



DIY STREET MAKEOVER

There are many ways to bring your streets to life! Here are a few ideas to increase the sound of more pitter patter on your street:

1. **Make your street fun and interesting** - a creative and fun atmosphere is inviting and interesting for everyone. It can be as easy as having a picnic in your front yard or quirky decorations in your garden. Other ideas:
 - Setting up some safe, supervised games for neighbourhood children to play on the footpath, like hopscotch or skipping.
 - Hosting a 'walking treasure hunt', especially one which encourages children.
 - Encouraging people to improve their neighbourhoods with interesting, attractive plants along the nature strips – you might even be able to get some sponsorship from a local nursery
 - Starting a campaign to wave to drivers – it not only makes the neighbourhood feel like a friendly place, it also reminds drivers that they share the streets with walkers.
 - Encouraging people to use their front yards for sitting and gathering in. This also makes streets feel more friendly, encourages spontaneous chats between walkers and residents, and reminds drivers that these are residential streets.
2. **Get walking** - walkers contribute to a sense of neighbourhood safety and security, and can help remind drivers that streets are shared spaces. You can inspire others to start walking simply by walking yourself! Other ideas:
 - Research and promote a historical walk around the neighbourhood, conducted for and by local people.
 - Set up a 'walk to school' or 'walk to the shops' day in the local area, and encourage everyone to get involved.
 - Hold a breakfast bbq or afternoon snack stop along a popular walking route – people will stop to eat, and you can then tell them a little more about what you're trying to do.



3. **Promote walking -**

- Start an intensive chalk campaign on footpaths, with messages like 'five minutes walk to the local shops', 'three minutes walk to the park', 'why not walk?', and any others you can think of.
- Stick signs on your members' front gates indicating that this is a walking household
- Put up posters about walking in local shop windows
- Do a letter box drop about particular walking events or walking generally
- Create street signs reminding drivers to look out for people (especially children) that are walking in the area
- Reminding the group to be courteous to drivers who share the road with walkers, so that you're practicing what you're preaching.

4. **Organise a street party** to help neighbours get to know each other and maybe even recruit some more members. (You could make a CD with walking-themed music to set the tone).

5. **Clean up your neighbourhood** - footpaths or walking tracks that are covered in litter aren't terribly inviting. It's hard to walk along a footpath or track when you are constantly blocked by parked cars, overhanging branches or other obstacles. Organising a neighbourhood clean up is a quick and easy way to make walking in your community easier - and is also a great way to start meeting other people and making connections.

6. **Other ideas**

- Try to discourage cars from parking across footpaths.
- Contact your local council to find out how it's promoting and encouraging walking in the area (you might be pleasantly surprised!).
- Draw attention to hazards or danger zones with signs, balloons, posters or groups of people. Make sure that you don't do anything that could distract drivers and cause accidents though!

#Tip: Don't forget to let local media know about your activities. They might be willing to spread the word before an event, which will boost participation, or even come along on the day and take photos.