



**LOCAL  
MOTIVE  
TOUR 2023**

# How to Host a Neighborhood Walk

## Why Host a Neighborhood Walk

- They are fun.
- They are IRL (in real life).
- They are collaborative.
- They help build a walking culture.
- They can kick-start the Strong Towns movement where you live.

## How to Host a Neighborhood Walk

1. Pick a time, starting point, route (or not), and theme (or not).
2. When possible, enlist a neighbor as a local expert.
3. Consider collaborating with other local organizations, businesses, schools, etc.
4. Involve people of different ages, abilities, and professions.
5. Promote the event.
6. Host the walk.
7. Document your findings as you go, with written notes, photos, and videos.
8. After the walk, debrief at a local park, pub, or coffee shop.

### Pivot Toward Action

Neighborhood walks can be the catalyst toward taking action together to build a stronger, safer, more livable, and more financially resilient community. One simple (but powerful) place to start: **the Strong Towns 4-Step Process:**

#### Step 1

Humbly observe where people in the community struggle.

#### Step 2

Ask the question: What is the next smallest thing we can do right now to address that struggle?

#### Step 3

Do that thing. Do it right now.

#### Step 4

Repeat.

**One final recommendation:** Walk your neighborhood with a critical eye, but start with love.



## Some Questions to Start the Conversation

Use your senses. What do you see, hear, smell, touch, and maybe even taste? What do you not see, hear, smell, touch, or taste?

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In general, how much life is happening on the street?

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What makes this place unique?

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Where are people gathering in this neighborhood? What is the neighborhood commons? Where are the “third places”?

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What kinds of homes have been built here? Do you see evidence of a wide variety of housing options—not just single-family detached homes, but also apartments, missing-middle housing, ADUs, etc.?

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What kinds of businesses and organizations have been started here? How far do people have to travel to do the basics of life: work, play, shop, go to school, worship, gather with friends? How much harder is that for people without access to an automobile?

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What do you notice about the built environment? In what ways is this neighborhood set up to bring people together? In what ways does the built environment keep people apart?

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What is working well here? What doesn't work, and why?

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What do the “desire paths” you find tell you about how people are actually moving through this space?

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How has this neighborhood changed over the last 10 years? How do you expect it to change over the next 10 years?

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Do the neighborhood's original residents still live here? If not, where did they go? Why did they move?

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Who are the “characters” in this neighborhood?

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Who is invisible?

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What social dynamics do you observe? Are the people who live here able to join in as co-creators of their city?

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What evidence do you see that there are people here who care about this neighborhood?

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**Add your own favorite questions in the space below:**