# WALK THIS WAY your guide to Seattle by foot



www.seattle.gov/transportation

# CONTENTS

HEALTH	1
SAFETY	3
SAVE MONEY	4
WALK AROUND TOWN	5
WALK TO SCHOOL	6
KEEP SEATTLE WALKABLE	8
GREAT WALKS	9
GET INVOLVED	10





# HEALTH WALKING IS MORE THAN JUST FRESH AIR

## You've heard it before: walking is good for you. But do you know just how good?

- Get into tip-top shape
- Feel great
- Improve your memory
- Reduce the likelihood of some cancers, heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, and more
- Oh, and have fun, too!

Give it a try! Indoors or outdoors, alone or with friends, for transportation or just to breathe in some fresh air.





# **DID YOU KNOW?**

10,000

Pounds of body fat burned off by walking an extra 20 minutes a day

6%

Increase in likelihood of obesity for every hour spent in a car

Doctor-recommended number of steps in a day

# **SAFETY** TIPS TO KEEP YOU TRAVELING SAFELY AROUND THE CITY

**STAY ALERT.** Even if there's no crosswalk marking, drivers are required to stop for pedestrians. Pay attention when crossing the street, put your phone away, and look up.

**BE BRIGHT AT NIGHT.** Carry a flashlight and wear reflective stripes or bright clothing.

**BE SMART.** Use marked crosswalks wherever possible, watch for cars turning and backing up particularly at driveways and intersections, and cross when you have the light.

**BE AWARE.** If you are uncomfortable walking alone, leave valuables at home, vary your routes, try apps like "Companion," and remove those earbuds.

FACE TRAFFIC. If a sidewalk is not available, walk facing traffic in the shoulder.

# SAVE MONEY LEAVE YOUR CAR AND FILL YOUR WALLET

Walking is the most affordable way to get around the city. And given that transportation is the second biggest expense in many family budgets, you can save a lot.

- Leave your car in the driveway for one trip a day and save \$250 a year. Gas, maintenance, and parking for trips around town add up.
- Get rid of your car entirely, and save more than \$8,500 per year!
- Calculate what your car is costing you here: exchange.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/ Your-Driving-Costs-2015.pdf





# AROUND TOWN YOUR FEET CAN GET YOU THERE, REALLY!

Make it a habit by walking to work, the bus, or to the store.

IT'S SIMPLE. All you need is a pair of shoes and a backpack or bag.

**IT'S FAST.** Google your favorite destinations. You'll probably be surprised by how many of them are less than a half mile away. That's only 10 minutes by foot.

**IT'S EASY.** Seattle is one of the top 10 walking cities in the country, according to WalkScore. Find out your score: walkscore.com.





# WALK TO SCHOOL IT'S HEALTHY AND FUN!

Walking to school is one of the best ways to keep your kids healthy. Kids who walk to school even improve their grades! Give it a try.

- Find a safe route. Look for roads with less traffic, sidewalks, and visible places to cross streets.
- Walk with your kids, at least to get started.
- Join or form a "Walk to School Bus."
- Learn about SDOT's Safe Routes to School program here: seattle.gov/transportation/saferoutes.htm



# **DID YOU KNOW?**

A 1 MILE WALK EACH WAY is 2/3 of the daily recommended 60 minutes of physical activity for kids

## **ONE IN FOUR** Seattle students bike or walk to school

From 2005-2015, walking and biking to school in Seattle **INCREASED** by 60%

# KEEP SEATTLE WALKABLE show your sidewalk a little tlc

## A few tips to help keep sidewalks open and accessible:

- Trim bushes and trees
- Keep garbage bins and cans out of the way
- Never park in the walkable zone
- Shovel sidewalks when it snows
- Repair damaged sidewalk

The 'walkable zone' (the part of the sidewalk that needs to be open and accessible) is 6' wide and 8' tall. Per SMC 15.72, the adjacent property owner is responsible for permanent repairs. Please help us 'defend the zone' by doing your part. For information on sidewalk repair, please contact the SDOT Street Use permit counter at 206-684-5283 or visit: seattle.gov/transportation/cams/CAM2208.pdf



# **GREAT WALKS** IN THE CITY AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## Seattle boasts some of the most beautiful and varied walks anywhere.

**ALKI BEACH.** The Venice Beach of Seattle features a 2.5 mile beach path. You can't beat it for people watching.

**CARKEEK PARK.** Challenging terrain with extraordinary views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.

**ELLIOTT BAY TRAIL.** Enjoy 3.4 miles of trail just steps from downtown Seattle.

**GREEN LAKE PARK.** The 2.8 mile paved path around the lake provides recreation for hundreds of runners, bikers, skaters, and walkers daily.

**LINCOLN PARK.** Explore 4.6 miles of walking paths. Unpaved trails lead down to rocky beaches, and an outdoor saltwater pool.

**SEWARD PARK.** Walk the 2.4 mile paved, car-free loop with unobstructed views of Mt. Rainier.

You can plan your next walk here: seattle.gov/parks

**Some of our favorite neighborhood walks include:** Chinatown/International District, Ballard, Fremont, Belltown, Columbia City, Alki Beach, and Capitol Hill.

## **GET INVOLVED** RESOURCES TO GET YOU STARTED TODAY!

Seattle's Active Transportation Initiative is making it easier than ever to walk.

SUMMER PARKWAYS. Family-friendly events allow you to explore Seattle's neighborhoods carfree. seattle.gov/transportation/summerparkways.htm

PLAY STREETS. Turn your street into a playground for a day. seattle.gov/transportation/ playstreets.htm

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL. Walking programs, speed enforcement, and street improvements focused just on Seattle's schools. Now in every elementary school. seattle.gov/transportation/ saferoutes.htm WALKING MAPS. Order walking maps to help select the best routes for you. seattle.gov/transportation/walk\_map.htm

PEDESTRIAN MASTER PLAN. Long-term action plan includes pedestrian policies, programs, and projects. seattle.gov/transportation/pedestrian\_ masterplan





Seattle's partners are helping lead the way. Come walk with us.

### FEET FIRST. Programs and policies that promote walkability. feetfirst.org

#### SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GREENWAYS.

Greenways are residential streets with low car volumes and low speeds so people can walk and bike comfortably. seattlegreenways.org

#### SEATTLE STAIRWAY WALKS. Explore Seattle neighborhoods one stair at a time.

seattlestairwaywalks.com

SOUND STEPS. Join the weekly walking group for adults 50+. seattle.gov/parks/seniors/soundsteps.htm



**TRAVEL OPTIONS.** This brochure is part of a suite of materials aimed at providing more information on all of the different travel options in Seattle. Learn more: seattle.gov/transportation





#### V I S I O N ZERØØ SAFER STREETS FOR SEATTLE

#### www.seattle.gov/transportation

NOVEMBER 2015