# # REIMAGINE CATWALKS

A how-to-guide for Calgary communities seeking to transform catwalks, shortcuts, mazes and mews







# ABOUT THE PLAYBOOK

Guided by community work piloted by Sustainable Calgary, this playbook provides a collection of tools and tips to help create more active, connected and productive spaces in your community.

This resource was created in partnership with the City of Calgary, the Federation of Calgary Communities and the Calgary Foundation. We hope you find it useful and fun!

## OUR VISION

Do these spaces have to look the way they do? Can they be more vibrant spaces that promote more activity? Can they be more sociable spaces? Can they be spaces for growing food?

Based on some of the ideas we explore in the following pages - we think the answer is a big YES!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### CATWALKS, SHORTCUTS, MAZES & MEWS

Catwalks, shortcuts, mazes and mews consist of pathways that cut-through the street blocks of numerous communities. Initially designed to shorten distances and improve movement between residences, schools, and local park spaces, these pathways have not been well maintained - because of this, many residents avoid using these spaces despite their usefulness.



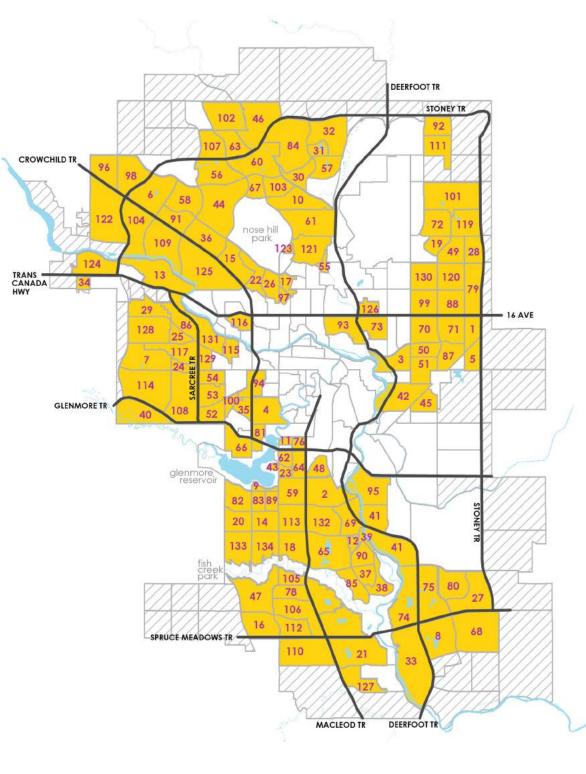
### COMMON CONCERNS

Pathways require **maintenance** - snow clearing + overgrown vegetation

Maze gates pose **accessibility issues** for strollers, trolleys, wheelchairs and electric scooters

Catwalks are unlit and **dark** - creating **safety** issues due to poor visibility and unclear sight lines

Catwalks are **dull**, **uninteresting** and **boring** spaces, making residents not want to use them



#### ARE THERE CATWALKS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

1 Abbeydale
2 Acadia
3 Albert Park/Radisson Heights
4 Altadore
5 Applewood Park
6 Arbour Lake
7 Aspen Woods
8 Auburn Bay
9 Bayview
10 Beddington Heights
11 Bel-Aire
12 Bonavista Downs
13 Bowness
14 Braeside
15 Brentwood
16 Bridlewood
17 Cambrian Heights
18 Canyon Meadows
19 Castleridge
20 Cedarbrae
21 Chaparral
22 Charleswood
23 Chinook Park
24 Christie Park
25 Coach Hill
26 Collingwood
27 Copperfield
28 Coral Springs
29 Cougar Ridge
30 Country Hills
31 Country Hills Village
32 Coventry Hills
33 Cranston
34 Crestmont
35 Currie Barracks
36 Dalhousie
37 Deer Ridge
38 Deer Run
39 Diamond Cove
40 Discovery Ridge
41 Douglasdale/Glen
42 Dover
43 Eagle Ridge
44 Edgemont
45 Erin Woods

46 Evanston 47 Evergreen 48 Fairview 49 Falconridae 50 Forest Heights 51 Forest Lawn 52 Glamorgan 53 Glenbrook 54 Glendale 55 Greenview 56 Hamptons 57 Harvest Hills 58 Hawkwood 59 Haysboro 60 Hidden Valley 61 Huntington Hills 62 Kelvin Grove 63 Kincora 64 Kingsland 65 Lake Bonavista 66 Lakeview 67 MacEwan Glen 68 Mahogany 69 Maple Ridge 70 Marlborough 71 Marlborough Park 72 Martindale 73 Mayland Heights 74 McKenzie Lake 75 McKenzie Towne 76 Meadowlark Park 77 Midnapore 78 Millrise 79 Monterey Park 80 New Brighton 81 North Glenmore Park 82 Oakridge 83 Palliser 84 Panorama Hills 85 Parkland 86 Patterson 87 Penbrooke Meadows 88 Pineridge 89 Pump Hill 90 Queensland

91 Ranchlands 92 Redstone 93 Renfrew 94 Richmond 95 Riverbend 96 Rocky Ridge 97 Rosemont 98 Royal Oak 99 Rundle 100 Ruthland Park 101 Saddle Ridge 102 Sage Hill 103 Sandstone Valley 104 Scenic Acres 105 Shawnee Slopes 106 Shawnessy 107 Sherwood 108 Signal Hill 109 Silver Springs 110 Silverado 111 Skyview Ranch 112 Somerset 113 Southwood 114 Springbank Hill 115 Spruce Cliff 116 St. Andrews Heights 117 Strathcona Park 118 Sundance 119 Taradale 120 Temple 121 Thorndiffe 122 Tuscany 123 Upper North Haven 124 Valley Ridge 125 Varsity 126 Vista Heights 127 Walden 128 West Springs 129 Westgate 130 Whitehorn 131 Wildwood 132 Willow Park 133 Woodbine 134 Woodlands

## HOW TO USE THIS PLAYBOOK

With more than 130 communities with catwalks in Calgary and this playbook in your hands, the opportunities to reimagine your community's catwalks are endless!

It's up to you and your community to get creative and inspired. Here is your starting point. This playbook is a tool to guide you and your community in leveraging your skillsets and expertise - after all, you know your community better than anyone else - to make safe, active, and more accessible catwalks. Discover how your actions and initiative can have an impact on your community and the way we move in Calgary.

Dream, scheme, and activate your catwalks - let's go!



# Dream big and imagine the possibilities.

**Goal:** Whether you roll, stroll, walk, or ride, let's identify challenges you and your community face when navigating through your catwalk network.

#### Ideas to get you started:

- 1) Engage your neighbours and community groups (consider local businesses, faith groups, and special interest groups).
- 2) Map your community's catwalks
- 3) Conduct a catwalk audit and identify challenges



# Develop your dream into a creative catwalk scheme.

**Goal:** With your thinking caps on and pencils ready, let's think how we can change the experiences we have in our catwalks. It's time to turn your vision into an action plan!



# Activate your catwalks and bring your dream to life!

**Goal:** Harness your community's spirit and bring your neighbours together to implement your catwalk designs. It's time for some fun and sweat equity.

Ideas to get you started:

- 1) Brainstorm creative ideas and design interventions to address challenges identified during the dreaming phase
- 2) Develop your plan: make sure you connect with homeowners adjacent to your prosed catwalk, apply for funding as well as required permits, and reach out to local businesses for in-kind donations
- 3) Talk to your community association and set a date to implement your catwalk plan

Ideas to get you started:

- 1) Create a budget and shopping list for the build out.
- 2) Plan for a community celebration, consider food and light refreshments, materials for construction, and final aesthetic touches



What sort of community do you want to live in?

## CREATIVE IDEAS









LEARN



PLAY

ACTIVATE

## CREATIVE IDEAS

EDIBLE

# Creating safe, comfortable interesting and useful spaces





#### TRAFFIC CALMING



















PLACEMAKING

#### **FACILITATION GUIDE**

EMPATHY

ALK

#### EXPERIENCE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FROM OTHER POINTS OF VIEW

#### **Objectives:**

Different people have differing experiences of mobility and safety as they travel through their neighbourhoods. Understanding these different experiences can build equity and empathy. It can also help identify accessibility concerns and infrastructure gaps. This is an important tool that creates awareness about challenges to mobility and activity. It also shows that when a community is built with different people in mind, everyone can use it.

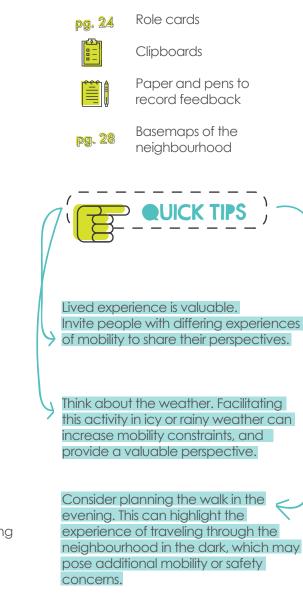
#### **USING THE TOOL**

1. Give participants roles that you have written out in advance, or support participants to develop their own character.

Examples of a few predetermined roles include:

- Jean-Luc is 40 years old and needs to use an electric wheelchair to travel. His wheelchair is 32 in. (81.28 cm.) wide.
- Sue is 70 years old and she uses a walker since she had her hip surgery.
- Roberts is 12 years old and he bikes to school.
- Amira is 35 years old and is nearly blind. She uses a walking stick.
- 2. Allow the participants a minute or two to read the role they have been given.
- 3. Walk around the neighbourhood and ask participants to think about the issues the person they are role-playing would experience.
  - Invite participants to make notes on basemaps.
- 4. Bring the participants together afterwards to discuss their experiences. Take notes from the discussion, and collect participants' maps and handouts.

#### MATERIALS





Evaluating accessibility, inclusivity and safety in catwalks with the YMCA's Kids in Motion Program.

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#### **FACILITATION GUIDE**



# MAP HOW DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD MAKE YOU FEEL

#### **Objectives:**

How you feel in your community is important. This tool allows participants to explore their emotional responses to different places in their neighbourhoods. It indicates which areas feel useful, safe, comfortable and interesting, and which areas may need improvement.

#### **USING THE TOOL**

#### MATERIALS

Materials needed for both methods:



Coloured dot stickers or emoji stickers

If using dot stickers, provide a colour key to associate different dot colours with a spectrum of emotional responses (from very positive to negative).

#### For Method 1

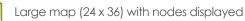
Route maps for each participant, with key neighbourhood nodes displayed. To create your own basemaps, refer to page 38.



Clipboards and pens

Notetaker with pen and paper

#### For Method 2



Take into account that different people may experience different emotions. This can stem from factors like age, gender, mobility or past experience.

Use this tool alongside or in addition to other walk audit and mapping tools to add a layer of qualitative emotional observation.

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can help!

PSSSSS<sup>1</sup> Check out page 27 for a ready to print emotional audit tool. Need Help Printing<sup>8</sup> The Federation of Calagry Communities

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#### 1. Method 1 (Walk-about)

- Give each participant their own neighbourhood base map with key points marked as well as a sheet of coloured stickers or emoji stickers.
- As a group, walk between key points.
- At each point, have a short discussion about people's emotional responses. The notetaker should write down notes from this discussion.
- Invite participants to put a sticker that best describes their feelings on the map at the key point. Invite them to write 1-2 words that describe their emotion at the site.
- Participants can also colour the route between points on the map to record their feelings in transit.
- Compile the data by averaging out all of the ratings of each point to see which points were rated the most positive and the most negative.

• Compile the ratings onto a map of the points to demonstrate findings.

#### 2. Method Two (Stationary mapping activity)

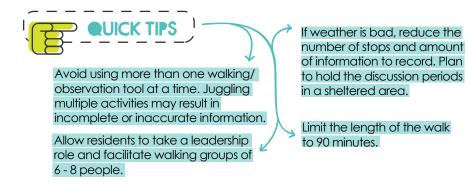
- Orient participants using the large base map, and explain each point.
- Provide participans with coloured stickers or emoji stickers.
- Ask participants to place a dot on the map that best describes their feelings at each point that they are familiar with. Invite them to write 1 - 2 words that describe their emotions at that point.
- Take a photo of the completed map.
- While mapping, participants can discuss the benefits of good design and factors that increase or limit physical activity in the community. Document feedback from participants.



#### **USING THE TOOL**

#### **Facilitation Process:**

- 1. Provide participants with a map of key points.
- 2. The Organizers will lead the walk with stops determined in advance and listed. At each stop, have participants consider how safe the key point is for walking, biking, groups, children and seniors.
  - If you want more information, have participants rate the point on a scale of 1 5 (5 being the most adequate) on criteria including walking, safety, accessibility or bikeability.
- 3. Use conversation at each point as a way to discuss the principles of good design.
- 4. Have at least one organizer recording participants observations at each point. Once you have completed your walk, discuss participants' experiences. Ask a few open-ended questions to encourage discussion around additional community improvements (e.g. you can ask participants which point felt the least/most safe and why).
- 5. Collect all the participants' maps and audit pages and compile the data.









#### DISCOVERING NEIGHBOURHOOD SPACES TOGETHER

#### **Objectives:**

An exploratory walk is a field observation method done by a small group. It is designed to identify both positive aspects of the neigbourhood's public spaces as well as its areas of concern, including gaps in infrastructure and amenities. This is an open-ended tool that brings people to explore and observe public spaces in the neighbourhood. Depending on the materials provided to participants (observation sheets, basemaps, safety rating scales, etc.) you can also collect valuable qualitative data about the neighbourhood public spaces, streets and sidewalks. Encouraging residents to lead these walks is also an excellent way for them to share their expertise and to position residents as knowledge holders.

#### MATERIALS

Pens and pencils

28 Printed basemaps with key pointsClipboards



Organizer with pen and paper to write down participants' comments throughout walk

Option: Printed rating table and criteria

# FACILITATION CUIDE

Do the location observation after you've spent some time doing other exploratory walks in the neighbourhood. Information from the previous walks will show what areas to use for a location observation. The location observation can be used in areas where there are well-used public spaces or areas that need improvements.

#### OBSERVE AND RECORD HOW PEOPLE USE PUBLIC SPACE

#### **Objectives:**

Certain places tend to attract more people. Others don't - why? How do people spend time in these different spaces?

How people interact with spaces is important in understanding how a community functions.

With this tool, we ask "what have we missed?" Here you are asked to be open about what you observe with your five senses and break through preconceived notions of what you already think is important to document.

#### **USING THE TOOL**

#### **Facilitation Process:**

- Decide which areas you want to study based on previous node research or your own local knowledge. Usually an area the size of an intersection, park or transit station works well.
- Choose a few things you'd like to take note of: benches, people's activities, number of people lingering, number of people speed-walking.
- Consider how you'd like to record information a list, a timeline, a map, a drawing. Printing a few maps in advance can be helpful.
- Make yourself comfortable with a pen, paper and watch as well as any other materials to record and jot down observations.
  For best results, repeat observations at the same place at different times of day and on different days of the week.
- Share your data as lists, maps, timelines, graphs or drawings. Hand drawn or written work is great!

#### MATERIALS

- Clipboards & notebooks

pg. 28

- Clock & hand-held counter
- Printed basemaps with nodes

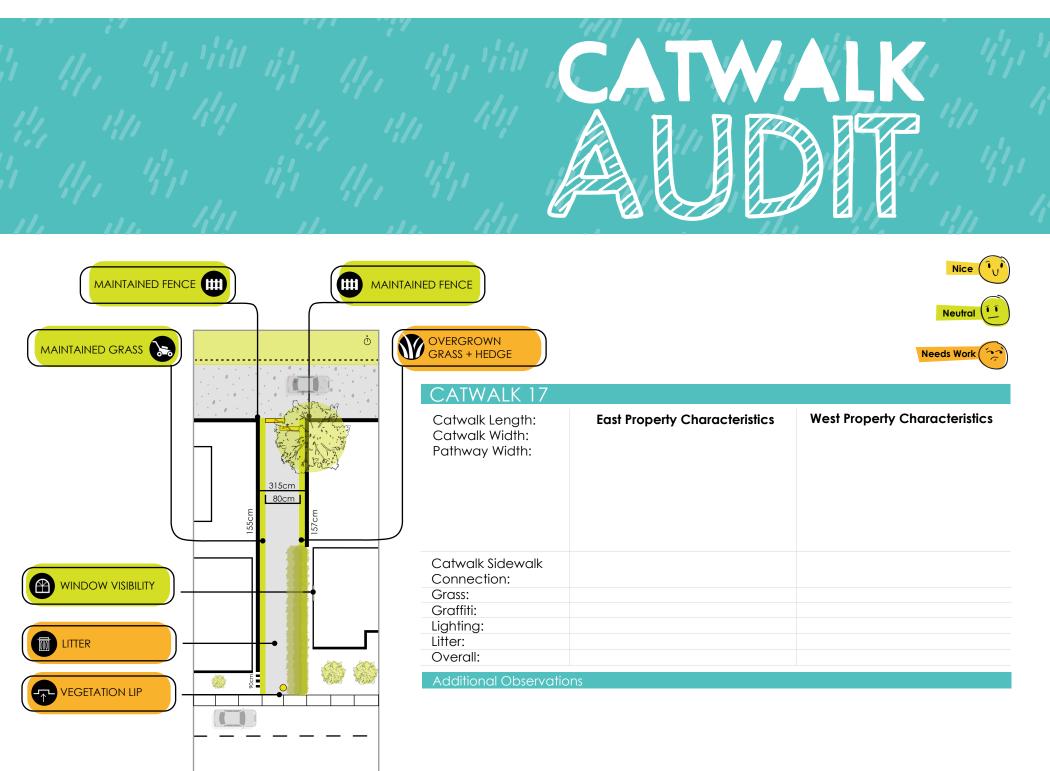


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Check out page 29 for a

read to print location

observation tool







#### BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Participant Audience: Residents, Planners and Architects Built Environment Professionals, Decision Makers

#### **Objectives**:

As people who live, work and play in your neighbourhood, you are the experts of your community. Design workshops are where your expertise, captured through the various tools in the dream phase, is combined with the knowledge of design professionals (architects, planners etc). This provides a foundation for the neighbourhood plan going forward.

#### USING THE TOOL

#### **Facilitation Process:**

- 1. Before the workshop
- Identify the areas of focus and goals of the workshop. The focus areas should arise from resident engagement during the dream phase.
- Develop preparatory materials: Some participants will know little or nothing about the area, so you will need to familiarize them with the chosen site area.





- Host a facilitator training session a few days before the workshop to ensure all facilitators are prepared for the day.
- Promote the workshop: Select potential participants from the professional community based on the workshop's objectives and deliverables. Send invitations to specific stakeholders to guarantee a wide variety of participants. Invite residents through pop-ups, door knocking, posters and flyer drops. Begin inviting people 1.5 to 2 months before your workshop. Collect RSVPs.
- 2. At the workshop
  - With all participants: Explain the process, context and objectives of the workshop, how the day will unfold, and the various stages of the event. Give a short overview of the study areas in connection with the issues being addressed. Before dividing into subgroups, participants should understand the deliverables and their roles. Specify that this workshop is a brainstorming exercise aimed at sharing ideas and concepts in a spirit of openness and creativity.
  - Break into subgroups of 8 to 10 people to explore design ideas. For a detailed breakdown of how to facilitate the subgroup work, refer to the facilitator guide in the sample materials section below.

#### MATERIALS



Introductory PowerPoint presentation: Present project background, results of the neighbourhood portrait, workshop goals and process.



Tracing paper, markers and pens for drawing



Printed basemaps of the area and printed street-level photographs.



Copies of the Neighbourhood Portrait.

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Optional reference materials: Municipal policies/guiding documents (e.g. official plans, transportation master plans, community improvement plans, etc.), urban design and streets guidelines as well as design tools.



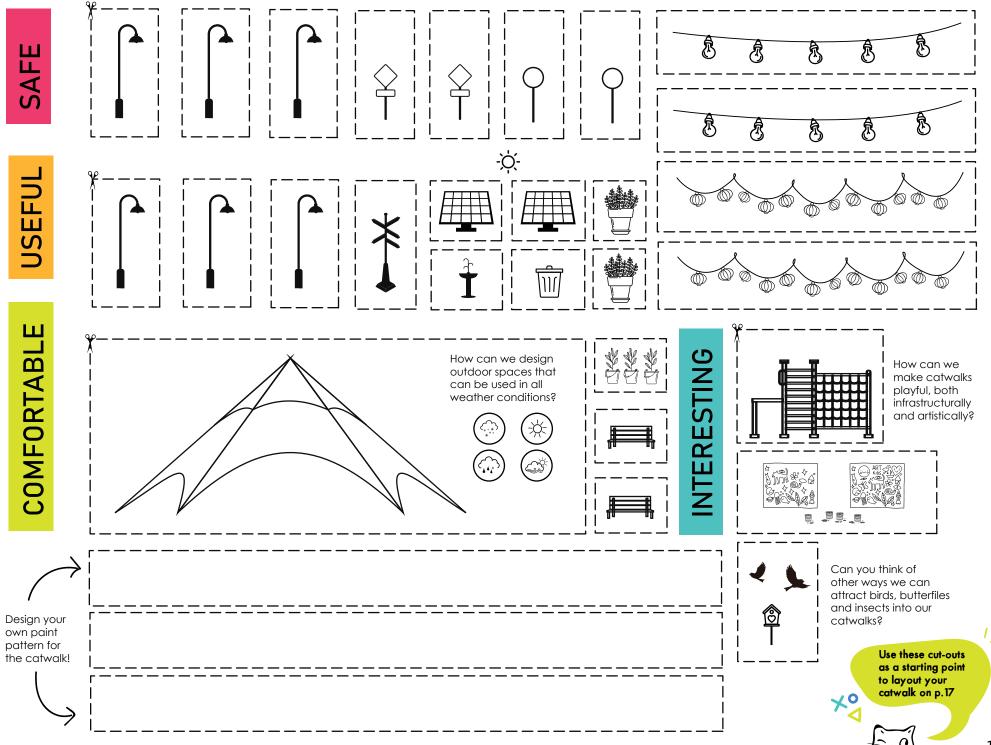
Any additional maps or resources created in the dream phase.

Predetermine well-balanced subgroups and foresee separate rooms or spaces as a way to ensure concentration and dialogue. To facilitate efficiency and obtain the intended goals, each subgroup should be given a specific study area. Think strategically about inviting specific stakeholders and decisionmakers and align design ideas with upcoming capital projects or plans in the area. If possible, start the workshop with a resident-led walking tour. This positions residents as leaders and knowledge holders, which can empower them to contribute their expertise later on in the workshop.

# Be the designer! How can we re-imagine our catwalks?

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Think about how you could transform these spaces into useful, safe, comfortable and interesting spaces!



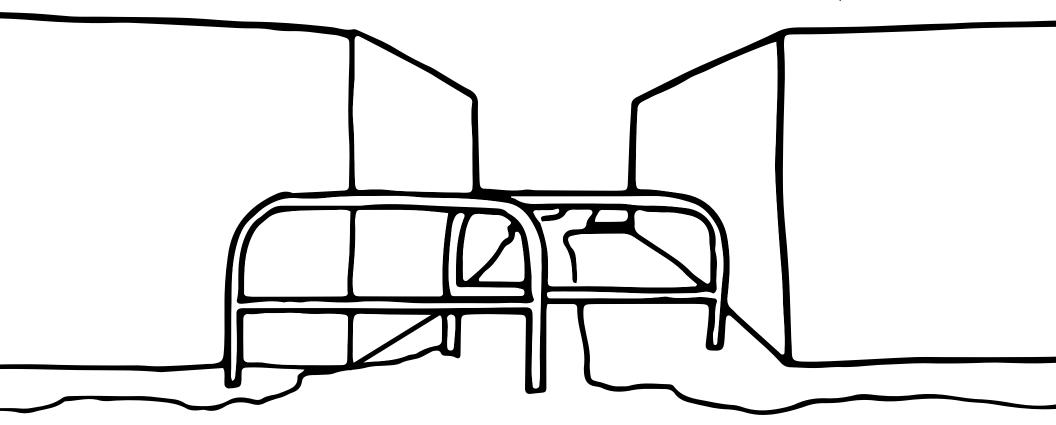
# Be the designer!

How can we create a safer and more interesting back laneway?

#### **SKETCH TIME!**

Use your pencils and markers to draw how this space could be safe for those walking or cycling.

Consider paint on the street, murals, lighting, traffic signs and anything else you deem nessessary.



ANEWAT 19

# ACTIVATE

You and your team have tackled a few things so far:



#### You've dreamed...

And explored your community's catwalks and narrowed in on a few that need some tender love and care



#### You've schemed...

And developed a design outlining how you and your community will improve your catwalks

#### Now comes the fun, it's time to activate your catwalk!

Apply for funding Connect with local sponsors

- Apply for permitting (if required)
- Create a budget Set a date, aet th
  - Set a date, get the word out, and purchase your supplies!



#### Apply for funding:

This playbook was made possible through our partnership with ActivateYYC and the Federation of Calgary Communities. We've created an opportunity for communities just like yours to apply for a \$1600 grant through The Federation webpage to dream, scheme and activate your catwalks. Funding is available for each stage through separate applications before the start of each stage. To learn more, visit activateyyc.calgarycommunities.com

There are many other organizations in Calgary looking to invest in you and your community. Other funding opportunities for you and your community to consider are below:

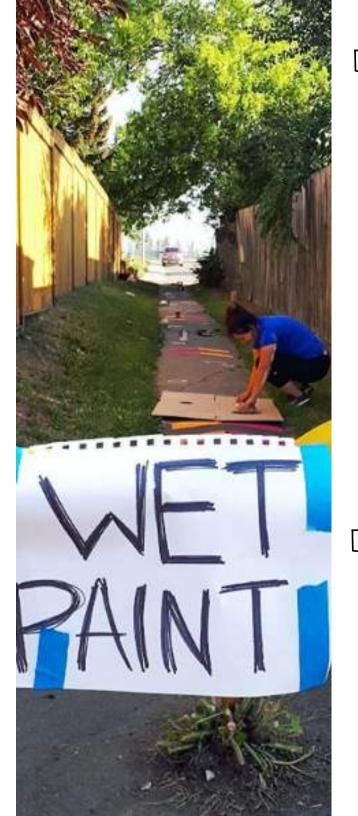
- 1. City of Calgary Ward Community Event Fund (\$1000)
- 2. City of Calgary In-Kind Support Grant (up to \$5000)
- 3. Calgary Foundation Grassroots Grant (up to \$600)
- 4. First Calgary Financial Act Local Grant (up to \$4000)
- 5. First Calgary Financial Stepping Stones Grant (\$100-\$600)

#### Connect with local sponsors:

Sponsors can be either individuals or an organization that provides in-kind donations, such as resources and promotional materials, or funding to an organization in return for advertising. You're building mutually beneficial relationships with potential sponsors.

Consider the following local sponsors in your community:

- Bank branches
- Retail locations of large store chains
- Retail locations or offices of large corporations
- Universities and Colleges
- Home-improvement stores (for in-kind donations)



#### Apply for permitting:

If your community has made plans to paint the pavement see pg. 30 to access a copy of the permit you'll need to send to the City of Calgary for approval.

The following information must be included with the form on page

- 1. Date and location of the painting
- 2. Names and addresses of all affected residents within the affected area.
- 3. One adult signature from each household either accepting or rejecting the painting event. If rejected, obtain a brief statement explaining why so that consideration may be given by The City on the applicant's request. You will need an 80% approval rate.
- 4. Map showing closure of road for the painting.

# Set a date, get the word out, and purchase your supplies

Get the word out! Contact your CA and inquire about publishing an advertisement in the next community newsletter. If your CA has a Facebook page or Instagram account, you can engage with your community and promote your catwalk event here too. Going door-to-door in pairs is another approach to connect with your neighbours and share the excitement you have with this project!

#### **Create a budget:**

Consider the following expenses at each stage:

#### Dream:

Access to printing supplies

Writing materials

#### Scheme:

Access to printing supplies

Prototyping materials

#### Activate:

Source lighting

Source tools for activation

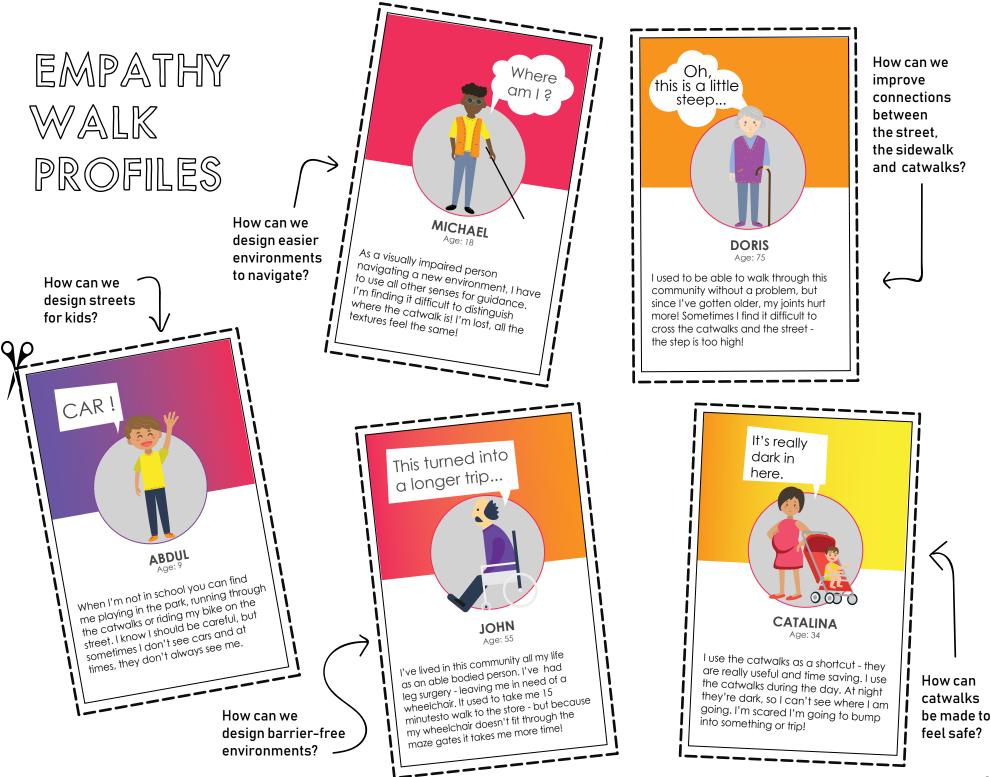
Source lawn mower + weed wacker

Refreshments and snacks

Paint for the sidewalk

Source construction tools + materials

# APPENDIX Print at home resources





# Catualks, shortcuts, mazes and meus can be...



## How can we **MPROUE** catwalks?

What do you like **MOST** about **catwalks**?

# EMOTIONALAUDIT



#### HAPPINESS



#### ANXIETY



FEAR



SADNESS



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66

INDIFFERENCE

ANTICIPATION

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SURPRISE

60



CONFUSION

PEACEFULNESS



TRANQUILITY



BOREDOM



INTRIGUE



How does each space make you feel?

FRUSTRATION



DISORIENTATION

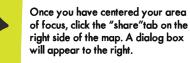
# W TO CREATE A BASEMAP



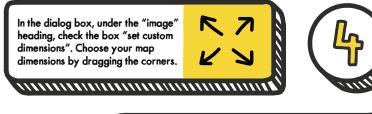








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**USING THE TOOL** 

#### **MATERIALS**



Many of the engagement tools outlined in this playbook require

a basemap of your neighbourhood or study area. Use this guide

to create easy DIY basemaps online with the website

Computer and Access to internet

Optional: GIS Software

#### **Objectives:**

www.openstreetmap.org OpenStreetMap Edit - History Export Search: Calgary Go 🎓 Link or HTML I Include marke Seo LIBI • **R**2 ormat: PNG • PNG IN SVG Dow PDF



If you are using ArcGIS software to create materials using your basemap, rather than using the share tab, select "export" from the top menu bar. This will create a .osm fle.

## LOCATION OBSERVATION PROFILE

Date
Catwalk Location
Weather
Temperature

TIME		GENDER	AGE GROUPS					
START	FINISH		0 - 10 YEARS	11 - 18 YEARS	19 - 30 YEARS	31 - 65 YEARS	66 AND OLDER	
		MALE						
		FEMALE						
		MALE						
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## **Paint the Pavement Petition**

APPLICANT:
PHONE:
EMAIL:

DATE & TIMES OF PAINTING: RAIN DATE (if applicable): LOCATION OF PAINTING:

PRIMARY RESIDENT (Please Print)	ADDRESS (Please Print)	REJECT (Please state reason)	SIGNATURE

The personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Section 33(c) and is used solely for the purpose of issuing this permit. For additional information, contact The City of Calgary at 3-1-1.

#### BUILD-OUT NOTICE TEMPLATE FOR NEIGHBOURS NEXT TO CATWALK

Hello Neighbour,

Did you know that the walkway running beside your house is called a "catwalk" in the community? Technically known as "engineered walkways", these pathways are designed to cut-through the street grid of many Calgary communities developed post-world war II. Many residents have expressed their frustration regarding catwalks' lack of upkeep, meaningful use, and safety. To attend to these needs, a series of changes could be made to improve the safety and appearance of these catwalks and increase usability for residents of (insert community name).

In collaboration with (insert partner names or organizations involved) we hope to facilitate a community-driven process of reimagining the appearance and use of these catwalks, working to implement some of the proposed improvements.

As part of the initial stages of this project we will be working with the community to reimagine and temporarily redesign certain catwalks. On *(insert date)* there will be an interactive brainstorming session to reimagine the catwalks as vibrant, active, and safe spaces within their community. On *(insert date)* there will be a hands-on activity in the chosen catwalk, where participants get the opportunity to implement their design interventions.

#### **Catwalk Build Out Vision**

The vision for this catwalk involves a "green walk" (or any theme or branding name you deem applicable) where we hope to lean vegetation pallets on your fence. Other potential changes include: mowing and clearing this catwalk of any overgrowth, bringing solar lighting in, streaming colourful banners or aesthetic touches, and painting the pathway to create a more fun, safe and edible space. Possible examples of what could be done are in image 2 (source appropriate example images to show your neighbour).

#### Please note that you are not required to maintain anything that remains in the catwalk.

Please contact (name of primary organizer), who works with (organization if applicable) if you have any questions, comments or concerns. If we do not hear from you by (insert date), we will assume that you support this project and will proceed with it.

We hope we can count on your support in helping us transform our community into a safer and more attractive place for everyone.