



WALKABLE SALT LAKE CITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“ As we grow and our city becomes denser and more urbanized, we must ensure that our community is walkable and provides access to amenities that contribute to our quality of life.

- Plan Salt Lake (2015)

WHAT IS WALKABLE SLC?

Walkability is an important factor in promoting public health, reducing environmental impact, and supporting the local economy. One key variable in walkability is the proximity to essential amenities—people are more likely to walk when everyday services like grocery stores, schools, parks, and public transportation are close to where they live.

Walkable SLC is a data-driven mapping tool developed by SLC Planning to better understand and visualize the city's current access to amenities that support a high quality of life, like grocery stores, parks, and schools. By analyzing the access to amenities at a city-wide and neighborhood level, staff can identify areas that are more or less accessible than others. This approach supports planning efforts by highlighting areas where increased access to amenities may improve quality of life, promote alternative transit options, and reduce reliance on cars.

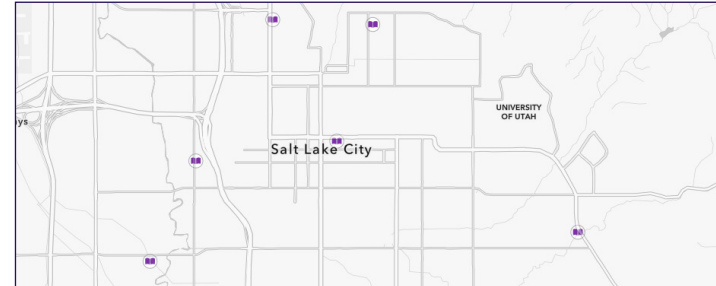
WALKABILITY MAP

HOW WAS THE WALKABILITY MAP CREATED?

The Walkability Heat Map identifies areas of the city with the greatest variety of amenity types within walking distance. The greater variety of amenities available in an area, the more walkable. Areas with a high variety of amenities are shown in bright yellow, while areas with less variety are represented in dark purple.

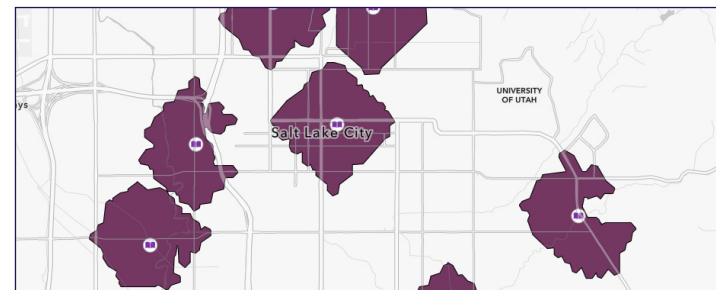
1. IDENTIFY AMENITY LOCATIONS

To determine the locations of existing amenities, our team collaborated with the City's business licensing division and analyzed zoning data. This process helped identify the precise locations of amenities like grocery stores, parks, schools, and other community resources to create a database cataloging amenities throughout the city.



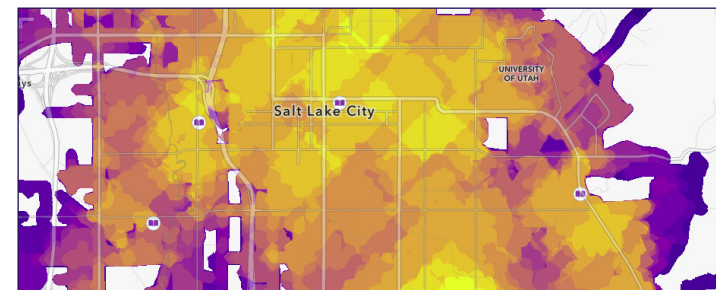
2. CREATE "WALKSHEDS"

Using the database of amenities, our team employed mapping software to visualize walking distances around each amenity. These "walksheds" represent the areas within which residents can easily walk to within 15 minutes to access a particular amenity.



3. OVERLAY WALKSHEDS

Once the walksheds were created for each amenity, our team combined them into a single layer on the map. This resulted in a heatmap that highlights areas, based on either city block or parcel, with the highest variety of accessible amenities providing a visual representation of where residents have the greatest access to services and resources.



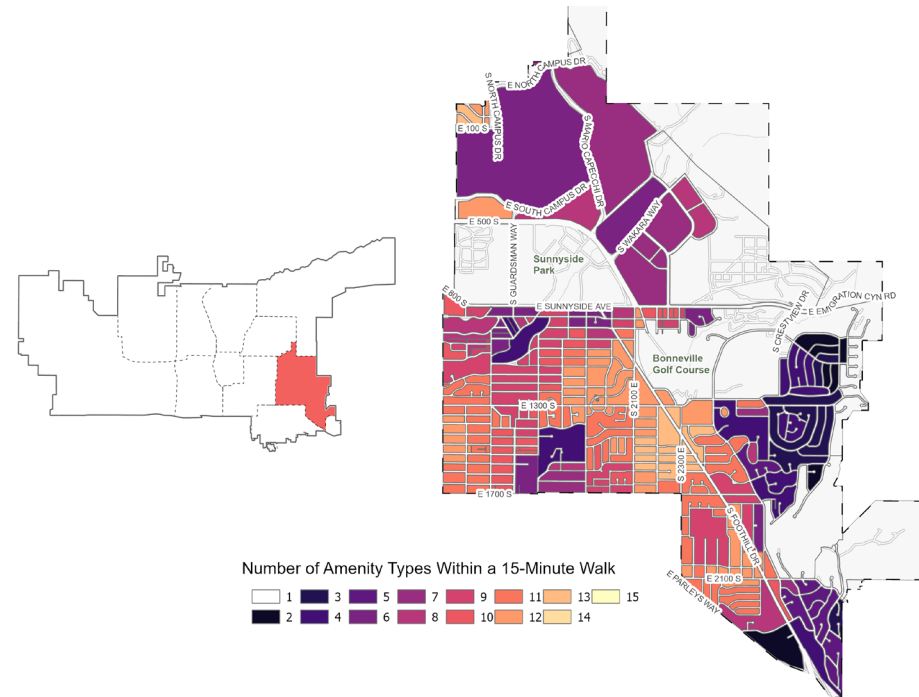
Walkability analysis is inherently complex, and multiple factors may influence the outcomes for any given neighborhood. While every effort has been made to utilize the most accurate and up-to-date data, the findings should be considered as general guidance rather than precise determinations. For additional information on each amenity category, see the "Identified Amenities" explanations at the end of this report.



Scan the QR code to visit the StoryMap.

View our website here:
www.bit.ly/4bfEQXQ

EAST BENCH WALKABILITY ANALYSIS



PERCENTAGE REFERS TO TOTAL HOUSING UNITS WITH WALKABLE ACCESS TO AMENITIES



WALKABLE AMENITIES OVERVIEW

The East Bench community lies on the far east edge of Salt Lake City, with neighborhoods stretching into the foothills of Emigration and Parley's Canyons. The map shows a distinct difference in amenity access between the center of the community and the outer edges to the north and east.

An analysis of the area's zoning reveals that the majority of the community is zoned exclusively for single-family residential uses. There are very few lots that allow for multi-family development, comprising only a few scattered pockets along 2100 S and between Foothill Drive and Parley's Way. This neighborhood is designed to prioritize privacy and proximity to nature over convenience and a mix of land uses. This is also reflected in the fact that 100% of housing units in this neighborhood are within walking distance to a park, and 99.8% of housing units are within walking distance to a trail.

The East Bench is the least served by public transportation of any neighborhood in Salt Lake City. The only TRAX stations serving the area are located on the University Campus, which limits light rail access for most residents. Additionally, the neighborhood is served by only one bus line—Route 21—which runs along 2100 S and 2100 E, and operates at a frequency of every 15 minutes.

CRITICAL AMENITY GAPS

The limited transit access in the East Bench community is likely driven by a combination of factors, including the high-income, car-dependent culture, geographic location, and low-density land use patterns. Additionally, the community's steep topography makes biking and walking challenging, further discouraging alternative transportation options.

The lack of childcare services in the area can likely be attributed to the absence of commercial zoning throughout the community. Without the density

HOUSING UNITS WITH WALKABLE ACCESS TO AMENITIES

Amenities	City-wide	East Bench	Difference
Bus Stops	98.3%	93.7%	-4.6%
Childcare	90.7%	70.8%	-20.0%
Grocery Stores	81.0%	55.3%	-25.7%
Healthcare	91.0%	88.9%	-2.1%
Hospitals	31.4%	40.5%	+9.1%
Libraries	41.1%	26.7%	-14.4%
Offices	96.7%	93.0%	-3.7%
Parks	98.7%	100.0%	+1.3%
Pharmacies	77.6%	89.7%	+12.0%
Recreation	90.6%	95.3%	+4.7%
Restaurants	96.0%	90.7%	-5.2%
Retail	94.6%	77.4%	-17.3%
Schools	93.9%	77.4%	-16.5%
Trails	82.1%	99.8%	+17.7%
TRAX Stops	52.4%	39.9%	-12.5%

or commercial activity that typically supports such services, childcare providers may not find enough demand to justify the high costs associated with operating in this area.

The lack of childcare services in the East Bench community may also be partly attributed to its higher household incomes. Families with higher incomes may be more likely to rely on private care or other alternatives, which can reduce the demand for publicly accessible childcare services. As stakeholders and City leaders plan for the future of East Bench, development efforts should prioritize creating a more diverse mix of commercial uses, expanding the variety of housing types, and enhancing public transit options.

AMENITIES | IDENTIFIED



HEALTHCARE

This category includes mental health clinics, orthodontists, medical clinics, dental clinics, therapists, nursing homes, and other similar healthcare amenities.



TRAILS

This category includes natural trails, such as the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and urban trails, like Parley's Trail.



RESTAURANTS

This category includes full-service restaurants and fast-food locations. Bars and cafes were not included unless licensed as a restaurant.



HOSPITALS

Hospitals include the Redwood Health Center, Sugar House Health Center, LDS Hospital, Salt Lake Regional Medical Center, Intermountain Salt Lake Clinic, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Shriners Hospital for Children, Primary Children's Medical Center, the University of Utah Medical Center, and the Huntsman Cancer Institute



PARKS

This category includes public parks maintained by Salt Lake City, like Liberty Park, Fairmont Park, and the Jordan River Parkway. The category also includes parks maintained by Salt Lake County (Tanner Park), the State of Utah (This is the Place Park), and the University of Utah (Red Butte Garden).



GROCERY STORES

This category includes only those stores offering year-round fresh food. This includes grocery stores like Smith's or Rancho Market, supermarkets like Target and Walmart, and warehouse stores like Costco and Sam's Club.



PHARMACIES

This category includes all licensed pharmacies within city boundaries. Examples include hospital pharmacies, grocery store pharmacies, and retail pharmacies.



RECREATION

This category includes recreation and entertainment businesses outside of parks and trails, such as movie theatres, escape rooms, and museums. This also includes outdoor venues, such as tennis courts and the Tracy Aviary.



RETAIL

This category includes licensed retail goods businesses such as clothing and jewelry stores, sporting goods stores, and bookstores.

AMENITIES | IDENTIFIED



OFFICES

This category includes businesses dedicated to office-related uses. This includes a wide variety of office types, such as law firms, financial services, real estate offices, corporate headquarters, and other general office uses.



CHILD CARE

Daycares and childcare centers were mapped based on all licensed daycare facilities. These facilities range in size from a small home daycare to larger preschools. Examples include The Foothill Montessori of Salt Lake and Fun Time Child Care.



BUS STOPS

The bus stop data includes all UTA bus stops. Data includes all stops within city boundaries, mapped at their physical location on either side of the street.



LIBRARIES

This category includes all public libraries in the Salt Lake City Public Library System.



SCHOOLS

This category includes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. The category does not include colleges, universities, or trade schools.



TRAX STOPS

This category includes all UTA Trax Stations.

