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## Walking with a Purpose Success Story: Mills County

May 18, 2010

The assessment was completed in a 20-block section in Glenwood, surrounding the middle school, high school, courthouse square, YMCA, and Glenwood Lake Park. Fourteen participants, including students, parents, teachers, city/county officials, and other adults completed the walkability audit.

The group was very engaged in the process. The representatives from the Glenwood Park Board and the Mills County YMCA were interested in improving safe access to their facilities. In addition, the city officials were active participants in the assessment. A member from the Park Board, two officials from the city maintenance department, and a Glenwood police officer acknowledged the need for improvements to the walkability of the area and discussed potential solutions with the group.

The main concerns raised during the assessment include: broken sidewalk, curbs that are not wheelchair accessible, and no sidewalks in the Sharp Street area between the YMCA and new Glenwood High School, or in front of the middle school, which creates a safety hazard and barrier to walkability. The school, Mills County Chamber of Commerce, and the Senior Center were not represented, but the



people who conducted the assessment plan to meet with each of these groups individually to review the results together. Meetings are scheduled with the Mills County Wellness Committee, the Glenwood City Council/Park Board, and the Public Works Department to go over the results of the survey and discuss the next steps. The group plans to work with the City of Glenwood to pursue grant funding to address the concerns identified during the assessment.

