

Comparison of Kalamazoo and Dallas County Walkability

In 2021, the EPA published a National Walkability Index giving a score evaluating walkability in the area. The EPA defines walkability simply as a place where it is “easy to walk around”. Walkability is a desirable trait because it reduces infrastructure costs, decreases environmental impact, encourages social interaction, and makes people's lives easier.

Data Specifications and Limitations

The data available at the block group level. Shapes and areas are from the 2020 Census.

The National Walkability Index is given a value from 1 to 20 where 1 is the least walkable and 20 is the most walkable.

Comparison

To compare the entire counties we will look at the average Walkability per block group, per area, and per capita. Then we will see the percentile of each of these averages with respect to block group, area, and population.

Area	Average Walkability	Average Walkability Per Capita	Average Walkability Per Area
Entire USA	9.5	9.5	4.5
Kalamazoo County	6.8	6.7	4.8
Dallas County	11.9	11.6	9.7

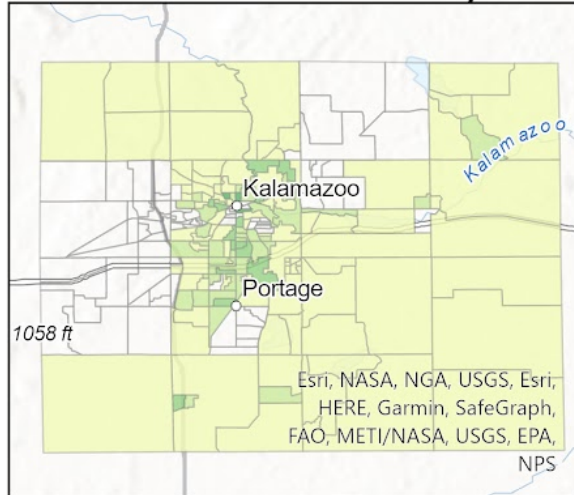
Rankings

Rankings out of 3139 Total Counties

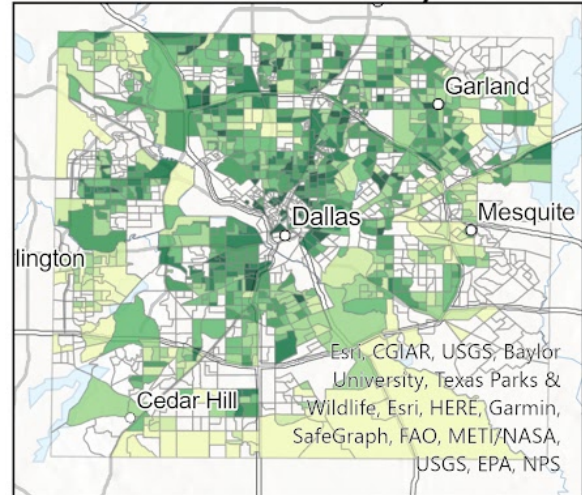
County	Rank Walkability	Rank Walkability Per Capita	Rank Walkability Per Area
Kalamazoo County	975	1043	904
Dallas County	86	88	32

Kalamazoo and Dallas County Walkability

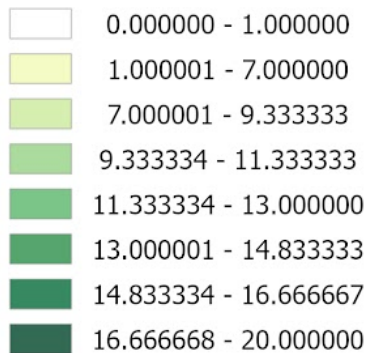
Kalamazoo County



Dallas County



Walkability Index



Findings

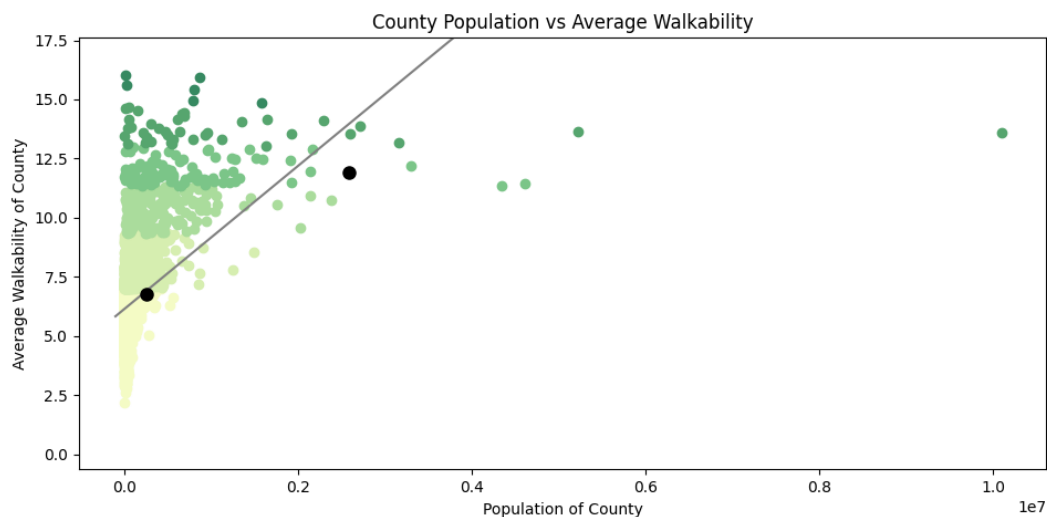
Dallas County is far more walkable than Kalamazoo County as a whole. Interestingly Dallas's Walkability Ranking per Area is much higher than its average Walkability Ranking. Dallas does a good job with walkability despite its large area.

Cities certainly have an advantage in Walkability. Here are the top and bottom ranks from Walkability:

Average Walkability County Rankings

Highest Average Walkability Counties	Lowest Average Walkability Counties
1. Falls Church City, VA	1. Northern Mariana Islands
2. San Francisco County, CA	2. Northern Mariana Islands
3. Fairfax City, VA	3. Northern Mariana Islands
4. Multnomah County, OR	4. Northern Mariana Islands
5. Suffolk County, MA	5. Guam
6. Philadelphia County, PA	6. American Samoa
7. Harrisonburg City, VA	7. American Samoa
8. Lexington City, VA	8. American Samoa
9. Alexandria City, VA	9. American Samoa
10. Denver County, CO	10. American Samoa

How does Walkability correlate with population and are Kalamazoo County and Dallas County exceptions?



Average Walkability is positively correlated with County Population as expected, and Dallas and Kalamazoo (in black) are not extreme outliers.

The county with the largest population is Los Angeles County with a population of 9.97 million.