

Healthy Streets: Frequently Asked Questions

We introduced [Healthy Streets](#) during the pandemic in 2020 as a way for Seattleites to get outside safely and stay active in local neighborhoods throughout the city. Healthy Streets are open for people walking, rolling, biking, and playing, and closed to pass-through traffic.

We're updating our Healthy Streets across Seattle based on the trends we've seen in terms of community use and public feedback. Next, we will:

- Make some locations permanent Healthy Streets
- Return some locations to neighborhood greenways, which they were prior to the pandemic
- Further review some Healthy Streets and conduct more outreach to determine next steps. These locations will remain Healthy Streets until further notice.

At each location, there may be a combination of permanent Healthy Streets, neighborhood greenways, and/or areas for further review and outreach. Below is a compiled list of frequently asked questions about Healthy Streets.

Question	Response
What are Healthy Streets?	Healthy Streets are closed to pass through traffic, but open to people walking, rolling, biking, and playing. The goal of this program is to open up more space for people rather than cars—improving community and individual health.
What is included in a Healthy Street?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic safety features like easier crossings at busy streets, speed humps to slow down drivers, and signs and pavement markings to help people find their way • Neighborhood activities like hopscotch and basketball (that you would otherwise need to get a street closure permit for) • Intersections with traffic circles and street murals to discourage people from driving on Healthy Streets unless they have to
What does this mean for drivers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People driving who need to get to homes and destinations along Healthy Streets are still able to drive on these streets; drivers should use extra caution and yield to people

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People enjoying the street should be mindful of drivers trying to get to homes and destinations as well
<p>My Healthy Street is becoming permanent. Will the permanent Healthy Street take away parking spaces on my street?</p>	<p>No, permanent Healthy Streets will not remove any legal street parking spaces. In accordance with Seattle parking regulations, you cannot park within 20 feet of a crosswalk (whether marked with paint or unmarked without paint). In addition, you cannot park within 30 feet of Stop or Yield signs. For Healthy Streets that are being made permanent, we will be installing permanent “Street Closed” signage within the space directly adjacent to the intersection, the 20 feet where parking is already not authorized according to Seattle parking regulations. For a full explanation of parking regulations, you can check out our Can I Park Here? Brochure.</p> <p>Permanent signage will have a concrete block base with a new, painted curb bulb around it at each intersection of the Healthy Street. Please see our Greenwood Healthy Street webpage to reference permanent Healthy Street signs.</p>
<p>How can I request a Healthy Street on my street?</p>	<p>Thank you for your support of Healthy Streets. We've heard from many community members about locations they would like to have as Healthy Streets in their neighborhoods. It's exciting to hear that Seattleites are interested in expanding the Healthy Streets program! Currently, we are updating Healthy Streets across Seattle, based on the trends we've seen in community use and public feedback we've received. We anticipate making some of these locations permanent Healthy Streets, and returning others to Neighborhood Greenways, which they were prior to the pandemic. We currently do not have an open application process.</p> <p>If future funding is identified to make this an ongoing program, we will develop a process to identify and prioritize future locations. You can provide feedback on this future prioritization process via our feedback form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HSWPHXM.</p>
<p>What other programs can I implement on my street?</p>	<p>Play Streets and Block Party Closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play streets and block parties are a fun and easy way to build community and get to know your neighbors. These street closures can be hosted on a recurring basis, up to 3 days a week for a maximum of 12 hours per week and are intended for a neighborhood-scale gathering. For more information, please visit:

	<p>https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets-and-block-parties.</p> <p>The Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NMF program provides matching dollars for neighborhood organizing or projects that are developed and implemented by community members. Core to the fund is the community match, which requires awardees to match their award with contributions from the community (volunteer time, donated materials, donated professional services or cash). There are two funds within the NMF program. The Small Sparks Fund, and the Community Partnership Fund. For more information on this program, please visit: http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/neighborhood-matching-fund.
<p>How did Healthy Streets start?</p>	<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in spring and summer of 2020 we upgraded over 25 miles of Neighborhood Greenways to Healthy Streets by closing them to pass through traffic and opening them to people walking, rolling, and biking.</p> <p>Neighborhood Greenways are neighborhood streets identified through past public engagement with enhanced safety features like speed humps, stop signs, and crossing improvements at major streets. Like any residential street, pass through traffic is discouraged, but local access, deliveries, waste pickup, and emergency vehicles are allowed.</p> <p>We selected streets by working from the 45-mile Neighborhood Greenway network and avoiding impacts to businesses, fire response routes, transit operations and layover, and COVID-19 response efforts like healthcare provider parking.</p> <p>Neighborhood selection considered the Race and Social Equity Index, where existing neighborhood greenways served areas of dense housing or limited public open space, geographic coverage so that people could have opportunities to get outdoors without leaving their neighborhoods, and access to essential services and open businesses.</p>
<p>Will Healthy Streets and Keep Moving Streets programs continue to expand?</p>	<p>We're thinking long term. We're planning to make 20 miles of Healthy Streets permanent, and we want to hear from you on where they should be and what they should look like.</p>

	<p>They can be used for gardening, games and sports, potlucks, and other celebrations. Because the street is already closed to pass through traffic, you don't need permits to close the street for these activities, you just need to notify neighbors on your block and be able to move if someone needs to get to their home or get a delivery.</p>
<p>What do I do when a sign is down or damaged?</p>	<p>If the sign can't be easily set back in place, you have a few options for reporting it based on what's most convenient for you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the City's Find it Fix it smart phone app 2. Submit an online Service Request 3. Email 684-ROAD@seattle.gov 4. Call 206-684-7623 <p>Please be sure to include the specific address closest to the sign and we'll get SDOT crews out there to move or repair the sign.</p>
<p>Where are all the Healthy Street locations?</p>	<p>We currently have 16 Healthy Street locations throughout the City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alki Point • Aurora-Licton Springs • Ballard • Beacon Hill • Bell Street • Central Area • Delridge • Highland Park • Greenwood • Lake City - Olympic Hills • Lake City - Cedar Park • Little Brook • Othello • Rainier Beach • Rainer Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mt Baker

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Columbia City ○ Hillman City ● South Park ● Georgetown ● Wallingford ● High Point
<p>How do I request a Healthy Streets Planter on my Healthy Street?</p>	<p>Healthy Street Planters are available for <i>permanent</i> Healthy Street locations. You can request a through this form. You will also need to submit a Landscape Maintenance Agreement.</p> <p>Healthy Street planters will need to be watered and maintained by neighbors. If you do not live close enough to water a Healthy Street Planter, you can work with your neighbors to create a Partnership for a Healthy Street Planter.</p> <p>Planter Partnership Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You will need to connect with your neighbors, or businesses, who are located on the corner of the Healthy Street location in order to adopt a planter box. ● You will need come up with an agreement and plan for water source and access, and maintenance of the planter box.