

# Physical Activity Environment Glossary

**Active living:** Integration of physical activity into everyday routines such as biking to work.

**Census block group:** Predefined spatial unit based on division of census tracts that can be used to assess the physical activity environment.

**Circular buffer:** Spatial unit that can be defined by a project team by selecting a point of interest and a radius around the point to assess the physical activity environment.

**Community design:** Design of a neighborhood or community with common metrics including density of people or residences and mix of land uses.

**Environmental observation (audit):** Method of measuring the physical activity environment through systematic observation by trained research staff and/or trained community stakeholders.

**Geocoding:** Process of converting addresses into geocoordinates.

**Geographic Information System (GIS):** Software system used for integrating and analyzing spatial and geographic data.

**Land use mix:** Measure of the diversity of destinations across an area, such as residential and commercial locations.

**Macro-scale attributes:** Attributes that describe the layout of a community.

**Micro-scale attributes:** Attributes within a setting.

**Neighborhood walkability:** Measure of how friendly an area is for walking.

**Physical Activity Environment:** For the purpose of these learning modules, the physical activity environment refers to the physical (built and natural) and social environment features that can support or inhibit physical activity.

**Questionnaire:** Method of measuring the physical activity environment using participant-report and proxy-report tools.

**Residential density:** Measure of the extent that land is occupied by either people or development.

**Street connectivity:** Directness of links and the density of connections in a transportation system.

**Street network buffer:** Spatial unit that can be defined by a project team by selecting a point of interest and a specified distance along the street network to assess the physical activity environment.

**Streetscape:** Features within a street segment or block and intersection.

**Transportation system:** Layout of streets.