

# OUTDOOR TOWNS TOOLKIT

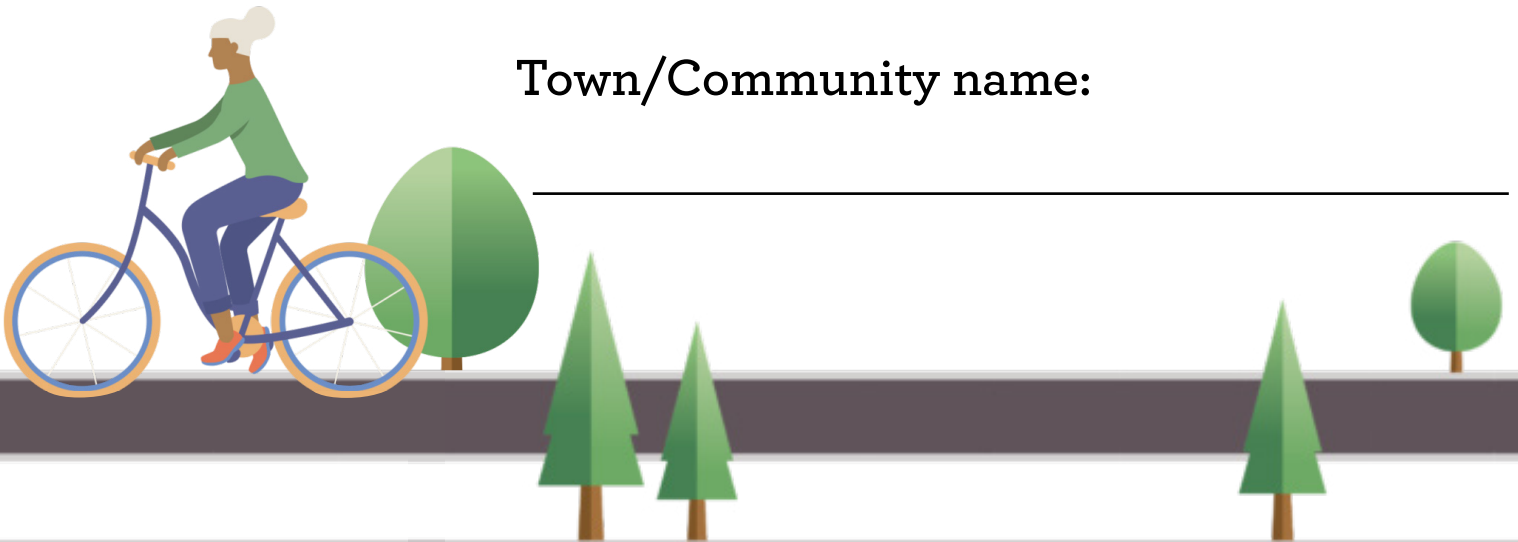
## Self-Assessment Booklet

[www.outdoortowns.org](http://www.outdoortowns.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Town/Community name:

\_\_\_\_\_



# Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Biking and walking are integral elements of the town's transportation system that contribute to community health, economic mobility, access to nature, and quality of life.

**Suggested participants:** Walking and bicycling enthusiasts, schools, downtown groups, healthcare providers, community/county planner, public works/streets department, MPO/RPO, PennDOT Regional Bike/Ped Coordinator

## Biking Improvements

Where are the best places in and around town to bike? Please list any designated or marked trails.

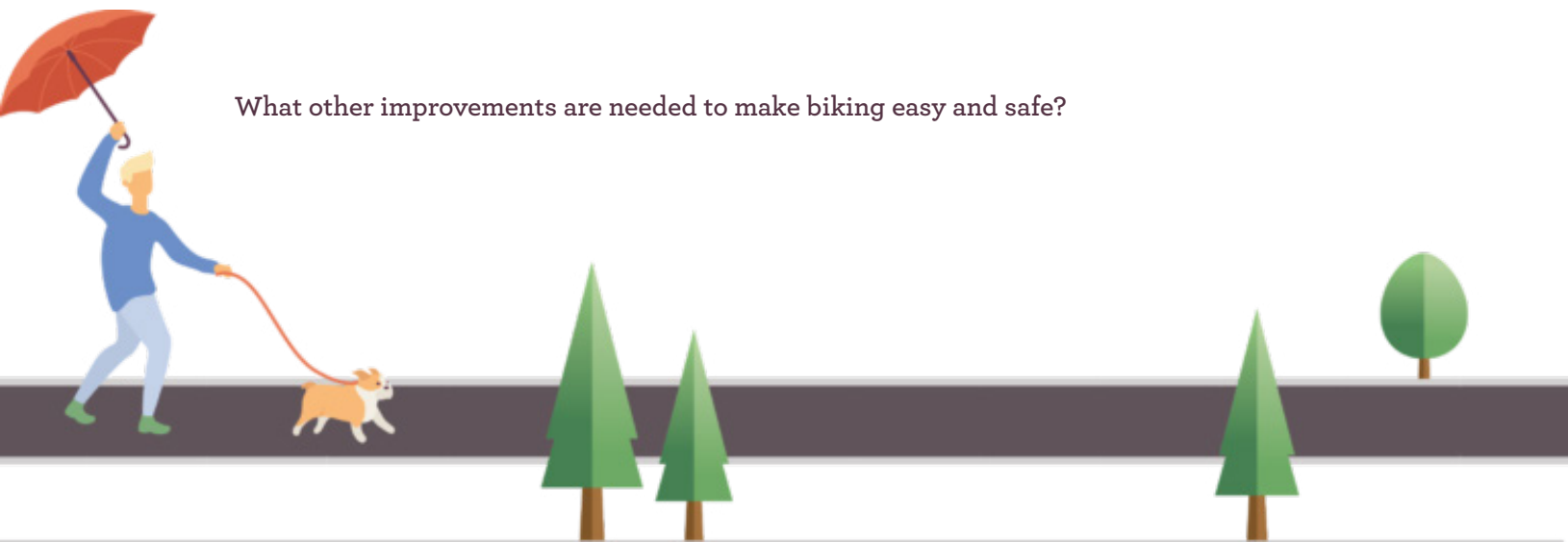
What areas feel unsafe for biking (heavy traffic, high speeds, lack of shoulder, poor road conditions)?

Where are bike lanes or paths needed? Where do you want to bike to but can't right now? Where are there gaps?

Where are bike racks and repair stations located, and where are additional ones needed?

- Current locations:
  
- New bike rack and repair stations needed at these locations:

What other improvements are needed to make biking easy and safe?



## Pedestrian Improvements

What is your community's Walk Score? Find out at [www.walkscore.com](http://www.walkscore.com).

Where are the best places to walk in and around your town? Please list any designated walking trails as well as other locations good for walking.

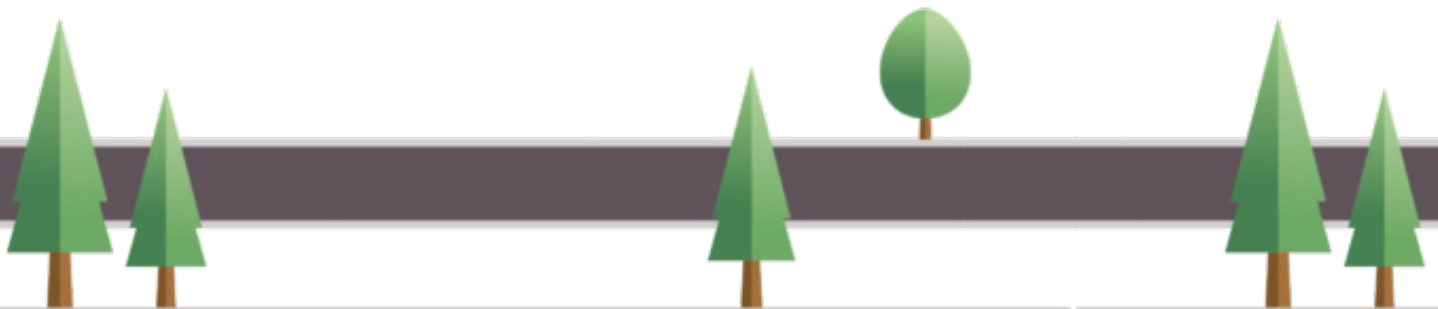
What areas feel unsafe to walk to, including places that you want to walk to, but do not feel safe walking to now.

Please list any crosswalk improvements that are needed.

Please list any improvements that are needed to sidewalks or streetscapes. Be as specific as possible.

What other improvements are needed to make walking easy and safe?

## Additional Notes and Observations



# Park and River Access Improvements

Parks and waterways provide many benefits to the physical, emotional, and environmental health of communities, but only with easy access and maintenance can community members and visitors truly reap these benefits.

**Suggested participants:** Park and paddling enthusiasts, Parks and Recreation Department/Board, Water Trail manager ([www.pawatertrails.org](http://www.pawatertrails.org)), community/county planner, DCNR Regional Advisor, PFBC Boating Facilities

## Park Improvements

Who is this park for? Is it welcoming to visitors?

Is there clear access to the park? Are there sidewalks/paths to provide easy and clear access to the park? How are entrances marked? Are there signs showing visitors how to get to the park?

What makes the park inviting? What makes the park uninviting?

Is the park well maintained? How can maintenance be improved?

What kind of activities are available in the park? Who participates?

Are ALL parts of the park ADA accessible?



## River Access Improvements

Is there public access to the river? How many access sites are there, and how far apart are they?

Is public access to the river ADA accessible?

How is the water quality? How is water quality monitored?

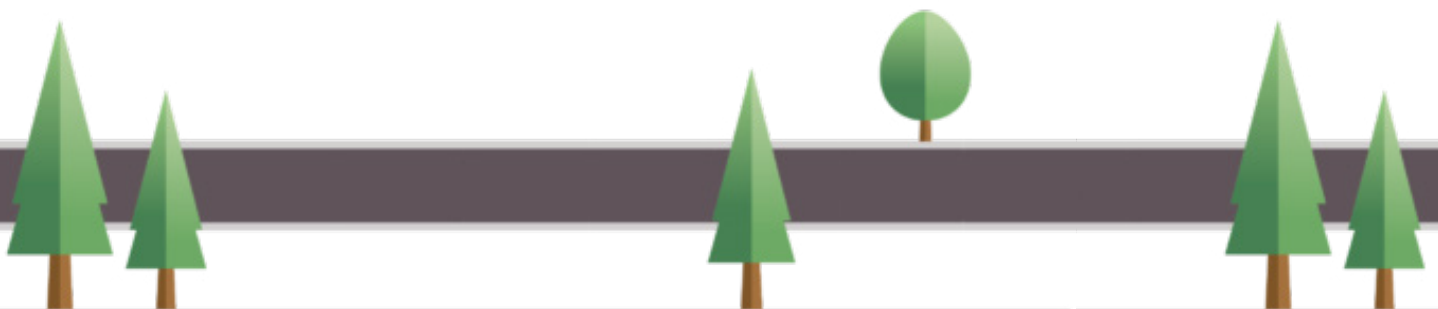
How is river stewardship conducted? Is there an organization that programs stewardship activities?

Is the river a designated Pennsylvania Water Trail ([www.pawatertrails.org](http://www.pawatertrails.org))?

What activities are promoted on the river?

How do users learn about water safety?

## Additional Notes and Observations



# Gateway and Signage Improvements

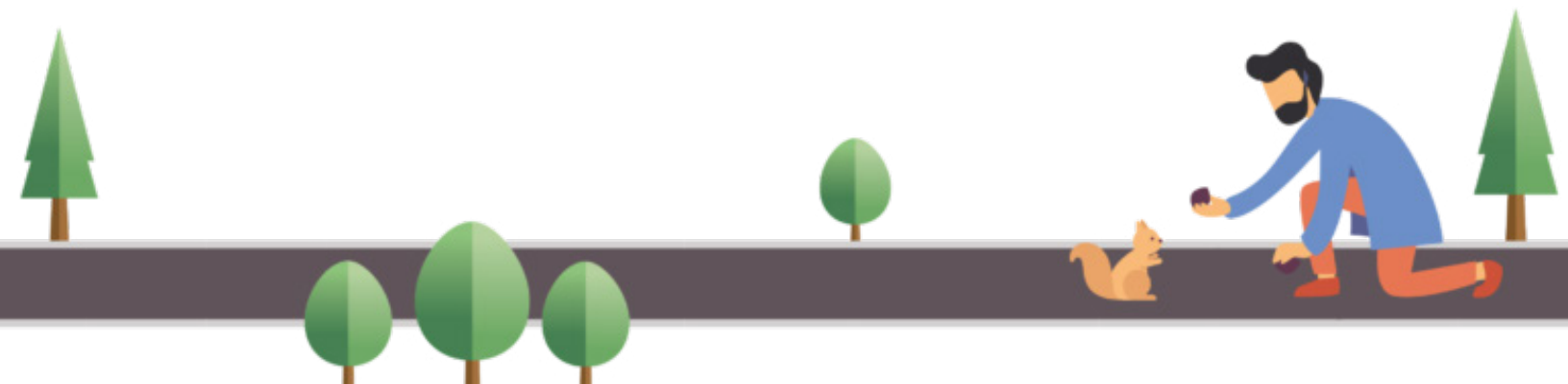
Signage helps visitors know when they have entered your Outdoor Town and what amenities they can expect to find there. Good signage provides a sense of place, promotes local businesses, and helps make connections between towns and their recreational amenities.

**Suggested participants:** Downtown groups, garden clubs, local artists, visitor bureau, community/county planner, local codes official, PennDOT district office

Are there welcome signs to the community? Are there directional signs to let you know where to go?

Are signs easy to read? Are they maintained?

What community amenities do the signs guide visitors to? What places are missing?



Are there signs interpreting the community's unique character? Is there public art?

Are there trailhead signs leading people from town to the trail or park? Where are they missing?

Are there trailhead signs leading people from the trail or park into town? Where are they missing?

Additional Notes and Observations



# Tourism, Marketing and Promotion

You know your town has amazing opportunities for outdoor recreation, but effective promotion can turn those assets into tools for community revitalization and growth.

**Suggested participants:** Visitor bureaus, historical and cultural organizations, restaurateurs, lodging owners, local artists, breweries, wineries, bike shops

How does the town promote its unique character? Who is the audience? Can it be expanded?

What is special about your town's relationship to your outdoor amenities?

What types of cultural destinations are accessible from the outdoor amenity?





Do local establishments promote the outdoor amenities? What new partnerships are possible?

Does the local visitor bureau promote outdoor recreation?

How to local organizations program the trails? What programming is missing?

Additional Notes and Observations



# Sustainable Practices

Our Outdoor Towns are amazing places to live and play because of the beautiful environmental amenities we hold dear. It's our responsibility to protect and preserve that environmental so we can continue enjoying these resources for generations.

**Suggested participants:** Garden clubs, shade tree commission, environmental clubs, community/county planners, public works, recycling coordinator, MS4 coordinator, DCNR service forester, conservation district

What is the street tree cover in town? How about tree cover on the trail?

Are there trash and recycling receptacles along the trail and in town? Where should new ones go?

What learning opportunities about the local environment are available to visitors and residents?



How does the town support communities of native plant and animal species?

Does the town use green stormwater management? Where are new opportunities?

Is public transportation available to visitors? How does transit connect to the outdoor amenities?

Additional Notes and Observations



# Business Development

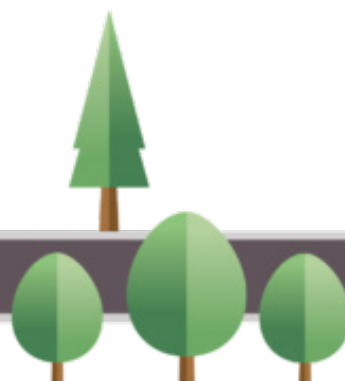
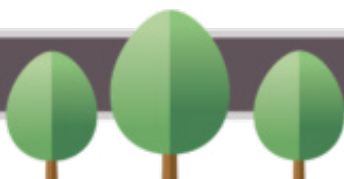
Outdoor Towns attract new visitors and provide connections between recreational assets and commercial corridors. They are perfect places for businesses to flourish. How can businesses support the development of Outdoor Towns and enable their own growth in the process?

**Suggested participants:** Downtown groups, Chamber of Commerce, economic development organizations, banks/lenders, business owners, religious institutions

What kinds of businesses are found downtown?

Are businesses trail-friendly? Do they offer services for recreational users?

Are the businesses inviting? Are their facades maintained?



Do the businesses participate in community events? What new partnerships are possible?

What types of businesses are missing from the commercial corridor?

What hours and days of the week are businesses open? Do the hours serve visitors?

Additional Notes and Observations

