



## CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

100 North Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 8647

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8647

Web: [www.a2gov.org](http://www.a2gov.org)

Printed on recycled paper

### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

Lisa Wondrash, Communications Unit Manager,  
(734) 323-4692

## **ANN ARBOR RANKED AS THIRD BEST WALKING CITY IN AMERICA**

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – March. 19, 2008 – Visitors and residents are going to want to lace up their walking shoes and discover why the City of Ann Arbor was recently recognized by *Prevention* magazine and the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) as one of the 10 Best Walking Cities in America. Ann Arbor ranked # 3 in a survey of more than 500 cities.

The APMA and *Prevention* annually team up to measure the walkability of America's cities. According to the magazine, walking is the most popular form of exercise with 87.5 percent of Americans walking for fitness. Cities were tested on 14 walking criteria, including crime rates and pollution as well as number of parks and the percentage of people who walk to work, use mass transit, and walk for exercise.

“The City of Ann Arbor is thrilled to be recognized for its commitment to alternative forms of transportation, which not only increases the quality of life for our residents but also supports a greener environment,” said Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje. “We have made a strong commitment to non-motorized transportation and we are winning awards for it.” Back in the spring of 2006 *Bicycling Magazine* put Ann Arbor in its Top 21 Cycling Cities in the Nation, 3<sup>rd</sup> best in its population class.

Few would argue that strong pedestrian facilities help to create a community that is physically active, accessible, and exceedingly livable. In fact, 57 percent of respondents in a 2007 Ann Arbor Citizen The survey reported the availability of alternative forms of transportation was essential or very important to their quality of life.

### **City of Ann Arbor Walking Facts:**

- ❑ 400 miles of sidewalks
- ❑ 22.5 miles of shared use paths
- ❑ Notable planned improvement projects related to walking:
  - 2008 MDOT Pedestrian Safety Award – over 50 locations,
  - 2009 Washtenaw Avenue Shared-use Path – approx 1.1 miles of new facilities.

*Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and was named one of the top 25 U.S. cities to live in by CNN/Money Magazine in 2006 as well as the third smartest city in the U.S. by Forbes Magazine. The City's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters, fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.*

###