Stay Healthy Streets—Frequently Asked Questions
July 2021

1. **What are Stay Healthy Streets?**
   Stay Healthy Streets are open for people walking, rolling, biking, and playing and closed to pass through traffic. The goal is to open up more space for people rather than cars as a way to improve community and individual health.

   **Stay Healthy Streets can include:**
   - Traffic safety features like easier crossings at busy streets, speed humps to slow down drivers, and sign 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 Stay Healthy Streets unless they have to

2. **How did these start?**
3. **Will Stay Healthy Streets and Keep Moving Streets continue after the pandemic?**
4. **I want/don’t want the Stay Healthy Street to be made permanent or I have a suggestion for an improvement.**
5. **What are Keep Moving Streets?**
6. **When will W Green Lake Way N open to vehicles?**
7. **Please fund and implement a protected path on Aurora Ave along Green Lake Park.**
8. **What’s the status of Lake Washington Blvd for summer 2021?**
9. **Why didn’t you include a “no closure” in the Lake Washington Blvd survey?**
10. **What’s the status of Alki Point for summer 2021?**
11. **What do I do when a sign is down or damaged?**
12. **How do I request a Stay Healthy Street on my block?**
13. **People are driving on the closed street, what do I do?**
14. **Do I need a permit for activities on a Stay Healthy Street?**

   **What does this mean for drivers?**
   - People driving who need to get to homes and destinations along Stay Healthy Streets are still able to drive on these streets (including deliveries and emergency vehicles). Drivers should use extra caution and yield to people.
   - People enjoying the street should be mindful of drivers trying to get to homes and destinations as well

   This is a challenging and unprecedented time for everyone. Some people have expressed joy at having the street available for walking, running, and biking and others have shared how inconvenient it has been. We appreciate the extra time people are giving themselves to travel safely, to respect the closure and residents impacted by changing travel patterns, as well as
using face masks when staying 6-feet apart is not possible. We’re in this together and learning as we go. Your health and well-being are important. Thank you for working with us.

2. **How did these start?**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in spring and summer of 2020 we upgraded over 25 miles of Neighborhood Greenways to Stay Healthy Streets by closing them to pass through traffic and opening them to people walking, rolling, and biking.

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.

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.

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.

3. **Will Stay Healthy Streets and Keep Moving Streets continue after the pandemic?**

We’re thinking long term. We’re planning to make 20 miles of Stay Healthy Streets permanent and we want to hear from you on where they should be and what they should look like.

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.

Tell us what you think about making them permanent. Take our online survey, available in 10 languages:

1. English [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8F9GMKV](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8F9GMKV)
2. Spanish [https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Y95PG7S](https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Y95PG7S)
3. Tigrinya [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDNMKPW](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDNMKPW)
4. Amharic [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YQF66S](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YQF66S)
5. Vietnamese [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQ2MM3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQ2MM3D)

Or leave a message, request a listening session, or take our survey by calling: (206) 727-3565 and press:
4. **I want/don’t want the Stay Healthy Street to be made permanent or I have a suggestion for an improvement.**

   Take our online survey, available in 10 languages:
   1. English [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8F9GMKV](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8F9GMKV)
   2. Spanish [https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Y95PG7S](https://es.surveymonkey.com/r/Y95PG7S)
   3. Tigrinya [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDNMKPW](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YDNMKPW)
   4. Amharic [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YQF66S](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YQF66S)
   5. Vietnamese [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQ2MM3D](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YQ2MM3D)

   Or leave a message, request a listening session, or take our survey by calling: (206) 727-3565 and press:
   1. for Spanish
   2. for Cantonese
   3. for Mandarin
   4. for Vietnamese
   5. for Somali
   6. for Amharic
   7. for Tigrinya
   8. for Korean
   9. for Tagalog

5. **What are Keep Moving Streets?**

   During the summer and fall of 2020, we partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation to create more space for people to exercise and keep 6 feet apart. While parking lots were closed, and people were discouraged from congregating, we opened streets adjacent to 4 destination parks to create more space for people to get outside.

   We’re now working to build on success and lessons learned from last year’s Keep Moving Streets.
See below on the plans for continuing Keep Moving Streets (streets adjacent to major parks that are closed to vehicles and open to walking and biking) this summer to help people travel and play in a healthy way.

| **GREEN LAKE** | W Green Lake Way N is currently closed to vehicles and open to people walking and biking. (Drivers can still enter and exit the Lower Woodland tennis court and off-leash parking lots from E Green Lake Way.)

Based on community feedback, Vision Zero safety goals, and desire to provide more travel options, we’re pleased to share that early design shows we have enough street width to accommodate both a 2-way walking and biking path and 2-way vehicle traffic at reduced speeds and plan to make the change early this fall. |
| **LAKE WASHINGTON BLVD** | Starting 4th of July weekend, 3 miles of Lake Washington Blvd (from Mt Baker Park to Seward Park) will open to people walking, rolling, and biking on weekends* and holidays through at least September.

*For consistency, barricades will be placed each Friday afternoon and removed Monday morning. This also reduces costs in paying staff overtime. On 4th of July and Labor Day weekends, barricades will be removed the following Tuesday morning.

Parking lots are open and will be accessible from the nearest cross street (see [map](#)). Those driving to homes along the boulevard because they live there, are visiting, or making deliveries are allowed. |
| **ALKI POINT** | We’re working to secure funding for designing and building permanent changes on the street based on community input. In the meantime, Alki Point will remain a Keep Moving Street in its current form until spring 2022 or until we secure funding for permanent changes on the street.

In the coming weeks, we’ll do more outreach to hear from more voices, learn what the community thinks of this Keep Moving Street as it is today, and understand what people want the street to look like in the future. [Go to our webpage](#) to get involved. |
| **GOLDEN GARDENS** | There are currently no plans to close either the parking lots at Golden Gardens or Golden Gardens Drive. Seattle Parks and Recreation (SPR) would only consider closing parking lot(s) as a last resort and SPR’s decision would inform whether SDOT decides to close Golden Gardens Drive.

Both SPR and SDOT are actively considering alternative steps to avoid parking lot and road closures at this location including taking measures to reduce illegal parking and improving pedestrian safety. This may include new signs along the street and in parking lots or additional staffing on site. |
6. When will W Green Lake Way N open to vehicles?

The Green Lake Keep Moving Street helped us get through a global pandemic by creating more space for people to walk, roll, and bike. It also provided an opportunity to reimagine how W Green Lake Way N could support human powered transportation and reknit a divide between Woodland and Green Lake Parks.

Based on community feedback, Vision Zero safety goals, and desire to provide more travel options, we’re pleased to share that early design shows we have enough street width to accommodate both a 2-way walking and biking path and 2-way vehicle traffic at reduced speeds and plan to make the change early this fall.

Creating a more seamless connection between two major parks
Beyond returning traffic lanes to W Green Lake Way N, we’d like to discuss creative solutions for making the street less of a divider between Woodland and Green Lake parks. We have a rare opportunity to build on the Keep Moving Street and reimagine how W Green Lake Way N can serve multiple functions. We’ll seek community input on how to improve connections between the parks by keeping speeds calm and including possible solutions like more crosswalks, additional walking improvements, decreasing the speed limit to 20 MPH, and temporary changes in street operations to encourage community use and celebrations.

Schedule
In February, we opened the street to one-way traffic and created a path for people to walk and bike on the northern half. This configuration caused confusion and some people drove on the path. So, prior to reopening W Green Lake Way N, we’ll finalize a design that includes 2-way vehicle lanes, reduces confusion, and ensures safety. Once the design is complete, we can grind out the current street markings, shift the posts, and install signs.

We anticipate completing work early this fall. We’re aware of increasing calls from some neighbors to reopen the street to vehicle traffic as COVID restrictions are lifted and activities such as sports, boating events, and summer camps return to the parks and will look for opportunities to accelerate the schedule if possible. We’ll also work with Seattle Parks and Recreation on how we might increase access to parking lots.
Studying a full outer Green Lake biking and walking loop
As we work on the final design for this near-term change, we’ll begin talking to neighbors about how we might expand a walking and biking path connecting around the lake, building off the recently completed Green Lake and Wallingford Multimodal Paving Project. We’ve heard a lot from the community who are interested creating a full outer loop for people to walk and bike around the lake, including repurposing the eastern-most lane of Aurora Ave N adjacent to the lake. We will be gathering feedback and sharing concepts with WSDOT, our partners in the corridor. Simultaneously, we’ll support Seattle Parks & Recreation in gathering feedback on reopening the inner loop of Green Lake Park to biking and other wheeled uses.

To stay informed and engage with us, join our project email list (check the box for Green Lake Keep Moving Street) and share this information widely with your neighbors.

7. Please fund and implement a protected path on Aurora Ave along Green Lake Park.
As we work on the final design for this near-term change, we’ll begin talking to neighbors about how we might expand a walking and biking path connecting around the lake, building off the recently completed Green Lake and Wallingford Multimodal Paving Project. We’ll partner with
WSDOT (Washington State Department of Transportation) to study and seek community input on how to create a full outer loop for people to walk and bike around the lake, including repurposing the eastern-most lane of Aurora Ave N adjacent to the lake. Simultaneously, we’ll support Seattle Parks & Recreation in gathering feedback on reopening the inner loop of Green Lake Park to biking and other wheeled uses.

8. What’s the status of Lake Washington Blvd for summer 2021?

Starting 4th of July weekend, 3 miles of Lake Washington Blvd (from Mt Baker Park to Seward Park) will open to people walking, rolling, and biking on weekends* and holidays through at least September.

*For consistency, barricades will be placed each Friday afternoon and removed Monday morning. This also reduces costs in paying staff overtime. On 4th of July and Labor Day weekends, barricades will be removed the following Tuesday morning.

Parking lots are open and will be accessible from the nearest cross street (see map). Those driving to homes along the boulevard because they live there, are visiting, or making deliveries are allowed.

Important details

**PARKING:** Seattle Parks and Recreation parking lots are now open which should be a big load off the increased parking, driving, and noise on side streets. Based on neighbor input, we’re looking into options such as trash pick up.

While all parking lots are open, to minimize driving on Lake Washington Blvd, we’re limiting access to which lot entrances are open. See the map below and follow signs showing where to enter each parking lot.

**DATA COLLECTION:** We’ll continue collecting data related to possible traffic diversion at S Genesee St (east of 38th Ave S), S McClellan St (east of 31st Ave S), and Wilson Ave S (northwest of S Lucille St). We’ll also add a counter to collect data for Hunter Blvd S.
**START DATE:** This weekend, we’ll close the 1-mile stretch between Mt Baker and Genesee parks. We’ll start the 3-mile closure between Mt Baker and Seward Park on 4th of July weekend.

**DURATION:** Current plans are to have the program run through September. It may extend into October depending on how well it’s used.

**STAN SAYRES:** Please take extra caution at the entrance of Stan Sayres Memorial Park where there’s a higher volume of people driving in and out of the parking lot entrance with boats. See our map below for details on where to enter when driving.

9. **Why didn’t you include a “no closure” in the Lake Washington Blvd survey?**
   We’re hearing both that this program creates a much-needed space in Southeast Seattle that invites people to walk and bike and enjoy the lake without fear of cars and that the changes increase activity outside people’s homes, can make people feel pushed away from accessing parks along Lake Washington Blvd, and removes the serenity for people driving along the lake or unable to walk or bike long distances.

   Listening to feedback, we’re working closely with Seattle Parks and Recreation to maintain access to destination parks as much as possible. We’re also collecting data about traffic diversion to learn where we need to make modifications.

   As we gather input for what Lake Washington Blvd should look like this summer, a “**weekends only option**" is included in the survey which most closely reflects the pre-pandemic status quo of the street. Closing the street from Mt Baker Park to Seward Park (except for local access) on weekends is the same model as Bicycle Sundays which have been an institution on Lake Washington Blvd for decades. The “weekends” option is an extended version of Bicycle Sundays because it would be both Saturday and Sunday. We opted not to call it Bicycle Weekends as we didn’t want to introduce another program name into the process at this time to reduce confusion.

   The data and summaries are linked on our [webpage](#):
   - [Lake Washington Pilot Summary](#)
   - [Lake Washington Pilot Public Comments](#)
   - [Lake Washington Blvd Public Comments from Aug 30 - Sept 4](#)
   - [Traffic diversion data analysis](#)

10. **What’s the status of Alki Point for summer 2021?**
In spring 2020, we opened a [Keep Moving Street on Beach Drive SW](https://www.sdot.seattle.gov) and temporarily closed the street to pass thru-traffic. Local access is still allowed for people driving to a residence or destination within the closure.

Since the Alki Point Keep Moving Street opened, we’ve heard from many people that they would like to see it stay in some form to keep providing space for people to walk, bike, roll, and play. Our counts also show the Alki Keep Moving Street has the highest observed usage per mile among any Keep Moving Street or Stay Healthy Street.

In the coming weeks, we’ll do more outreach to hear from more voices, learn what the community thinks of this Keep Moving Street as it is today, and understand what people want the street to look like in the future.

We’re also working to secure funding for designing and building permanent changes on the street based on community input. In the meantime, [Alki Point will remain a Keep Moving Street in its current form until spring 2022 or until we secure funding for permanent changes on the street.](https://www.sdot.seattle.gov)

Visit the [project webpage](https://www.sdot.seattle.gov) to learn more and join our [project email list](mailto:684-ROAD@seattle.gov) to stay informed of upcoming community engagement.

### 11. What do I do when a sign is down or damaged?

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:

1. Use the City’s [Find it Fix it](https://www.sdot.seattle.gov) smart phone app
2. Submit an online [Service Request](https://www.sdot.seattle.gov)
3. Email [684-ROAD@seattle.gov](mailto:684-ROAD@seattle.gov)
4. Call 206-684-7623
12. How do I request a Stay Healthy Street on my block?
As of April 1, neighbors can again apply for Play Street permits. Play Streets are the most immediate way to close a block to people driving and open it for play. You can find more info on the Play Streets webpage: [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets) or contact the Play Streets team at [publicspace@seattle.gov](mailto:publicspace@seattle.gov).

13. People are driving on the closed street, what do I do?
People driving who need to get to homes and businesses along Stay Healthy Streets are still able to drive on these streets (including deliveries and emergency vehicles). Drivers should use extra caution and yield to people. People enjoying the street should be mindful of drivers trying to get to homes and destinations as well.

If this appears to be a persistent problem, email us ([stayhealthystreets@seattle.gov](mailto:stayhealthystreets@seattle.gov)) to let us know.

Something to be mindful of is we’ve heard concerns from BIPOC neighbors feeling unwelcome on their own street when they’re driving to their homes. If we truly want to rebuild to better than before, then "we" must include everybody. For many white people, it means understanding cultures that existed in the neighborhood you live in now before you arrived. It means valuing everyone's voices and finding ways to include them. It means everyone feels safe traveling on our sidewalks and streets. It means recognizing racism and becoming an ally. Use these links to learn more:
- [Confronting Power and Privilege](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets) (Transportation Planning)
- [Impact 2020: The Central District Community Conversation](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets) (Seattle mention)
- [Bystander Intervention Virtual Trainings](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets) (1-hour training)
- [White Supremacy Culture](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets) (dRworks)

14. Do I need a permit for activities on a Stay Healthy Street?
Because Stay Healthy Streets are already closed to pass through traffic, you don’t need a permit from the City of Seattle to play in the street. The barricades and signs already in place discourage pass through-traffic, and remind people driving to their homes or making deliveries to drive slowly. Get more info in our Play on your Stay Healthy Street flyer.