

## **Project Title**

Walkability Survey

## **Supporting Organizations**

1. Catholic Health System, Continuing Care Division
2. Schiller Park Senior Center
3. Erie County Senior Services
4. D'Youville College
5. Dearborn Street Association
6. Wellness Institute of Greater Buffalo
7. Geriatric Center of WNY
8. Catholic Health System, Partners in Rehab
9. Rediscover Riverside
10. The Black Rock/Riverside Good Neighbors Planning Alliance
11. Beechwood Homes
12. Parkside Community Association

## **Program Summary**

Walking is the oldest form of transportation, but far too often society overlooks this option while planning community improvement, construction or development. The “walkability” of a community is an intergenerational issue of great importance. We know that one out of every three people over the age of 65 will fall each year. Many of these falls will occur at or near individuals' homes. The WNY Falls Prevention Consortium would like to draw attention to the problem of falls and encourage local communities to take action to reduce the risks for falling. As one part of their multifaceted approach, the Consortium planned a study of walkability in several parts of the Buffalo area on the first day of fall 2009. This date coincided with many efforts around the country aimed at increased falls risk awareness. Due to the vast size of the Buffalo metropolitan area, the Consortium focused on a selection of locations that provided opportunities for impact and visibility. The target locations focused on low-income older adults, and other locations identified as being at highest risk for older adults

## **Approach**

The WNY Falls Prevention Consortium in conjunction with partnering organizations conducted a 1-day walkability survey using a tool developed and tested by AARP. A planning group consisting of falls prevention leaders within the community worked to develop and implement this project. The survey used during the walkability study can be found at [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org). This website is organized by AARP and should be checked often as it will provide the most up to date walkability survey available.

## **Toolkit Items**

1. Sidewalks and Streets Survey (found at [www.createthegood.org](http://www.createthegood.org))
2. Walkability Survey Final Report – September 21, 2009