



THE LIVABILITY INDEX: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL AGES

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WHAT IS A LIVABLE COMMUNITY?

A photograph of an elderly couple looking at pink flowers at an outdoor market. The man, on the right, is wearing a blue shirt and glasses, and the woman, on the left, is wearing a white shirt and glasses. They are both smiling and looking at a bouquet of pink flowers. The background is blurred, showing other people and market stalls.

“A livable community is one that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence; allow residents to age in place; and foster residents’ engagement in the community’s civic, economic, and social life.”

—AARP Public Policy Institute

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AARP LIVABLE COMMUNITIES PRINCIPLES

- **Create livable communities.**
- **Improve health.**
- **Foster safety and personal security.**
- **Engage residents in community planning and provide equal access to the decision-making process.**
- **Protect civil and legal rights.**
- **Coordinate planning processes.**
- **Invest in existing communities.**

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AARP HOUSING PRINCIPLES

- **Improve home design.**
- **Promote affordable housing options.**
- **Strengthen federal housing programs. Increase capacity for public-private partnerships.**
- **Promote financial security of housing assets.**
- **Support residents in all types of households.**
- **Foster home and community-based service delivery.**

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WHY IS CREATING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES IMPORTANT?

- **Demographic changes**
 - *In 2010, older adults were 13% of population*
 - *By 2030, older will account for 20% of population*
 - *Increasing from 35 million to 72 million*
- **Community member preferences**
 - *Older adults want to age in their homes and communities*
 - *Staying because of community connections*



Photo by Jana Lynott

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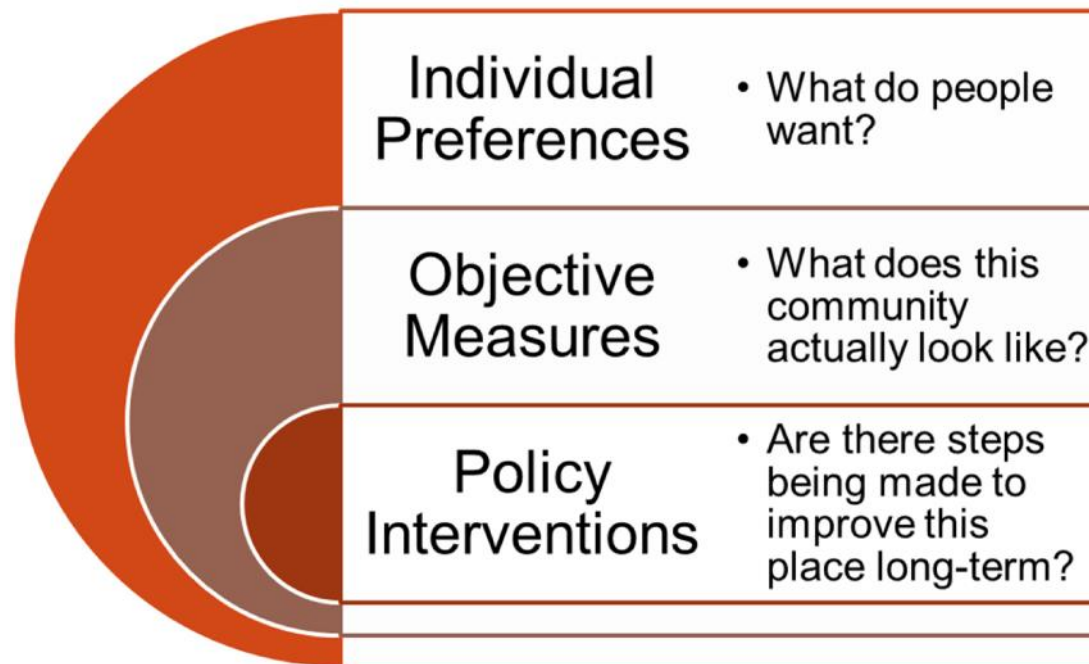
What is The Livability Index: Great Neighborhoods for All Ages?

- A web-based tool to measure community livability for people of all ages but with special attention given to the wants and needs of older adults.



THE LIVABILITY INDEX: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL AGES

THE LIVABILITY INDEX FRAMEWORK



THE LIVABILITY INDEX: GREAT NEIGHBORHOODS FOR ALL AGES

Livability Categories

Housing

Neighborhood

Transportation

Environment

Health

Engagement

Opportunity

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CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LIVABILITY CATEGORIES

- “Location matters”
- Location and engagement
- Location and affordability
- Location and environment
- Health and transportation



Photo by Jana Lynott

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Livable Communities Housing Characteristics

Housing accessibility

Housing affordability

Housing options

Housing location



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Housing Metrics

Attribute	Measure	Metric
Housing accessibility	Basic passage	Percent of housing units that contain all of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extra wide doors or hallways ▪ Floors with no steps between rooms ▪ Entry level bathroom ▪ Entry level bedroom
	Availability of multi-family housing	Percent of housing units that are not single-family detached
Housing affordability	Housing costs	Monthly housing costs, weighted by tenure
	Housing cost burden	Percent of median income devoted to monthly housing costs
	Availability of subsidized housing	Number of subsidized housing units per capita

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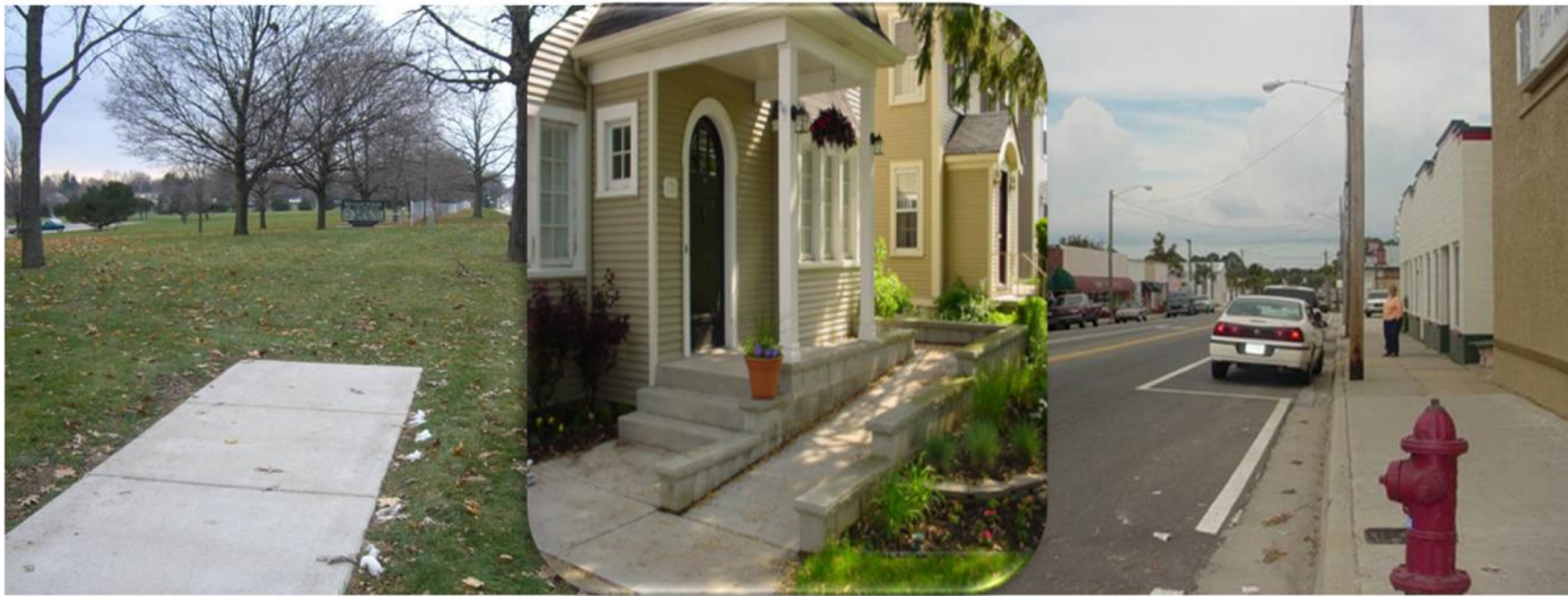
Housing Policies

Attribute	Policy	Metric
Housing accessibility	Inclusive design laws	State and local laws that make housing accessible for people of all abilities
Housing options	Inclusive design laws	State and local laws that make housing accessible for people of all abilities
Housing affordability	Foreclosure prevention and protection	Policies and programs that protect homeowners from losing their homes to foreclosure
	Housing trust funds	State and local funds that support the development and preservation of affordable housing

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What will The Livability Index do?

- Help users to understand their communities and make decisions about their future needs



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Who will use The Livability Index?

Community Decision-Makers (public officials, policymakers and policy influencers)

Community Stakeholders (activists, boosters, associations, local institutions)

AARP Community (AARP staff and programs)

Research Community (research centers, think tanks, data collectors)

General Public / AARP Members

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The screenshot shows the AARP Public Policy Institute website. The header includes the AARP logo with the tagline "Real Possibilities" and the Public Policy Institute logo with the tagline "Inquiry. Analysis. Solutions.". Navigation links include "PUBLICATIONS", "ISSUES", "INITIATIVES", "EXPERTS", "EVENTS", "DATA", and "ABOUT PPI". A red button labeled "MORE FROM AARP" is also present. Below the header, the page title "Livability Index | Great Neighborhoods for All Ages" is displayed. A navigation bar contains "LIVABILITY DEFINED", "FEATURED COMMUNITIES", and "ABOUT US", along with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The main content area features a large orange background with white line art icons representing various livability factors: personal safety (police car), quality of health care (heart with pulse line), access to destinations (bus, car, bicycle), air quality (sun with rays), water quality (water drop), and housing affordability (houses). A central text box asks "How livable is your community?" and includes a search bar with the placeholder text "enter your address, city, state or zip code" and a red search button. Below the search bar is a red button labeled "LEARN MORE". At the bottom, a dark grey section contains the text "The Livability Index scores cities and communities across the U.S. for the services and amenities that impact your life the most." and a smaller line of text: "Search for your city or learn more about how we define livability."

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Livability Index | Great Neighborhoods for All Ages

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personal safety | quality of health care | access to destinations

How livable is your community?

enter your address, city, state or zip code

air quality | water quality | housing affordability

LEARN MORE

The Livability Index scores cities and communities across the U.S. for the services and amenities that impact your life the most.

Search for your city or learn more about how we define livability.

New PPI Livable Communities website: www.aarp.org/livablepolicy

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Livable Communities | AARP Public Policy Institute

AARP seeks to improve older adults' quality of life by promoting the development of safe, accessible and vibrant environments often called livable communities. Livable communities policies address issues such as land use, housing, transportation and broadband — all of which facilitate aging in place.

FEATURED RESOURCES



The Livability Index
The Livability Index scores communities across the U.S. for the features, services and amenities that impact your life the most.



Specialized Transportation
The Affordable Care Act (ACA) provides new funding opportunities for specialized transportation services.

- [Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livable Communities Policies and Practices](#)
- [High Speed Internet Connectivity Promises Major Benefits for Many Older Americans](#)

HOUSING



The availability, affordability and variety of housing options is inextricably connected to the overall quality of life in a community. [Learn More](#)

TRANSPORTATION



Older adults need transportation to the places and services that support their independence. Policies that encourage adequate, safe and

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Livable Communities

Great Places for People of All Ages

[Learn More](#) aarp.org/livable

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RECENT & UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

April 20, 2015

Launch of Livability Index:
APA National Conference
Seattle, WA

Publications of Livability Index related publication

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