

Fraseropolis.com Urban Villages Index

Austin Nov 03 2012

Approximate number of walkable storefront blocks = 9 long blocks

Criterion	Points available	Points scored	Comments
Availability of housing choices within walking distance, including seniors' housing; housing in village core	20	11	The plan says to go big, but multi-family housing is currently squeezed into a two-block strip north of Austin Ave. There is veterans housing nearby.
Transit hub with frequent service (i.e. ≤ 15 minutes) along diverse routes	12	4	Only one route on Austin Ave; two other routes through neighbourhood; all at 30-minute intervals through the day
Area plan or strategy; municipal policies to promote mixed-used development; incentives or mechanism to create mixed-use development; funding for infrastructure and beautification	12	8.5	Ambitious plan adopted in 2011 to add 5,000 new residents, or 2500 dwellings, into the designated planning area. One tower underway.
Everyday services for residents e.g. food market, drug store, clothing, dry cleaning	10	8.5	Butcher, baker, fish store, hardware, drug store, supermarket
Access to trails, walkable waterfront or heritage neighbourhood	8	4	Como Lake and Mundy Park are great, but not easily reachable on foot
Public amenities: arts centre, recreation, library, museum, seniors' or community centre	8	4.5	Excellent facilities at Poirier: major rec centre, library, seniors activity centre, community centre: but again, just out of walking distance for many Austin residents
General aesthetic appeal/ambience	6	3.5	
Variety of modest-cost dining for employees, families	5	3.5	
Office space for local professional services	4	4	
Quick access (walk, bike or transit) to next village	4	2	Lougheed Centre (not really a fun ride), Como Lake Centre
Sidewalks to standard	3	2	Angle parking makes the sidewalks narrow in commercial core
Effective business improvement association	3	2	Useful business directory online, but no mention of broader community
Availability of pre-school care	2	1	1 close by, 3 around Mundy Park
Outlets for local artists and craftspeople	2	0	

Bicycle racks or bicycle parking	1	0	
Bonus points: parking meters	2	0	
TOTAL	100	59	