Walkable London

Best practice guide for a walkable city
Walking is an innately human activity. Almost everything we do starts by putting one foot in front of another. The problem is that we have designed it out of modern life. As our cities continue to grow, this car-centric approach has to change. Air pollution, physical inactivity and congestion threaten our health, economy and quality of life. We need to move people out of their cars and reshape our cities for more active travel.

Walking offers an affordable solution to some of our most complex challenges. If all Londoners walked (or cycled) for only 20 minutes a day, we’d save billions in health care costs. Walking not only brings health benefits, it makes us happier, it helps bring communities together, it boosts local economies and above all it’s a fun way to explore our great city.

I recently launched the Mayor’s Healthy Streets for London document to set out our vision for prioritising walking, cycling and public transport. We know that a quarter of all car trips could be walked, and two thirds could be cycled. Imagine the huge benefits to our streets and Londoners that reducing private car use would provide.

Business Improvement Districts, London Boroughs, and Community groups are all working together to help deliver this change. This best practice guide aims to showcase some of the most recent innovative and partnership focused projects supported by a step-by-step best practice guide on how to achieve success with your own local healthy streets projects and I’m pleased to be able to share this with you.
10 Healthy Streets Indicators for London

Case study key

1. Clean air walking route
2. Place making trail map
3. Creative public realm improvements
4. Streetscape improvements to promote walking
5. Unlocking walking links
6. An urban parklet — FitzPark
7. Light at the End of the Tunnel x2
8. The Low Line
9. Urban market walking experience x3
Unlocking walking links

The Low Line

Clean air walking routes

Light at the End of the Tunnel

Streetscape improvements to promote walking

Creative public realm improvements

Urban market walking experience

An urban market is a catalyst

An urban parklet — FitzPark
These case studies demonstrate how a range of local interventions such as greening, lighting and seating can have a big impact on our walking experience. Promoting walking need not require a big budget and a range of small interventions over time can have a huge benefit.

The below case studies acknowledge many of the Healthy Streets Indicators. Certainly they all encourage people from all walks of life to choose to walk, cycle and use public transport.

Next steps

CRP and partners are now developing additional Clean air walking routes across central London.

cleanairwalkiting.org
Cross River Partnership (CRP) is central London’s largest public private partnership and has been delivering regeneration projects in the capital since 1994.

Delivering London’s Future Together