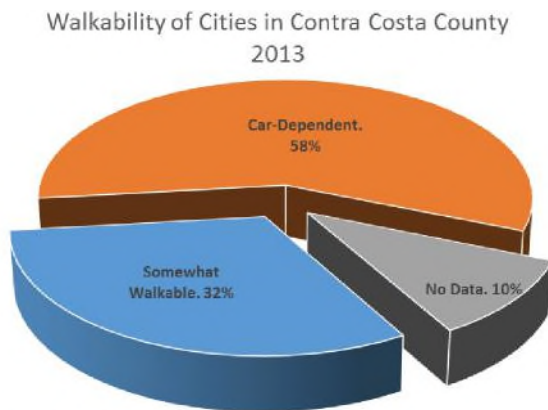


Most Cities in Contra Costa County are Car-dependent

Of the seventeen (17) towns and cities in Contra Costa County that walkscore.com assessed, majority of the cities, eleven (11) in fact, are classified as “car-dependent.” The other six (6) are categorized as “somewhat walkable.” Two (2) cities, Moraga and Clayton, do not have scores as of this writing. The top and most favorable classification that a city can attain is that of being a “Walker’s Paradise.” Unfortunately, there is no Walker’s Paradise city in Contra Costa County.



Source: walkscore.com

Table 2 shows that the most walkable city in Contra Costa County is El Cerrito with a score of 64, followed closely by Pleasant Hill with 63. The least walkable is Orinda with a score of 22. Of the 372 major cities in California assessed by walkscore.com, El Cerrito’s level is comfortably above the State’s average which is 50. All the 6 Contra Costa cities classified as “somewhat walkable” score above the California average. The lowest in Contra Costa County, Orinda, scores well above the lowest in California, Mead Valley, which score is 8.

According to *Safe Routes to School National Partnership*, an organization advocating safer routes to school programs, “data demonstrates that emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases increase with vehicle miles driven. Therefore, the more automobile and truck traffic, the greater amount of pollutants emitted. Research also shows an association between asthma and air quality, as well as life expectancy. Reducing traffic by increasing walkability and bikeability can improve the quality of air that we breathe and cut down on emission of air pollutants and greenhouse gases.

“A 5% increase in neighborhood walkability is associated with:

- 6.5% fewer vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita
- 5.6% fewer grams of Nitrogen Dioxide per capita
- 5.5% fewer grams of volatile organic compound (VOC) emitted per capita (Frank, et al., 2006)²

Walk Score provides walkability scores for cities, towns or specific areas within. Scores range from 0 to 100 broken down into five groups of increasing favorability to a walker. The five levels range from a “Car-Dependent” status (0-24) where almost all errands must be done by car up to “Walker’s Paradise” (90-100) where daily errands do not require the use of a car. The levels in between are shown in detail in the table below.

Walk Score	Description
90-100	Walker’s Paradise Daily errands do not require a car.
70-89	Very Walkable Most errands can be accomplished on foot.
50-69	Somewhat Walkable Some amenities within walking distance.
25-49	Car-Dependent A few amenities within walking distance.
0-24	Car-Dependent Almost all errands require a car.

According to walkscore.com, “Walk Score uses a patent-pending system to measure the walkability of an address. The Walk Score algorithm awards points based on the distance to amenities in each category. Amenities within .25 miles receive maximum points and no points are awarded for amenities further than one mile.”

Walk Score’s data sources include Google, Education.com, Open Street Map, and Localeze. Walk Score allows local residents to add and remove places from Walk Score in deference to these residents’ familiarity with their locality.¹

Source of basic data: www.walkscore.com
<http://www.walkscore.com/methodology.shtml>
²Safe Routes to School National Partnership <<http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/resourcecenter/research/travel-impacts-on-air-quality-and-greenhouse-gases>>

Table 2
Walk Score by City
Contra Costa County
2013

City	Score	Interpretation
San Pablo	66	Somewhat Walkable
El Cerrito	61	Somewhat Walkable
Richmond	55	Somewhat Walkable
Pleasant Hill	48	Car- dependent
Concord	44	Car - dependent
Pinole	41	Car- dependent
Antioch	39	Car-dependent
Martinez	39	Car-dependent
Walnut Creek	47	Car-dependent
Pittsburg	37	Car-dependent
Brentwood	36	Car-dependent
Hercules	27	Car-dependent
Oakley	25	Car-dependent
San Ramon	24	Car-dependent
Danville	23	Car-dependent
Lafayette	23	Car-dependent
Orinda	11	Car-dependent
Clayton	-	No Data
Moraga	-	No Data

Source: walkscore.com