play to change one's own perspective to someone else's is a good tool to keep the perspective and needs in a large and inclusive scale.

Three main ideas of the walk are:

- ➔ To identify the insecure and exposed locations
- ➔ To hear local, and as many voices as possible - inclusive
- ➔ Feedback

Other findings on safety and security walks in Sweden:

- Kortedela (Gothenburg): Security group; residents and other district representatives' security group who is in charge of joint walks where the problem areas are regularly listed. The coordinator is in charge to sort out the problems (immediately).
- Rinkeby (Stockholm): Safety and security walks have proven that it is essential to find out background details of the area so that problems there become in the right perspective. Documentation and pictures are important. Safety walks are conducted twice a year and they are open to everyone.
- Safety & Security walks in schools (Nacka Municipality.se)
- Theme walks (Gothenburg, ex. youths)
- Virtual security and safety walks on the new planned areas (Svenska Bostäder)

2.2 Analyse and research method: Exploratory walks in six Belgian cities

The Université Libre de Bruxelles (2006) formulated a study-research on exploratory walks based on the experiences on six Belgian cities and in 12 different locations: Anvers, Charleroi, Gand, Mons, Molenbeek-Saint-Jean and Saint Gilles¹¹.

¹¹ http://www.grootstedenbeleid.be/content/what/expertise-development/knowledge-production/researches/rapport_marches_cru-1fev.pdf

The research project's intention was to create a tool for a critical evaluation of urban design and planning from the point of view of its users, the residents of the city. The researchers modified the name exploratory walks to "method walks" (Démarche d'exploration) because of their interest to use it as a research method. In analysing the city the stress was to understand the accessibility, temporarily changes and differences between genders faced in different places. Anyhow these themes were not stated at in the beginning of the walks but gradually the needs of understandable themes for the attendants of the walk as well for the researches came out.

Main objects of the method were:

1. Research method (Démarche d'exploration): guided process which helps to put in place a series of exploratory walks with a group of residents
2. Exploratory walk (Marche d'exploration): guided collective walk, which is observed and conducted by one group and in which the stress is on the accessibility of the places familiar to the walkers; the differences between genders is taken into account.
3. Polyphonic briefing: report which is based on several voices following a mosaic of recommendations, which form the result of the research method and exploratory walk to nourish the local decision making process.

The walks pointed out three discoveries which are able to emerge only by walking:

1. To be able to find out the street level perspective instead of panoptical, from above perspective.
2. Second observation found out the temporality and situational side of places. Places are stable only in paper but in the street level they changes according the rhythm of daytime, week, occasions etc.
3. Third observation highlighted the method; walking is an act which formulates the reality itself, by walking the group also formulates places, actively choosing where or where not to walk, which sites to remark and which not – the walk do already change the reality as the walkers see it.

Researcher's recommendations on the method

- It is good to reflect a theme or areas to notice during the walkabout. It is also advisable to precise that it is not so much about peoples' opinions but more about to find out ideas and solutions for the problems.
- The guide of the walk must be sensible to the group dynamics, guaranteeing the heterogeneity of the observations and avoiding stereotypes.

2.3 Initiatives in France

Exploratory walks have been welcomed in France first by the local associations and researchers and afterwards the Interministerial Delegation for Urban and Social Development

(délégation interministérielle à la ville (DIV) found them also useful. Serge Nédelec, in charge of the mission of DIV, confirmed that they are wishing to integrate exploratory walks in the program of solving problems in the suburban neighbourhoods. After the experimental stage Mr. Nédelec wishes to see exploratory walks as a part of the local security contracts method portfolio¹². In the French version the target of exploratory walks are “neighbourhoods with special needs”, those suburban areas where the amount of problems is higher than the “normal” level. Walkabouts are foremost trying to catch women attendants to promote women’s safety in the neighbourhoods.

Examples of urban walks have already been realised in France by the local associations and municipalities.

Exploratory walks are already a familiar tool in the city of *Grand-Couronne*, where the method have been used as a part of the city’s local safety contract over six years. Municipal representatives, habitants and officials from the municipal services (administration, technical service, police etc.) attend to the walkabouts. A social mediator who is in charge of the preventive politics of the city is the coordinator of the walks. Exploratory walks are announced in the local newspaper accompanied with a leaflet, in which habitants can express their remarks concerning local safety and security issues. The leaflets are to return to the city’s administration, where remarks are taken into account when planning the on-site visits and the responds are given either at the exploratory walks or by mail. Each exploratory walk ends with a debriefing session with the mayor and her/his assistants. Some months after the period of exploratory walks in the different neighbourhoods, a feedback meeting is organised with municipal representatives who will give their response to the remarks pointed at. Also a technical assistant from the municipality follows the remarks of the walks and keeps habitants and mayor’s cabinet updated on technical issues.

Evaluation of exploratory walks showed that integrating exploratory walks in the municipality work needed some change in mindsetting and working habits of the officials of the municipality. Cooperation over the administration lines is essential but was not even at the beginning. Administration must also be prepared to put the habitants’ hopes and needs in line with the existing budget and sometimes mediate between conflicting requests.

Other example is from a Parisian area Montrouge. The walk was organised by two neighbourhood associations *Particip’actif* and *Urbanisme et démocratie* and participated by third association, *Malakoff environnement*, in 2007. The idea of the walk was to bring together neighbours from an inner Parisian neighbourhood and from a suburban neighbourhood bordering the “inner” Parisian side to analyse the common areas which they are sharing. Both neighbourhoods are close to a port of Paris. The main concern of the walk was the traffic of the port and solutions for sustainable development of the area. The participants enjoyed sharing ideas of their common interest (neighbourhood and its sustainable planning), elaborate some bottom-up ideas instead of formal neighbourhood counsels and observing the “living” environment on site instead of reunion inside.

3. Women’s exploratory walks, raising awareness of threats and fears of women in the neighbourhoods

12 <http://www.localtis.info/servlet/ContentServer?c=artVeille&pagename=Localtis%2FartVeille%2FartVeille&cid=1234330009954>

The concept of Women's Safety Audits was developed in Toronto, Canada by the Metro Action committee on Public Violence Against Women and Children (METRAC) on 1989¹³. Following up on this initiative without delay, the City of Montreal organised the first exploratory walks and produced an investigation guide on the safety of women in towns. This guide has been translated into several languages and adapted to the context of towns in Europe and Africa.

In concrete terms, the formula consists in bringing together about a dozen women to walk through a sector of the town identified as being unsafe. This group of women is accompanied by a woman co-ordinator / secretary.

Men are invited as observers. The group observes the environment in relation to the major principles of safety measures; it analyses the system of signs and signals, the degree of visibility, the capacity to be heard, escape or ask for help, as well as the maintenance of the area. Their observations are compiled and submitted to the authorities responsible for introducing the necessary measures.

3.1 Exploratory walks for women in Canada

The original *women's safety audit* by METRAC methodology began to be developed and adapted to diverse communities, in Toronto as well as in other regions of the world. The Toronto 'safety audit', conducted by city's neighborhood safety program TANDEM¹⁴, experience empowered women from impoverished communities through training to assess their own neighborhoods for safety and to propose and demand practical responses in consultation with local authorities (e.g. improved street lighting, increased police presence, alternative security measures spawned by the community, etc.). Through the inspiring experiences from the women's safety audit the method has been enlarged to concern children and other little represented users of the public spaces.

Exploratory walks helps to analyse the areas and make more focused recommendations for the actions needed to enhance safety and security in the areas concerned.

Examples of the exploratory walks interventions Montreal

Mercier-Hochelaga-Maisonneuve, Integrated restoration plan:

Three exploratory walks were taken in the Promenade Bellerive together with the integrated restoration plan for the neighbourhood. Those walks contributed the diagnostic of the programme of safe and secure environment, a plan directed by the Ministry of Health.

Montreal-Nord, month of exploratory walks:

March was named as the month of the exploratory walks. During that time there were organised six exploratory walks, in the day time and in the evenings with different kind of groups (women, families, people with limited mobility, and people from different ethnic/cultural backgrounds). The elements which made people feel insecure were identified

¹³ <http://www.metrac.org/programs/safe/audits.htm>

¹⁴ http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=2239,2892063&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

by the groups. The information gained in the walks was completed with results of an inquiry [of safety issues] made for the primary school children. A report was made based on the results of the walks and inquiry, and also “a Committee of citizens for peace and security” was drawn up to follow up the issues concerned together with the authorities. (Yearly Survey 2007¹⁵)

“Women take part in an exploratory walk in CDN” (*The Monitor*, 25th May, 2009¹⁶; Montreal, Canada)

Walk in an area and detect its problems; that’s what 15 women did on May 20 Femmes du monde à Cote-des-Neiges partnered with TANDEM Prevention NDG, to organize their first exploratory walk, in order to identify the neighbourhood’s problems.

Patrizia Vinci, the community organizer for Femmes du monde à Cote-des-Neiges, told The Monitor that the walk attracted more women than she expected, which proves that “we touched upon something that concerns them”. She is in charge of a project that focuses on violence against women and says that “speaking of safety on the street while you’re there has a greater impact”.

Before taking to the streets, all the participants, Patrizia Vinci and two women from TANDEM discussed the aim of the walk. Terri Ste. Marie, director of Prevention NDG, explained that the march is a “safety audit: an examination of a given area where women might feel unsafe”. She said that the next step is to write a report that will propose changes that will make the place safer.

Each woman had her own motivation for attending the walk. “I live in the neighbourhood and it was a very interesting opportunity for me to learn about it and its people”, said Tracy Zhang. She arrived in Cote-des-Neiges last December and doesn’t speak French.

Once they commenced the walk, several women took notes and pictures. The group stopped a number of times to observe and discuss the surroundings. The big question was: what can women do when they feel unsafe at night? The two women from TANDEM offered a lot of advice, such as going into a public place (store, bus, etc).

Terri Ste. Marie had already taken part in exploratory walks with both men and women and she immediately noticed a difference. “These are things women live with everyday while men are surprised because they don’t think about all that”, she said.

Every time a problem was identified, Terri Ste. Marie and her colleague explained how to solve it. For example, when there are potholes in the street or the sidewalks the number to call is 311.

“The aim is not to scare these women,” said Terri Ste. Marie, “but to help them be prepared. It’s your city, you should be able to use it anytime”, she added.

When the group went back to Femmes du monde à Cote-des-Neiges for the debriefing, several women suggested new locations and time of the day for the next one. “It would be interesting to do it at night, especially in the back alleys”, said Yamina Chergui, who works for the community council on the North-East project.

Terri Ste. Marie agreed, saying that “lighting makes so much of a difference to women’s safety,” adding that some women told her they wouldn’t go out at night because they’re scared.¹⁷”

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https://servicesenligne2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/sel/publications/PorteAccesTelechargement?lng=Fr&systemName=29905558&client=Serv_corp

¹⁶ <http://www.themonitor.ca/article-340792-Women-take-part-in-an-exploratory-walk-in-CDN.html>

3.2 Safety in Public Urban Space: The Work of Women's Design Service, London, UK

Women's Design Service (WDS)¹⁸ is a British gender aware consultancy organization for design and built environment. It does trainings and research in order to guarantee women's perspective on build environment. WDS has worked with groups of women of different ethnic identities in three London neighbourhoods in a project "Making safer places" and most recently conducting a safety audit in the parks. Both projects were conducted by using exploratory walks to analyse the areas concerned. The findings of "Park survey" asked for more inclusive and enjoyable places instead of technical "designing out the crime" approach with survey cameras or fenced areas.

"The factor that contributed most highly to women's sense of safety was 'a variety of/ lots of other people about'; often they would add 'smiling people', 'happy people', 'the sound of children laughing'. Designers and decision-makers need to think more about how to attract a wide range of different people to come and enjoy themselves in the public spaces of towns and cities. One way of achieving this is simply through making such places beautiful - a concept rarely discussed in the context of safety. It is this quality above all which will draw people out of their homes and cars to occupy and enjoy a sense of well-being in public urban space".

3.3 Women's safety audits for a safer urban design, Warsaw, Poland

UN-HABITAT

Results of the pilot audit carried out in Centrum, Warsaw, (25 August 2007)¹⁹

Eight women participated in the audit walk that took place during night-time in the area delimited by the streets Marszałkowska, Chałubińskiego and Koszykowa and Jerozolimskie.

Questions participants were trying to answer were as follows: "Why don't I like this place?" "When and why do I feel uncomfortable here?"; "What if I were walking alone here late at night?"; "What if I had to wait for someone to come and pick me up?"; "Are there places someone could be hiding?"; "Does it feel safe during winter time/ in the rain?"; "Could I get help if I need it? Police station, city/ private guards, telephone, 24h/24 shops, neighbour?"; "What changes would make me feel safer?"

Participants, while walking in the selected area, assessed collectively the urban environment, and identify factors, such as lighting, signage, real and/or potential hiding places, maintenance, design, frequentation, etc., that may affect their safety and/ or feelings of insecurity. A questionnaire was provided to guide the participants and serve as reference point for discussions at the end of the walk.

After the walk, the Central District Hall hosted the evaluation session which consisted of a summary of findings and joint recommendations. Participants pointed out factors which could affect and contribute to the safety of their environment (negative and positive aspects of the

¹⁷ <http://www.eukn.org/binaries/eukn/eukn/practice/2009/02/policies-and-practices-women-s-safety.pdf>

¹⁸ http://www.gendersite.org/pages/safety_in_public_urban_space_the_work_of_womens_design_service.html

¹⁹ http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5544_32059_WSA%20Centrum%20report.pdf

urban environment) and decided what the most important concerns were and established priorities with regard to suggested improvements and corrective measures to improve urban safety and design. (Women's safety audits for a safer urban design).

3.4 Latin American Regional Program – Safe Cities: Violence against Women and Public Policy

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) – Case Study: Rosario, Argentina

The goal of Women's safety audits in the Western District of Rosario was to carry out exploratory walks through certain neighborhoods in order to identify and illustrate elements of urban design or planning related to women's safety (or lack thereof) in public spaces.

The audits were organized in several sub-groups, each composed of 4 or 5 people. Social workers, members of the local women's network, participatory budget councilors and workshop facilitators all took part in the activity. Three safety audits were carried in May and June 2007, each in different neighborhoods of the District. (*Women's safety: A shared global concern. Compendium of practices and policies 2008. International centre for prevention of crime*)²⁰

4. Campus Safety

University of Nevada, Reno

Each semester, the ASUN Senate sponsors campus safety walks. During these walks students, faculty, administration and Facilities Maintenance personnel tour the campus methodically checking for burned out lights, broken concrete, overgrown walkways, and other unsafe conditions around campus²¹.

5. Walk Audits – A method to improve the pedestrian safety and inspire people to walk

5.1 Walk Audit: Liveable Streets Initiative New York, US

A Walk Audit is a diagnostic tool used to assess the walking environment of a street, school environment, or neighborhood. The audit is usually conducted by a pedestrian design expert, who leads residents, traffic engineers, and others on a walk and points out deficiencies such as missing sidewalks or curb ramps, obstacles, and dangerous street crossings. Participants often use a "Walkability checklist" to help them identify deficiencies.

²⁰ <http://www.eukn.org/binaries/eukn/eukn/practice/2009/02/policies-and-practices-women-s-safety.pdf>

²¹ <http://www.unr.edu/stsv/safety/safetywalk.html>

”Walk audits are a simple but powerful tool, especially for traffic engineers, planners, and other decision-makers who make street design decisions without actually experiencing the walking environment on foot. Pedestrian advocacy groups, such as members of America walks, frequently use walk audits to generate the understanding among community members that leads to correcting pedestrian deficiencies²²”.

5.2 Walk Boston, US

“One of the most important vehicles for improving walking conditions throughout Massachusetts is through the efforts of the state legislature and other governmental bodies. Fortunately, the commonwealth has many elected officials who list the needs of pedestrians as one of their priorities.

In 2007 and 2008, several of these legislators put the rubber to the road, leading WalkBoston-sponsored walks through their legislative districts, giving their constituents a first-hand opportunity voice their concerns and ideas for improving the environment for walking.²³”

5.3 Victoria Walks, Victoria Australia

Victoria Walks Incorporated is a walking-for-transport health promotion charity managed by an independent voluntary board. “When lots of people walk, it also creates a stronger sense of safety and security in an area. More people walking means more ‘eyes’ on the street, which deters crimes against people and property. And it’s a positive cycle: as people see others walking, they feel safer about walking themselves, and over time, more and more people take to the streets on foot.²⁴”

Links

METRAC, Toronto, Safety audits: <http://www.metrac.org/programs/safe/audits.htm>

TANDEM, City of Montreal:
http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=2239,2892063&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

²² <http://www.livablestreets.com/streetswiki/walk-audit>

²³ <http://www.walkboston.org/index.htm>

²⁴ <http://www.victoriawalks.org.au/Why/>

https://servicesenligne2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/sel/publications/PorteAccesTelechargement?lng=Fr&systemName=29905558&client=Serv_corp

Safer and more human Gothenburg: <http://www.tryggaremanskligare.goteborg.se/>

EFUS, Exploratory walks: <http://www.fesu.org/index.php?id=1636&L=1>

Women's safety: a shared global concern. Compendium of practices and policies, 2008:
<http://www.eukn.org/binaries/eukn/eukn/practice/2009/02/policies-and-practices-women-s-safety.pdf>

Women's safety audits for a safer urban design. Results of the pilot audit carried out in Centrum, Warsaw:
http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/5544_32059_WSA%20Centrum%20report.pdf

Safety in Public Urban Space: The Work of Women's Design Service:
http://www.gendersite.org/pages/safety_in_public_urban_space_the_work_of_womens_design_service.html

Recherche-action concernant la mise en place et le suivi de marches exploratoires. Rapport final Décembre 2006. Centre de Recherche Urbaine, Institut de Sociologie, Université Libre de Bruxelles. :
http://www.grootstedenbeleid.be/content/what/expertise-development/knowledge-production/researches/rapport_marches_cru-1fev.pdf

Marches exploratoires : l'exemple de Liège: <http://www.cvfe.be/doc/marchesexplorLg.pdf>

Exploratory walks in France:
<http://www.localtis.info/servlet/ContentServer?c=artVeille&pagename=Localtis%2FartVeille%2FartVeille&cid=1234330009954>

Grand-Couronne: <http://i.ville.gouv.fr/divbib/doc/fexpgrandcour.pdf>

Streetswiki, US: <http://www.livablestreets.com/streetswiki/walk-audit>