

## Healthy Streets: Frequently Asked Questions

We introduced [Healthy Streets](#) during the pandemic in 2020 as a way for people 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
<b>What are Healthy Streets?</b>	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.
<b>What is included in a Healthy Street?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• Neighborhood activities like hopscotch and basketball (that you would otherwise need to get a street closure permit for)</li><li>• Intersections with traffic circles and street murals to discourage people from driving on Healthy Streets unless they have to</li></ul>
<b>What does this mean for drivers?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People enjoying the street should be mindful of drivers trying to get to homes and destinations as well</li> </ul>
<b>My Healthy Street is becoming permanent. Will the permanent Healthy Street take away parking spaces on my street?</b>	<p>We typically do not need to remove legal street parking to install permanent Healthy Street intersection treatments. Parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk (whether marked with paint or unmarked without paint) and 30 feet of Stop or Yield signs is not allowed. Most permanent Healthy Street intersection features are built within these spaces where parking is not allowed. Permanent features such as signs, concrete sign bases or planters, and painted curb bulbs help prevent people from parking too close to an intersection making it hard for other people to see.. For a full explanation of parking regulations, you can check out our <a href="#">Can I Park Here? Brochure</a>.</p> <p>Occasionally, we may need to remove some street parking on Healthy Streets to accommodate other project elements designed to improve safety or calm traffic. We will let you know if there are plans to change any legal street parking.</p>
<b>How can I request a Healthy Street on my street?</b>	<p>We currently do not have an open application process for new Healthy Streets. We're prioritizing reviewing how people are currently using the existing Healthy Streets. Based on uses and feedback, we're making some existing Healthy Streets permanent and returning others to Neighborhood Greenways, which they were before the pandemic.</p> <p>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 people are interested in expanding the Healthy Streets program!</p> <p>If future funding is identified to make this an ongoing program, we will develop a process to identify and prioritize future locations.</p>
<b>What other programs can I implement on my street?</b>	<p>Play Streets and Block Party Closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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:</li> </ul>

	<p><a href="https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets-and-block-parties">https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/permits/play-streets-and-block-parties</a>.</p> <p><b>Healthy Streets can be used as <a href="#">Play Streets</a> without needing a permit!</b> You can <a href="#">sign up</a> to get a free “play street kit” to help you get started. For more information about playing on your Healthy Street, please visit:  <a href="https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/healthy-streets/healthy-streets-play-streets">https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/healthy-streets/healthy-streets-play-streets</a></p> <p>The Neighborhood Matching Fund (NMF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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:  <a href="http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/neighborhood-matching-fund">http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/neighborhood-matching-fund</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How did Healthy Streets start?</b></p>	<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in spring and summer of 2020, we upgraded over 25 miles of <a href="#">Neighborhood Greenways</a> to Healthy Streets by closing them to pass-through traffic and opening them to people walking, rolling, biking, and playing.</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 locations for Healthy Streets by working from the 45-mile Neighborhood Greenway network and avoiding impacts to businesses, fire response routes, transit operations and layovers, 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>

<b>Will the Healthy Streets program continue to expand?</b>	We're thinking long term. We're working toward making 20 miles of Healthy Streets permanent. If future funding is identified to make this an ongoing program, we will develop a process to identify and prioritize future locations.
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<b>What do I do when a sign is down or damaged?</b>	<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"><li>1. Use the City's <a href="#">Find it Fix it</a> smartphone app</li><li>2. Submit an online <a href="#">Service Request</a></li><li>3. Email <a href="mailto:684-ROAD@seattle.gov">684-ROAD@seattle.gov</a></li><li>4. Call 206-684-7623</li></ol> <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>
<b>Where are all the Healthy Street locations?</b>	<p>We currently have 16 Healthy Street locations throughout the City.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Alki Point</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Aurora-Licton Springs</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Ballard</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Beacon Hill</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Bell Street</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Central Area</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Delridge-Highland Park</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Georgetown</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Greenwood</a></li><li>• <a href="#">High Point</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Lake City - Olympic Hills</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Lake City - Cedar Park</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Little Brook</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Othello-Rainier Beach</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Rainier Valley</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mt Baker</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Columbia City</li><li>○ Hillman City-Othello</li><li>• <a href="#">South Park</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Wallingford</a></li></ul> <p>You can see the <a href="#">citywide network</a> of Healthy Streets on our <a href="#">webpage</a>.</p>
<b>How do I request a Healthy Streets Planter on my Healthy Street?</b>	<p>Healthy Street Planters are available for <i>permanent</i> Healthy Street locations. We conduct outreach to find planter maintenance volunteers when a Healthy Street is preparing to become permanent. After the permanent installation has been completed, no additional planters will be added to the design.</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"><li>• 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.</li><li>• You will need come up with an agreement and plan for water source and access, and maintenance of the planter box.</li></ul>
<b>Who do I contact with questions, concerns, or feedback about Healthy Streets?</b>	<p>We'd love to help! Send your questions or feedback to <a href="mailto:HealthyStreets@seattle.gov">HealthyStreets@seattle.gov</a>, and one of our team members will be in touch. Prefer the phone? Leave us a voicemail at (206) 900-8760, and someone from our team will return your call.</p>