



Green Lake Park Inner Loop

Implementation Plan

Background

Historically, the Green Lake Inner Loop was a shared use path that allowed all non-motorized users to recreate. During the COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022, Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) restricted the use of wheels on the path, except for strollers and uses protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act. On September 22nd, SPR and the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners (BPRC) recommended to once again allow the use of wheels on the Inner Loop. Accompanying the recommendation was a request to create an implementation plan to guide the reintroduction of wheels to the path to reduce conflicts and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all. The below plan will be presented to the BPRC on October 13th with an expectation that implementation will be executed on November 1st.

Current Conditions

The Green Lake Park Inner Loop path has been in a similar arrangement for decades (having first been paved in 1967). A paved 2.8-mile path circles the lake in a continuous loop with a gravel edge toward the lake that varies in size due to certain barriers. The paved path has a solid yellow painted divider line that separates wheeled users from pedestrians. In 1979 the Green Lake Path Courtesy Code was included in the Green Lake Supplemental Use Guidelines and has since been the guide to respectful shared use of the path.

In addition, there are two nearby paths. A gravel path circles much of the perimeter of the park near the roadway, which is used by joggers primarily. A new separated bike lane was recently added to the north, east and south borders of the park in the street, and a multi-modal path along Aurora on the west side is slated to be complete in December 2022 thus completing the “Outer Loop.”

A variety of signs are spaced along the Green Lake path – some are on kiosks and some on poles at about 8-feet in height. The signs state which users should be in which lanes on the paved path, what the Courtesy Code guidelines are, and what the speed limit is. In addition, 13 painted stencils are placed on the paved path describing which users should be in the respective lanes, although these are currently faded significantly.

There are no regular maintenance plans associated with the Green Lake path aside from regular clearing and annual blowing. Stencil and sign replacement are conducted on an as needed (or requested) basis.



Phase 1 – October 2022:

- **Update Courtesy Code.** Include additions for motorized vehicle prohibition consistent with City of Seattle Municipal Code 18.12.265 (attached).
- **Inventory existing signs.** SPR will map and inventory existing signs along the Green Lake path to assess the current signage situation.
- **Update 2021 signage to be consistent with new guidelines.** To quickly implement this change, SPR will work with a contractor to apply an overlay over the existing six tall green signs. The graphics will use symbology for universality to delineate the appropriate use for each lane in the paved path.
- **Clean pavement inlays.** SPR will clean the existing pavement inlays that describe the different uses for each lane in the paved path. During the pandemic some signs were vandalized.
- **Temporary yard signs.** SPR will place temporary signs along the path describing the updated regulations, with possible inclusion of QR codes linking to the Courtesy Code.
- **Community outreach.** SPR will reach out to the public and community partners by sending an email to interested individuals and organizations, posting an article on our blog, and possibly sending a press release announcing the shift in regulations and reminding folks of the Courtesy Code. Communications will emphasize that this path is for slow shared use recreation and remind of the new option presented by the SDOT outer loop for people wishing to travel faster.
- **Inner gravel path grading.** To create additional space for pedestrians travelling both directions, SPR's Heavy Equipment Crew will regrade the gravel section of the Inner Loop path, filling in depressions and creating a more consistent path (may shift to Phase 2).

Phase 2 – November 2022 to July 2023:

- **Update pavement markings.** Currently the 13 existing pavement markings have faded to the extent that they are difficult to read. SPR will repaint these markings and may place them at more frequent intervals
- **Update kiosks.** Three kiosks exist along the Green Lake Inner Loop that offer a great location to provide deeper details on the Courtesy Code and use regulations for the path. These kiosks will be reviewed and updated as needed in partnership with the Communications Team.
- **Continued community engagement.** SPR will work with key community stakeholders (i.e. bike shops, neighborhood groups, user groups) to support awareness of the Courtesy Code.
- **Develop maintenance schedule.** To ensure consistent and clear plans for maintaining the path and signs, SPR will develop a maintenance schedule for path clearing, gravel grading, stencil reapplication, and sign monitoring (and possible replacement).



Green Lake Path Courtesy Code

- Always show courtesy and respect the rights of others
- Obey signs
- Stay on your side of the path
- Warn others when passing
- Maintain safe speed at all times (10 mph maximum)
- Move slowly through congested areas
- Keep dogs on leashes less than five feet long
- **No motorized vehicles allowed**

Pedestrians

- Use inside lane only (closest to lake)
- For your own safety, walk or run facing wheeled users
- Travel no more than two people abreast

Wheeled Users

- Yield to pedestrians
- Use outside lane only (farthest from lake)
- Keep right except to pass
- Travel one-way in direction of arrows
- Travel single file