



How to lead a Jane's Walk



Jane's Walk is a movement of free, citizen-led walking tours inspired by Jane Jacobs. The walks get people to tell stories about their communities, explore their cities, and connect with neighbors.

*"Cities have the capability of providing something **for everybody**, only because, and only when, they are created **by everybody**."*



Jane Jacobs (1916-2006) was a writer, urbanist and activist who championed a community-based approach to city-building.



- Founded in Toronto in 2006 by a group of Jane Jacobs' friends and colleagues to honor her life and activate her ideas.
- In 2017, 1,700 Jane's Walks took place in 225 cities around the world, spanning 37 countries and 6 continents.
- Continues to grow every year and has now reached over 500 cities!

We are inviting you to lead a Jane's Walk on
Saturday, May 3, 2025!

Anyone can be a walk leader, because **everyone**
is an expert on the places they live, work, and
play.



Step 1

Think of a place you'd like to explore or a topic you'd like to discuss.

For inspiration,
browse stories and
photos from past walks
around the world at
janeswalk.org/cities.



Examples CT Jane's Walks:

- The Phillips Family's Influence in Stamford's Glenbrook Neighborhood
- Windham Center's Historic Greens
- Inner Grand Avenue and Wooster Heights: Past, Present and Future
- Hartford Changes Around the Atheneum
- SoNo Stroll
- Jane's Walk Downtown Bridgeport
- Gales Ferry Village: In the Shadow of Mount Decatur
- Discover Cedar Hill

Step 2



Grab a friend and go for a walk.

Look, listen, smell, feel, and observe. Make eye contact. Talk to people. Hear what they have to say. Be active and present in the city around you. Take notes.

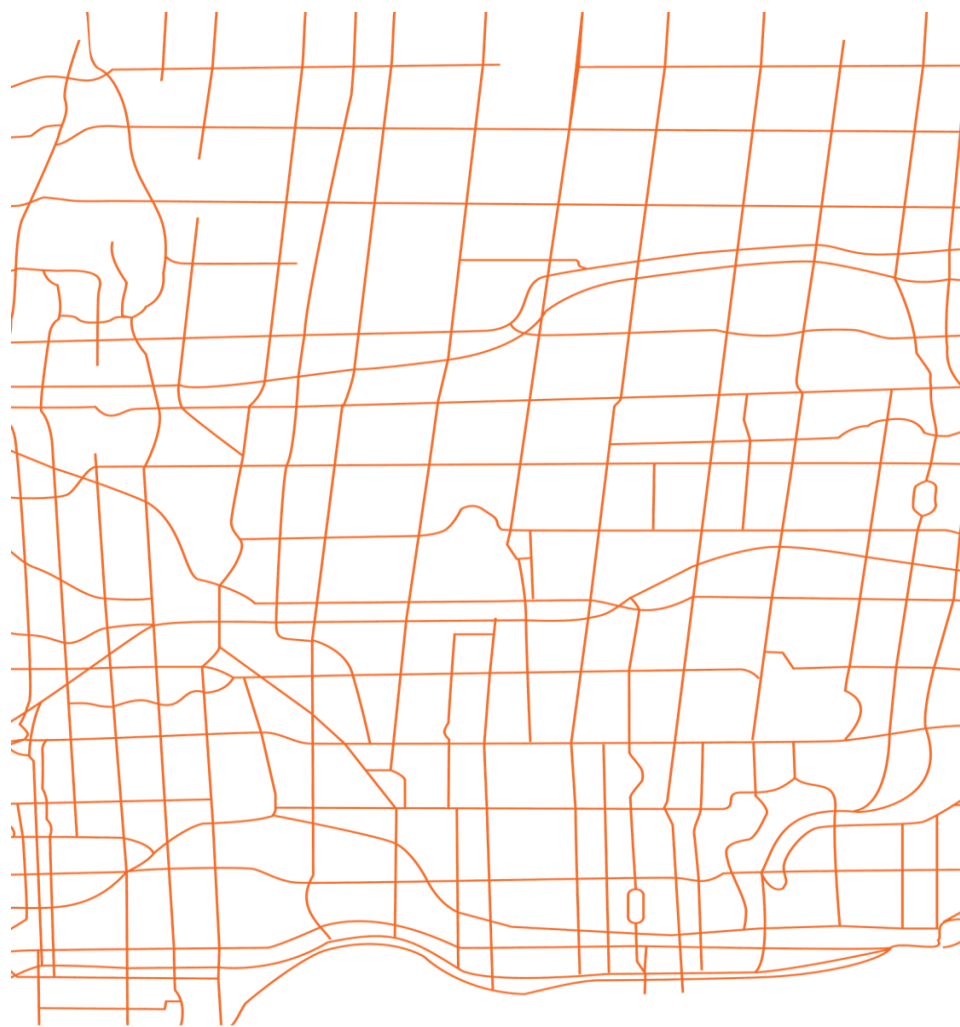
Step 3

Plan a route.

Step 4

Tell Preservation CT.

www.preservationct.org/janes-walk-connecticut



Step 5



Invite your friends, family, and community.

PCT and community partners will help promote all the walks in your city, but you should help get the word out, too.

Step 6

Show up.
Walk.
Have fun!





Tips for planning your walk





Don't worry about being an “expert”.

- You ARE an expert in your own experiences, and you have plenty to share!
- Don't worry about not knowing the answer to a question. Often, somebody in the crowd will know.
- Consider enlisting a co-Walk Leader or ask a community member who has knowledge of a certain area to help fill in the gaps.
- Remember that this isn't a lecture. This is a walking conversation.



Learn a little bit about Jane Jacobs.

You don't have to have read Jane Jacobs or know anything about her to lead a Jane's Walk, but she had some important ideas about cities that can help inspire your walk.



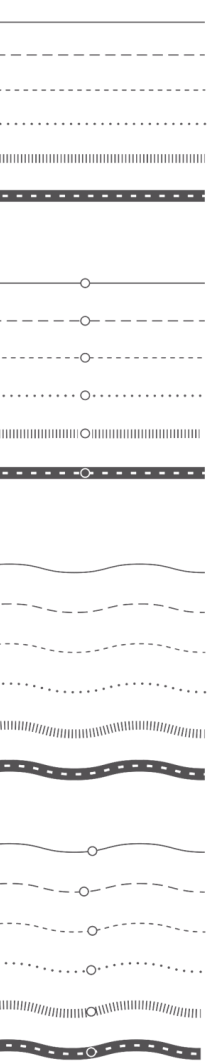
Consider accessibility.

- Everyone experiences space differently-try to find ways to accommodate different needs wherever possible.
- Be mindful of terrain, curbs, staircases, gates, and other barriers that could hinder someone's ease of movement.
- Think about whether there are portions of your walk with dim lighting, underpasses, strong odors, excessively loud noises, traffic, or large crowds.
- Consider how you will speak. Avoid jargon and brainstorm ways of speaking and asking questions that will engage a wide range of participants.



Go for depth over breadth.

- The best Jane's Walks are those that dive deep and draw out a city's stories, details, secrets, patterns, and rhythms.
- Keeping your walk focused on deep, local knowledge will help participants feel engaged and energized.



Keep the conversation going after the walk.

Think about ending your walk a local cafe or pub where participants can gather afterwards to connect.



Arrange for a photographer or writer to document your walk.

Not required, but:

- Walk documentation helps ensure that your walk will live on outside of the brief period of time you're actually walking.
- Photos, videos, and stories help thread together the narrative of your community.



Tips for the day of your walk



Be prepared.

- Make sure you have good walking shoes, drinking water, and anything else you might need.
- Jane's Walks happen rain or shine except in cases of serious weather, so check the forecast and prepare accordingly.



Don't do all the talking.

- Resist the temptation to talk the whole time. Press people for their own stories and perspectives.
- Sometimes it can take a little while for a crowd to warm up, so think about ways to help break the ice.
- Hold the silence after you ask a question for a good long while. Without fail, somebody will speak up to fill the silence!



Find a way to be heard.

- Get hold of a megaphone or microphone
- Standing on a bench and projecting over the crowd
- Moving onto a quieter side street
- Encouraging people to move in close



Let it go!

Anything goes on a Jane's Walk. Expect things to go a little sideways. Last minute changes, emerging contingencies, and serendipities are all common. Embrace spontaneity.



Have fun!

This is important. Do not forget to have fun.

