The Healthy Neighbourhood Audit Instrument: Understanding the Environmental and Socio-Cultural Conditions to Support Healthy, Happy and Resilient Residential Communities

Emily Mitchell & Susan Thompson
City Futures Research Centre, UNSW

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Outline

Research context

Background to the audit

Methodology

Overview of audit components

Where to from here?
Australian Research Council Linkage Grant

Planning and building healthy communities

Research partners from health and the built environment

Four sites being examined
Victoria Park
Airds Bradbury
How do these neighbourhoods support people being healthy as part of every day living?
Background to the audit

How can healthy behaviour be supported?
An urban planning approach
Detailed observations of environments and people
In-depth understandings of place
Background to the audit

The three domains:

• Getting People Active
• Connecting and Strengthening Communities
• Providing Healthy Food Options

Long term evolution and on-the-ground testing
Methodology

Completed by a team of interdisciplinary auditors

On foot – immersion in the locality

Cadastral maps sourced from councils

Note taking, iPad, GIS software

Qualitative observations as well as quantitative measurements

Detailed visual record
## Audit components

### Land use

#### Residential types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of land use</th>
<th>Ref. on map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detached dwelling</td>
<td>R1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrace/townhouse</td>
<td>R2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duplex/semi-detached</td>
<td>R3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dual occupancy</td>
<td>R4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit (up to 3 storey)</td>
<td>R5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit (3 storeys and above – note the amount of storeys on the map)</td>
<td>R6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Describe on map</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Mixed use:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nature of land use</th>
<th>Ref. on map</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial/Residential - Note the specific uses on the map</td>
<td>MU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open/green space</td>
<td>Rec1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park</td>
<td>Rec2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>Rec3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equal access playground</td>
<td>Rec4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports field</td>
<td>Rec5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational walking path/cycleway</td>
<td>Rec6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor gym</td>
<td>Rec7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball/tennis court</td>
<td>Rec8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pool</td>
<td>Rec9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn bowling green</td>
<td>Rec10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amenities for people with physical impairments (describe on map)</td>
<td>Rec11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Sensitive Urban Design/open space</td>
<td>Rec12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private open space</td>
<td>Rec13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Describe on map</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residential land uses
Recreational land uses – type, quality, character
Institutional/community uses
Commercial uses
Availability, quality and affordability of food
Community gardens
Airds Bradbury
Community gardens
Rouse Hill

Our Space
Project 
 Happens Now

Welcome to
Rouse Hill Town Centre’s
COMMUNITY KITCHEN GARDEN

Supported by
NSW Government
Health

THE HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENTS PROGRAM

UNSW
BUILT ENVIRONMENT
Street network

Street pattern
Quality and maintenance
Walking infrastructure
Street furniture
Public transport

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walking/Footpaths:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Footpaths</td>
<td>W1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signalised pedestrian crossings</td>
<td>W2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painted pedestrian crossings</td>
<td>W3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Note whether crossing the street is accessible for all (e.g. people with limited mobility or parents with prams)* | Accessible (Acc.)
Not accessible (N/Acc.) |
| Material of footpaths | Dirt (D)
Concrete (Con)
Bitumen (Bit)
Paving (Pav)
Cobblestone (Cobb)
Other (describe on map) |
| Quality of footpaths (i.e. consistency and evenness of surfaces, presence of trip/slip hazards) | Poor (M-P)
Average (M-A)
Good (M-G) |
| Width of footpaths | Measure and note the width of footpaths on the map |
| Gradient of footpaths | Flat (G-F)
Moderate (G-M)
Steep (G-S)
Other (describe on map) |
| Type of buffer between footpath and street (i.e. trees, fence/railing) | Note and describe on the map |
| Types of obstructions along the footpaths (e.g. overgrown vegetation, café dining) | Note and describe on the map |
| Visibility along footpaths | Poor (V-P)
Average (V-A)
Good (V-G) |
| Connectivity of footpaths | Continuous (Cont.)
Abrupt end (Abr.) |
| Type of shading of footpaths | Awning (Awn.)
Shade structures (Sh.St)
Vegetation (Veg)
Other (describe on map) |
| Quality of shading of footpaths | Poor (Sh-P)
Average (Sh-A)
Good (Sh-G) |
| Other | Describe on map |
Street network
Cycling infrastructure
Parking provision

Victoria Park
Street network
Rouse Hill
Evaluative commentary

General observations of the site – qualitative assessment
Where to from here?

Writing up the audits
GIS mapping
Exploring relationships to health data
Market basket survey
Informing question schedules
Focus group interviews