

'More People Walking More Often'

An Introduction to Living Streets Services

Living Streets Aotearoa



www.livingstreets.org.nz

CONTENTS

Introduction - 2 -

What we do..... - 3 -

Our approach - 3 -

Our services..... - 5 -

 Street audits and reviews..... - 5 -

 Maps - 6 -

 Signage and navigation assessments..... - 7 -

INTRODUCTION

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand’s national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot. The organisation began in 1998, was incorporated in 2002 and has a growing membership of professionals from numerous fields, elected members and passionate citizens.

Living Streets works to create safe, attractive, vibrant streets where people want to walk and enjoy public spaces, with easy access to public transport. We exist because walking is part of virtually every journey yet the diverse needs of people on foot are often overlooked in transport, land use, urban design, public health, economic and recreation planning.

The Living Streets networks and local user groups have been increasing rapidly in recent years and have seen many successes, ranging from the installation of new signs showing pedestrian shortcuts around Lyttelton, to the hosting of the bi-ennial NZ Walking Conference. More recently we have established the Walk2work day campaign which saw 12 events across the country and over 2,000 people taking part.

Over the years we have developed significant expertise in walking related services including the production of walking maps and community street audits and reviews. We are now expanding our remit to deliver key services to Councils, businesses and communities.



WHAT WE DO

We provide a range of services that can be easily tailored to suit the needs of individual clients. We can draw on a mix of our products to deliver a bespoke project.

These can be grouped as:

Community Streets audits and reviews, to assess the quality of the walking environment and provide advice on improvements.

Walking Maps, providing high quality information to make life easier and more enjoyable for the walker.

Navigation and signage assessments, To determine the effectiveness of signage and the ease by which people can find their way around an area.

Training, to allow communities to produce maps and carry out their own street reviews in their area.

All of the products can be applied to a specific area or region or can focus on a key building, such as a hospital, university, or business. They can also target specific groups of users. For example, commuters or school children.



OUR APPROACH

Specialist knowledge on walking and walkers needs

The specialist knowledge base of our staff and members is crucial to understanding the needs and demands of walkers. This is also vital in identifying the barriers to walking and measures that can be easily taken to improve the walking environment.

Grass roots approach

We work with local communities at all stages of our work, giving local people a voice and an opportunity to participate. Local staff and volunteers are recruited to work on each project, giving vital grass roots knowledge, building partnerships and delivering specific and relevant benefits.

Walking networks

We have strong and established networks and links to authorities, organisations and communities throughout the country. Our networking staff work hard to maintain strong links to local communities and advocates. We are therefore uniquely placed to understand the needs of the people who really matter – the walkers.



OUR SERVICES

Street audits and reviews

Community Street Reviews (CSR's)

As part of measuring walkability, Councils and other traffic planners need to assess pedestrian satisfaction with footpath quality.

One way of doing this is by running a Community Street Review. This is a tool developed by Living Streets Aotearoa, and further developed and supported by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

A Community Street Review is an assessment of the walkability of a route from the point of view of the users. A group of local volunteers walk the route with a trained living streets reviewer and use a simple rating technique to identify problem areas and potential improvements. This then used to provide a Level of Service score (LOS) for each route section and crossing as well as for the route as a whole. Operational data (such as traffic numbers on adjacent roads) is also collected at the time. This is all then entered into the national database enabling a comparison over time and with other locations. The full methodology is described in www.levelofservice.com

Simple CSR

A reduced scope of CSR is available for sites where the full review is not necessary and can be tailored to meet the client needs. The review is similar to a full CSR with local participants walking a designated route and providing an equivalent LOS score. Operational data is not usually collected and these are stand alone reviews, not inputted into the database for comparison.

Living Streets used this tool to carry out a Community Street Review to assess a key commuter route, for Wellington City Council. To have a look at this report, please go to - http://www.livingstreets.org.nz/street_reviews.htm. Here a key bottleneck was found in the crossing of a major road. Key recommendations included improved road markings at crossings and some maintenance tasks.

Accessibility Street audit

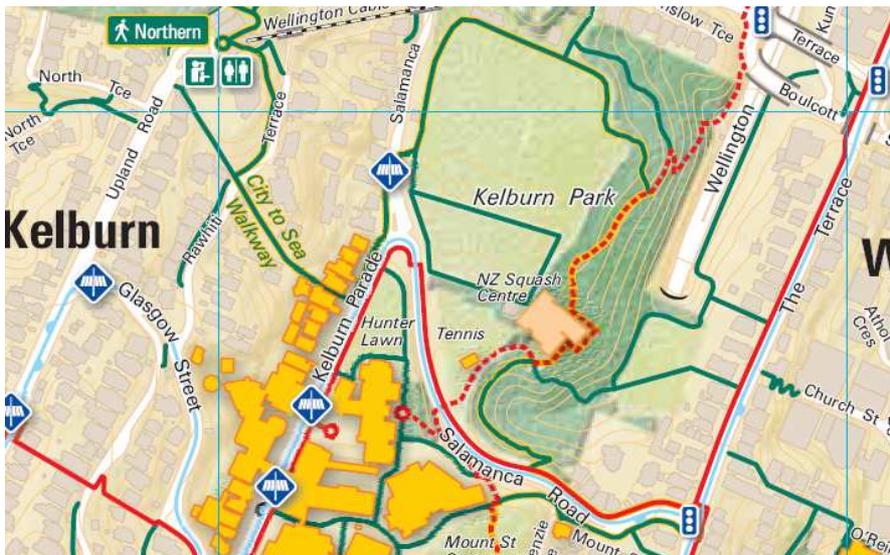
A street audit is different to a review. It does not use the scoring system, but collects comments, identifies issues and makes recommendations for improvements. We can carry out an audit that identifies accessibility issues, focusing on the mobility or visually impaired, but also suitable for all users. Accessibility audits are completed by a group of local people with mobility or visual impairments, as well as key professionals from organisations such as the New Zealand Royal Foundation of the Blind and CCS Disability Action. A trained Living Streets reviewer will lead the audit.

Maps

Walking maps

Walking routes are often very different to driving routes and many pedestrian walkways are missing from standard streets maps. Our walking maps show all the routes and highlight pedestrian short-cuts and other features that support and encourage walking. These can be customised to focus on a particular area, building or campus and can also highlight recommended routes or points of interest.

These maps can be done in our standard format (see inset below) or can be custom designed.



Extract from the walking routes map produced for Victoria University of Wellington.

(The green routes are pedestrian only, the red and red dotted lines show recommended and more challenging routes).

Lunchtime and weekend walks maps

Our lunchtime walks pocket maps, show great places to walk and interesting routes to encourage office bound workers to explore the city and get some fresh air. We ensure that walks are kept to under an hour so that they can be walked in a lunchbreak and choose routes that explore interesting heritage features or green spaces. For these maps, local people usually compile and test the routes. They can be customized to cover a town or areas of a city, or focus on a particular building or workplace, (such as the council offices). These can also be adapted to show family walking routes or longer weekend walks.

Signage and navigation assessments

Navigation assessments

The walkability of an area is often heavily affected by how easy it is to navigate around and how intuitive the street layout is. A new service that we can provide is an on-site assessment of navigability. This involves setting a series of challenges for people who are unfamiliar with the area, to find key locations, noting issues and highlights along the way. This assessment is supplemented with expert opinions and walkarounds.

Signage and mapping assessments

Signage and mapping is vitally important for the walker and is often targeted at the car user. Pedestrian routes are often poorly marked or signs are not accessible. We can provide expert opinions and reviews of existing and proposed signage schemes. This focuses on location, size and legibility and involves a 'walkaround ' by professional staff.

CONTACT US:

For more information please contact

Janet Lawson

Project Officer- Living Streets Aotearoa
PO Box 25-424
Wellington 6146

Tel: 04 385 8280

Website: www.livingstreets.org.nz

Email: janet.lawson@livingstreets.org.nz

