



The Switchboard Blog: NRDC

Finally, one of the country's top real estate analysts, Chris Leinberger at the Brookings Institution, has recently published a [survey of good walkable environments in the top 30 US metropolitan areas](#), and ranked the metro areas according to the number of such places they provide per capita. Chris ranks Washington, DC at the top, on the strength of its downtown and 20 other highly walkable city and suburban neighborhoods, from DuPont Circle in town to Reston Town Center in suburban Virginia. Interestingly, Chris points out that, 20 years ago, only the Georgetown and Old Town Alexandria neighborhoods would have qualified in the DC metro area. We're moving in the right direction.

Thanks to my NRDC colleague Rachel Sohmer for pointing me to Chris's report. Other metro areas in the top five include Boston, San Francisco, Denver (that one surprises me), and Portland. New York snobs take note: you're only number ten.