# Walkability Data Processing Pipeline

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### Overview

This document outlines the complete data processing pipeline for walkability analysis in urban environments. The workflow transforms high-resolution orthophotos into segmented vector datasets suitable for walkability assessment and spatial analysis.

### **Prerequisites**

- QGIS 3.x with Processing Toolbox
- Orfeo Toolbox (OTB) plugin
- GDAL/OGR tools
- Input data: High-resolution orthophotos (10cm GSD)
- Building footprint vector data

# Step 01: Orthoimage Resampling

#### Objective

Resample high-resolution orthophotos from 10cm to 30cm ground sampling distance (GSD) to optimize processing efficiency while maintaining sufficient detail for walkability analysis.

#### Methodology

The resampling process uses GDAL's translate algorithm with target resolution parameters to standardize pixel size across all input imagery.

```
processing.run("gdal:translate", {
    'INPUT': '/mnt/8ECE5AF8CE5AD853/2025_dina_kelowna/kelowna_ort1.tif',
    'TARGET_CRS': None,
    'NODATA': None,
    'COPY_SUBDATASETS': False,
    'OPTIONS': 'COMPRESS=DEFLATE|PREDICTOR=2|ZLEVEL=9',
    'EXTRA': '',
    'DATA_TYPE': 0,
    'OUTPUT':
    '/mnt/8ECE5AF8CE5AD853/2025_dina_kelowna/30cm_ortho/0p3_kelowna_ort01.tif',
```

```
'TR': [0.3, 0.3] # Target resolution: 0.3m x 0.3m pixels
})
```

#### **Technical Notes**

- Critical: Ensure input raster CRS uses meters as units (e.g., UTM projection)
- For degree-based coordinate systems, reproject to meter-based CRS before resampling
- Compression settings optimize file size while preserving data quality

# Step 02: Image Segmentation

#### Objective

Perform object-based image segmentation to identify homogeneous image regions representing distinct urban features (buildings, vegetation, pavement, etc.).

#### Algorithm: OTB Mean Shift Segmentation

The Orfeo Toolbox Mean Shift algorithm groups pixels based on spectral similarity and spatial proximity, creating meaningful object boundaries for subsequent analysis.

```
processing.run("otb:Segmentation", {
    'in': '/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/kelowna_orto7_0p3m.tif',
    'filter': 'meanshift',
    'filter.meanshift.spatialr': 10,
    'filter.meanshift.ranger': 20,
    'filter.meanshift.thres': 0.1,
    'filter.meanshift.maxiter': 40,
    'filter.meanshift.minsize': 200,
    'mode': 'vector',
    'mode.vector.out':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/segmentation_ort7_0p3m.sqlite',
    'mode.vector.outmode': 'ulco',
    'mode.vector.inmask': None,
    'mode.vector.neighbor': False,
    'mode.vector.stitch': True,
    'mode.vector.minsize': 4,
    'mode.vector.simplify': 0.1,
    'mode.vector.layername': '',
    'mode.vector.fieldname': '',
    'mode.vector.tilesize': 1024,
    'mode.vector.startlabel': 1,
    'mode.vector.ogroptions': '',
    'outputpixeltype': 3
})
```

### Parameter Configuration

Parameter	Value	Purpose
spatialr	10	Spatial search radius (pixels)
ranger	20	Spectral range threshold
thres	0.1	Convergence threshold
minsize	200	Minimum segment size (pixels)
tilesize	1024	Processing tile size for memory efficiency
simplify	0.1	Polygon simplification tolerance

#### **Output Specifications**

- Format: SQLite/GeoPackage vector polygons
- Labeling: Unique identifier per segment
- Quality: Optimized for 30cm GSD urban imagery analysis

# Step 03: Zonal Statistics Extraction

### Objective

Calculate spectral statistics (mean, min, max, standard deviation) for each image segment to characterize surface properties relevant to walkability assessment.

#### 3.1 Primary Zonal Statistics

```
processing.run("otb:ZonalStatistics", {
        'in': '/mnt/8ECE5AF8CE5AD853/2025_dina_kelowna/kelowna_ort7.tif',
        'inbv': 0, # Band selection (0=Red, 1=Green, 2=Blue)
        'inzone': 'vector',
        'inzone.vector.in':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/segmentation_ort7_0p3m.sqlite|layername=layer',
        'inzone.vector.reproject': False,
        'out': 'vector',
        'out.vector.filename':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/segment0p3_zonal_data_ort7_0p1.gpkg',
        'outputpixeltype': 5
})
```

#### 3.2 Multi-Layer Integration

For large study areas processed in tiles, merge individual segment layers:

```
processing.run("native:mergevectorlayers", {
    'LAYERS': [
```

#### **Data Products**

- Statistical measures: Mean, min, max, standard deviation per segment
- Source tracking: Tile origin identification for quality control
- Format: Consolidated GeoPackage for analysis-ready datasets

# Step 04: Building Footprint Removal

### Objective

Isolate non-building areas within image segments to focus walkability analysis on accessible public spaces (sidewalks, plazas, parking areas, green spaces).

#### 4.1 Geometry Validation

Ensure topological correctness before spatial operations:

```
qgis_process run native:fixgeometries \
    --distance_units=meters \
    --area_units=m2 \
    --ellipsoid=EPSG:7030 \
    --
INPUT='/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/kelowna_building_outline.gpkg|layerna me=building_outlines' \
    --METHOD=1 \
    --OUTPUT=TEMPORARY_OUTPUT
```

## 4.2 Spatial Difference Operation

Remove building geometries from segmented areas:

#### **Applications**

- Walkable surface identification: Sidewalks, crosswalks, public squares
- Green space analysis: Parks, tree canopy areas
- Infrastructure assessment: Parking lots, transit stops

# Step 05: Vector-to-Raster Conversion

### Objective

Convert processed vector polygons to raster format for integration with other geospatial datasets and raster-based modeling workflows.

#### **Implementation**

```
gdal_rasterize \
    -l parking \
    -burn 1.0 \
    -tr 1.0 1.0 \
    -a_nodata 0.0 \
    -te 313648.347 5516570.3731 333320.347 5544211.3731 \
    -ot Float32 \
    -of GTiff \
    /srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/walkability_450_650_nobuilding.gpkg \
    /tmp/processing_Sk0kbp/83b909634ad4476c9bca2633971be20e/OUTPUT.tif
```

## Parameter Specifications

Parameter Value Function

Parameter	Value	Function  Walkable areas = 1.0	
-burn 1.0	Binary encoding		
-tr 1.0 1.0	1m pixel resolution	Analysis-appropriate scale	
-a_nodata 0.0	Background value	Non-walkable areas = 0.0	
-te [bbox]	Spatial extent	Study area boundaries	
-ot Float32	Data precision	Statistical compatibility	

#### **Output Applications**

- Binary mask generation: Walkable vs. non-walkable areas
- Accessibility modeling: Distance-based calculations
- Statistical analysis: Area calculations and spatial metrics
- Visualization: Map production and presentation

# Step 06: Comprehensive Raster Layer Integration and Export

### Objective

Consolidate all processed raster layers into standardized TIFF format with high compression for efficient storage and cloud backup. This step ensures all walkability analysis components are harmonized with consistent spatial parameters and optimized for Google Drive storage.

### 6.1 Raster Layer Merging

Merge all walkability-related raster layers into a single comprehensive dataset:

```
processing.run("gdal:merge", {
    'INPUT': [
        '/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/segmentation_raster_0p3m.tif',
        '/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/building_footprints_raster.tif',
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/walkability_surface_nobuilding.tif',
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/nocreek_out_zero_merge_raster_stu_sate_v4.t
if',
        '/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/buffer_zones_50m.tif',
        '/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/alleys_raster.tif'
    ],
    'PCT': False,
    'SEPARATE': True, # Maintain separate bands for each layer
    'NODATA_INPUT': 0,
    'NODATA_OUTPUT': 0,
    'OPTIONS':
'COMPRESS=DEFLATE|PREDICTOR=2|ZLEVEL=9|TILED=YES|BIGTIFF=YES',
    'EXTRA': '',
    'DATA_TYPE': 5, # Float32 for statistical analysis
```

```
'OUTPUT':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/merged/walkability_comprehensive_dataset.ti
f'
})
```

#### 6.2 Vector to Raster Standardization

Convert all vector layers to raster format with consistent spatial parameters:

#### **6.2.1 Building Outlines Conversion**

```
processing.run("gdal:rasterize", {
    'INPUT':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/kelowna_building_outline.gpkg|layername=bui
lding_outlines',
    'FIELD': '',
    'BURN': 1,
    'USE_Z': False,
    'UNITS': 0,
    'WIDTH': 19672,
    'HEIGHT': 27641,
    'EXTENT':
313648.347000000,333320.347000000,5516570.373100000,5544211.373100000
[EPSG: 26911]',
    'NODATA': 0,
    'OPTIONS': 'COMPRESS=DEFLATE|PREDICTOR=2|ZLEVEL=9|TILED=YES',
    'DATA_TYPE': 0, # Byte for binary data
    'INIT': None,
    'INVERT': False,
    'EXTRA': '',
    'OUTPUT':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/export_ready/buildings_raster_compressed.ti
f'
})
```

#### 6.2.2 Segmentation Polygons Conversion

```
processing.run("gdal:rasterize", {
    'INPUT':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/walkability_segment_zonal_stats.gpkg|layern
ame=full_seg',
    'FIELD': 'mean_0', # Use mean spectral value as raster values
    'BURN': None,
    'USE_Z': False,
    'UNITS': 0,
    'WIDTH': 19672,
    'HEIGHT': 27641,
    'EXTENT':
```

```
'313648.347000000,333320.347000000,5516570.373100000,5544211.373100000

[EPSG:26911]',
    'NODATA': -9999,
    'OPTIONS': 'COMPRESS=DEFLATE|PREDICTOR=2|ZLEVEL=9|TILED=YES',
    'DATA_TYPE': 5, # Float32 for spectral values
    'INIT': None,
    'INVERT': False,
    'EXTRA': '',
    'OUTPUT':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/export_ready/segments_spectral_raster.tif'
})
```

#### 6.2.3 Walkable Areas (Non-Building) Conversion

```
processing.run("gdal:rasterize", {
    'INPUT':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/walkability_450_650_nobuilding.gpkg|layerna
me=parking',
    'FIELD': '',
    'BURN': 1,
    'USE_Z': False,
    'UNITS': 0,
    'WIDTH': 19672,
    'HEIGHT': 27641,
    'EXTENT':
'313648.347000000,333320.347000000,5516570.373100000,5544211.373100000
[EPSG:26911]',
    'NODATA': 0,
    'OPTIONS': 'COMPRESS=DEFLATE|PREDICTOR=2|ZLEVEL=9|TILED=YES',
    'DATA_TYPE': 0, # Byte for binary walkability
    'INIT': None,
    'INVERT': False,
    'EXTRA': '',
    'OUTPUT':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/export_ready/walkable_areas_raster.tif'
})
```

### 6.3 Compression and Optimization Standards

#### **Compression Parameters**

Parameter	Value	Purpose	
COMPRESS=DEFLATE	Lossless compression	Reduces file size significantly	
PREDICTOR=2	Horizontal differencing	Enhances compression for spatial data	
ZLEVEL=9	Maximum compression	Optimal for cloud storage	
TILED=YES Tiled structure		Improves access performance	

Parameter	Value	Purpose
BIGTIFF=YES	Large file support	Handles datasets > 4GB

### 6.4 Individual Layer Export for Google Drive

Create optimized versions of each layer for cloud storage:

```
# Building footprints
gdal_translate \
    -co COMPRESS=DEFLATE \
    -co PREDICTOR=2 \
    -co ZLEVEL=9 \
    -co TILED=YES \
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/export_ready/buildings_raster_compressed.tif
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/kelowna_buildings_walkab
ility.tif
# Walkable surface areas
gdal_translate \
    -co COMPRESS=DEFLATE \
    -co PREDICTOR=2 \
    -co ZLEVEL=9 \
    -co TILED=YES \
    /srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/export_ready/walkable_areas_raster.tif \
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/kelowna_walkable_surface
.tif
# Spectral segmentation
gdal_translate \
    -co COMPRESS=DEFLATE \
    -co PREDICTOR=3 \
    -co ZLEVEL=9 \
    -co TILED=YES \
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/export_ready/segments_spectral_raster.tif \
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/kelowna_spectral_segment
s.tif
```

### 6.5 Batch Processing Script

Automate the conversion and export process:

```
import processing
import os
```

```
# Define standard parameters
STANDARD_PARAMS = {
    'WIDTH': 19672,
    'HEIGHT': 27641,
    'EXTENT':
'313648.347000000,333320.347000000,5516570.373100000,5544211.373100000
[EPSG: 26911]',
    'NODATA': 0,
    'OPTIONS': 'COMPRESS=DEFLATE|PREDICTOR=2|ZLEVEL=9|TILED=YES'
}
# Vector layers to convert
vector_layers = [
    {
        'input':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/kelowna_building_outline.gpkg|layername=bui
lding_outlines',
        'output':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/buildings.tif',
        'burn_value': 1,
        'data_type': 0
    },
        'input':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/walkability_segment_zonal_stats.gpkg|layern
ame=full_seg',
        'output':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/segments.tif',
        'field': 'mean_0',
        'data_type': 5
    },
        'input':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/walkability_450_650_nobuilding.gpkg|layerna
me=parking',
        'output':
'/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/walkable_surfaces.tif',
        'burn_value': 1,
        'data_type': 0
    }
1
# Process each layer
for layer in vector_layers:
    params = STANDARD_PARAMS.copy()
    params['INPUT'] = layer['input']
    params['OUTPUT'] = layer['output']
    params['DATA_TYPE'] = layer['data_type']
    if 'field' in layer:
        params['FIELD'] = layer['field']
    else:
        params['BURN'] = layer['burn_value']
```

```
processing.run("gdal:rasterize", params)
print(f"Processed: {layer['output']}")
```

#### 6.6 File Size Optimization Results

Expected compression ratios for Google Drive storage:

Layer Type	Uncompressed	Compressed	Reduction
Binary (Buildings)	~500MB	~50MB	90%
Spectral Values	~2GB	~400MB	80%
Multi-band Composite	~5GB	~800MB	84%

#### 6.7 Cloud Storage Organization

Recommended Google Drive folder structure:

#### 6.8 Quality Control and Validation

Verify exported datasets before upload:

```
# Check spatial properties
gdalinfo
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/kelowna_buildings_walkab
ility.tif

# Validate compression
gdalinfo -stats -hist
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/kelowna_walkable_surface
.tif

# Verify coordinate system consistency
gdalsrsinfo -V
/srv/extrassd/2025_walkability/google_drive_export/kelowna_spectral_segment
s.tif
```

# Quality Assurance - Recommended

#### Validation Checkpoints

- 1. Coordinate system consistency across all processing steps
- 2. Geometric validity before spatial operations
- 3. Attribute preservation through processing chain
- 4. **Spatial accuracy** of segmentation boundaries
- 5. **Statistical integrity** of zonal calculations

#### **Expected Outputs**

- Segmented vector polygons with spectral statistics
- Non-building area polygons for walkability analysis
- Binary raster masks for spatial modeling
- Documented processing parameters for reproducibility

# Technical Requirements

#### Software Dependencies

- QGIS 3.x with Processing framework
- Orfeo Toolbox (OTB) ≥ 7.0
- GDAL/OGR ≥ 3.0
- Python processing environment

#### Hardware Recommendations

- RAM: Minimum 16GB for 30cm resolution imagery
- Storage: SSD recommended for intermediate files
- Processing: Multi-core CPU for tiled operations

# Walkability Buffer Analysis and Creek processing

#### Overview

This document outlines the GIS processing steps being conducted for a walkability analysis in Kelowna using QGIS. The processing focuses on converting vector data (building outlines) to raster format and performing various spatial analyses to assess walkability metrics.

# **Processing Timeline**

The log shows processing conducted between May 31 and June 4, 2025, with various attempts at rasterizing building outlines and creating buffer zones. These buffer zones were test to understand the possible area not mapped in the previous layers that could affect the walking time for the houses and services in Kelowna.

#### **Data Sources**

- Building Outlines: kelowna\_building\_outline.gpkg
- Mission Creek Data: /media/bndt/extrassd/2025\_walkability/mission\_creek/mission creek layer.gdb
- Alleys: Alleys.tif

## **Processing Steps**

1. Rasterization of Vector Building Data

Multiple approaches were tested to convert building outlines to raster format, including:

```
# Initial attempt
processing.run("gdal:rasterize", {
    'INPUT':
'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/kelowna_building_outline.gpkg|layern
ame=building_outlines',
    'FIELD': '',
    'BURN': 1,
    'USE_Z': False,
    'UNITS': 0,
    'WIDTH': 19672,
    'HEIGHT': 27641,
    'EXTENT':
'313648.347000000,333320.347000000,5516570.373100000,5544211.373100000
[EPSG: 26911]',
    'NODATA': 0,
    'OPTIONS': '',
    'DATA_TYPE': 5,
    'INIT': None,
    'INVERT': False,
    'EXTRA': '',
    'OUTPUT': 'TEMPORARY_OUTPUT'
})
```

Various parameters were adjusted in subsequent attempts, including:

- Changing NODATA values (0 to 5)
- Modifying DATA\_TYPE values
- Testing different INIT values
- Experimenting with GRASS GIS tools (v.to.rast)

#### 2. Buffer Analysis

Buffer zones were created around building outlines to determine walkable areas:

```
# 50m buffer around buildings
processing.run("native:buffer", {
```

```
'INPUT':

'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/kelowna_building_outline.gpkg|layern
ame=building_outlines',

'DISTANCE': 50,

'SEGMENTS': 5,

'END_CAP_STYLE': 0,

'JOIN_STYLE': 0,

'MITER_LIMIT': 2,

'DISSOLVE': True,

'SEPARATE_DISJOINT': False,

'OUTPUT': 'TEMPORARY_OUTPUT'

})
```

Also tested raster-based buffers:

```
# Raster buffer using GRASS
processing.run("grass7:r.buffer", {
    'input':
'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/out_zero/out_zero_Stu_merged_compres
sed.tif',
    'distances': '50',
    'units': 0,
    '-z': False,
    'output': 'TEMPORARY_OUTPUT',
    'GRASS_REGION_PARAMETER': None,
    'GRASS_REGION_CELLSIZE_PARAMETER': 0,
    'GRASS_RASTER_FORMAT_OPT': '',
    'GRASS_RASTER_FORMAT_META': ''
})
```

### 3. Merging Raster Data

Multiple raster datasets were merged to create comprehensive coverage:

```
processing.run("gdal:merge", {
    'INPUT': [

'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/out_zero/out_zero_Stu_merged_compres
sed.tif',

'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/out_zero/out_zero_merge_raster_stu_s
atellite_1only_v2.tif'
    ],
    'PCT': False,
    'SEPARATE': False,
    'NODATA_INPUT': None,
    'NODATA_OUTPUT': None,
    'OPTIONS': 'COMPRESS=DEFLATE|PREDICTOR=2|ZLEVEL=9',
    'EXTRA': '',
```

```
'DATA_TYPE': 0,
'OUTPUT':
'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/out_zero/out_zero_merge_raster_stu_s
atellite_1only_v4.tif'
})
```

### 4. Water Feature Processing (Mission Creek)

Processing was done to exclude water features from the walkability analysis:

```
# Rasterize creek polygons
processing.run("qdal:rasterize", {
    'INPUT': '/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/mission_creek/mission
creek layer.gdb|layername=Polygons',
    'FIELD': '',
    'BURN': 0,
    'USE_Z': False,
    'UNITS': 0,
    'WIDTH': 19672,
    'HEIGHT': 27641,
    'EXTENT':
'313648.347000000,333320.347000000,5516570.373100000,5544211.373100000
[EPSG:26911]',
    'NODATA': 0,
    'OPTIONS': '',
    'DATA_TYPE': 0,
    'INIT': 1,
    'INVERT': False,
    'EXTRA': '',
    'OUTPUT': 'TEMPORARY_OUTPUT'
})
# Mask creek areas from the walkability surface
processing.run("grass7:r.mask.rast", {
    'raster':
'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/out_zero/creek_inverse.tif',
'/media/bndt/extrassd/2025_walkability/out_zero/out_zero_merge_raster_stu_s
atellite_1only_v4.tif',
    'maskcats': '1',
    '-i': False,
    'output': '/home/bndt/nocreek_out_zero_merge_raster_stu_sate_v4.tif',
    'GRASS_REGION_PARAMETER': None,
    'GRASS_REGION_CELLSIZE_PARAMETER': 0,
    'GRASS_RASTER_FORMAT_OPT': ''
    'GRASS_RASTER_FORMAT_META': ''
})
```

#### 1. Vector to Raster Conversion:

- Convert building footprint polygons to raster
- Experiment with different resolution and parameter settings

#### 2. Buffer Analysis:

- Create 50-80m buffers around buildings to represent walkability zones
- Test both vector and raster buffer approaches

#### 3. Raster Integration:

- Merge multiple raster datasets to create comprehensive coverage
- Apply compression and optimization for large raster datasets

#### 4. Natural Feature Processing:

- Identify and exclude water bodies (Mission Creek) from walkability analysis
- Use masking techniques to refine walkable areas

# **Output Files**

The final outputs include:

- out\_zero\_merge\_raster\_stu\_satellite\_1only\_v4.tif (merged raster)
- /home/bndt/nocreek\_out\_zero\_merge\_raster\_stu\_sate\_v4.tif (final walkability surface excluding creek)

# **Next Steps**

- 1. Further analysis of walkability metrics using the processed data
- 2. Integration with demographic data for population-weighted walkability assessment
- 3. Visualization of results for urban planning applications

#### Technical Considerations

- Coordinate Reference System: EPSG:26911 (NAD83 UTM Zone 11N)
- Raster Resolution: Working with a 19672×27641 pixel grid
- Compression: Using DEFLATE compression with predictor=2 and ZLEVEL=9 for optimized storage

#### Overview

This document outlines the complete data processing pipeline for walkability analysis in urban environments. The workflow transforms high-resolution orthophotos into segmented vector datasets suitable for walkability assessment and spatial analysis.

# Prerequisites

- QGIS 3.x with Processing Toolbox
- Orfeo Toolbox (OTB) plugin
- GDAL/OGR tools

- Input data: High-resolution orthophotos (10cm GSD)
- Building footprint vector data

# Next Steps

- 1. Further analysis of walkability metrics using the processed data
- 2. Integration with demographic data for population-weighted walkability assessment
- 3. Visualization of results for urban planning applications