

Healthy Places Walkability Study Walnut Heights Neighborhood Pride

Columbus Public Health Healthy Places program is conducting walkability studies in the 2007 Neighborhood Pride areas. The goals of the walkability study are to increase neighborhood residents walking in their neighborhood and to identify destination places that are within walking distance. This will be done by walking with neighborhood residents to 1) identify positive places to walk in their neighborhood; 2) inventory barriers to pedestrians and bikers; and 3) identify neighborhood destinations.

Synopsis

Date	Wednesday, September 12 th , 2007 1pm and 6:30pm
Community Participation	1pm: 3 residents 6:30pm: 2 residents
City of Columbus Participation	1pm: Lynn Lacour, Neighborhood Liaison
Distance Walked	1pm: 1mile 6:30pm: 1mile
Weather	Clear, sunny, temperate

Neighborhood Findings

Surveys completed	4
Findings of interest	Neighborhood can walk to a grocery store, church, friend's house, school and park/playground. Most people think the neighborhood is a good walking environment overall with some improvements needed.
Most important aspects of walking (ranked in order of priority)	Safety, sidewalks, destination places, access to parks/open space and nice things to see

Of the five Walnut Heights residents that walked, the newest person in the neighborhood had lived there for 20 years. These residents are vested in their neighborhood and want to see it continue to be a nice place to raise a family and live. There are some concerns that people do not take care of their homes; that renters do not care about the community; and that their infrastructure will need work soon. However, they are close knit and welcome new families to their neighborhood. The Community of Faith Church is in the center of the neighborhood and does significant outreach to the community. They have recently begun youth sports leagues on fields which have been vacant for years.

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Overall Comments

- Carbondale and Denmark are the main arteries.
- Kids hang out in the park at night. (beer bottles were found in the park)
- On Lindora the sidewalk stops near the convenience store and day care.
- The ADA ramps are not at all corners.
- There are paths to the school through the houses so the children can walk to school. They need repaved and the fences are rusty now.
- Trees are mature and provide good shade for walking.
- Cars will yield for walkers.
- Crosswalks near school need repainted but the City will only do them if the school provides crossing guards. But the crosswalks would benefit the whole neighborhood.
- I don't feel safe at night, kids are out roaming.
- Kids out roaming is nothing new, that happened when my kids were young.
- Neighbors wave to each other.
- Some people don't take care of the neighborhood.
- I don't walk in the neighborhood because there is no one to walk with.
- Renters don't mow their lawns and they play loud music.
- People speed down Carbondale Drive.
- I have to pick trash up out of my yard everyday.
- Our sidewalks are pushed up from the city trees' roots
- I see early evening walkers but not many night time walkers.



Maybury Park is a neighborhood asset and provides space for local sports leagues.

Not all corners have ADA ramps; example here is Lindora Drive and Denmark Road.



Keelson Drive like most streets is tree lined with sidewalks providing great walking conditions.

Faded crosswalks near the school; the community would like to see crosswalks repainted.



Addendum

Site Specific Comments

Routes

All Pictures

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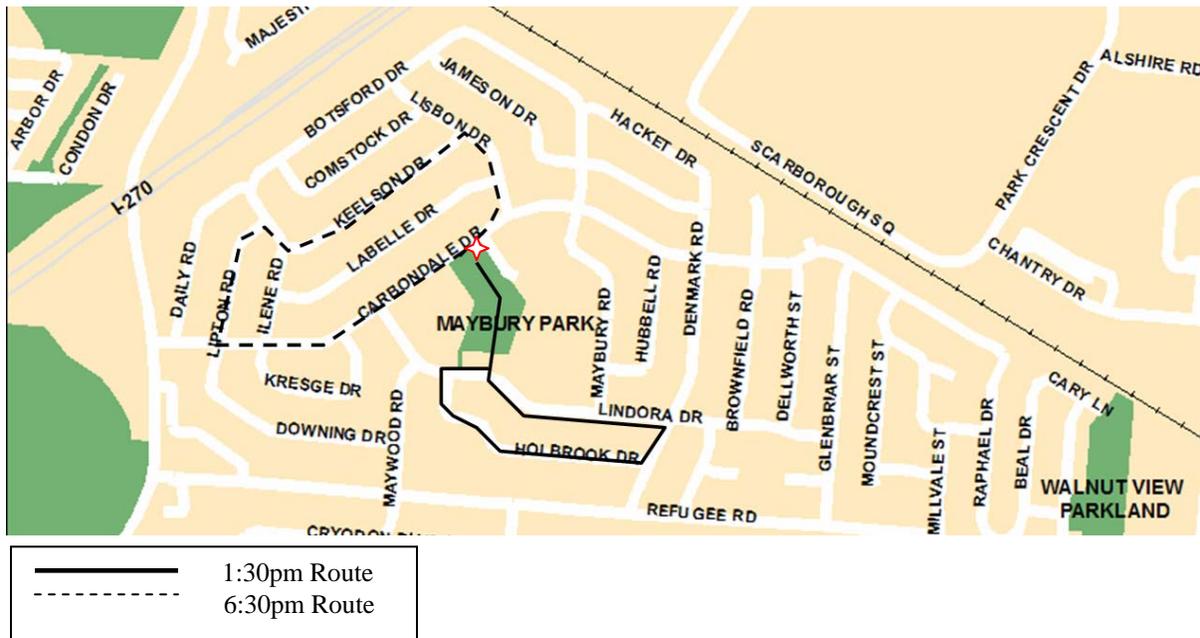
Site Specific Comments

Specific Street	Comment
Lindora Drive and Maybury Road (Picture 12)	Faded crosswalks
Denmark Road	Speeding cars
Carbondale Drive	Speeding cars

ADA Accessible	Not ADA Accessible
Denmark Road and Refugee Road (Picture 19)	Lindora Drive and Maybury Road (Picture 12)
Keelson Drive and Carbondale Drive (Picture 35)	Lindora Drive and Denmark Road (Picture 14)
	Denmark Road and Holbrook Drive (Picture 16/17)

Sidewalk Gaps (almost 100% of streets within the development have sidewalks)
Lindora Drive: sidewalk stops on north side of the street from the path to the park to Carbondale Drive (Picture 22)
Carbondale Drive: sidewalk stops on east side of the street around the baseball field. (Picture 23)

Route Walked



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Pictures from 1:30pm Walk (picture explanation is below)



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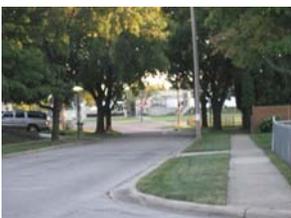
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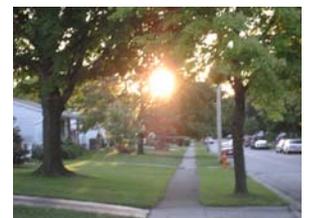
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Pictures from 6:30pm Walk (picture explanation is below)



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Picture Explanation

Picture	Explanation
1	Maybury Park; the park, Maybury Elementary School and Community of Faith Church are on adjacent properties
2	Maybury Park
3	Baseball diamond at Maybury Park, a youth league once played on this field; neighbors and the Civic Association are maintaining the field and a youth league may start again soon
4	Maybury Elementary School
5	The path from Maybury Park to Lindora Drive; an intimidating dog was chained inside the fence
6	Sidewalk on Lindora Ave
7-9	Fenced pathway between the houses for children to walk to school
10	Lindora Drive with street trees and well kept sidewalks
11	Sidewalks on Lindora Drive
12	Crosswalk at Lindora Drive and Maybury Road; this is very close to the school and has faded over the years; there is no ADA access at this intersection
13	Maybury Road with crosswalks directly to the school
14	Lindora Drive and Denmark Road; no ADA access
15	Denmark Road-residents report problems with speeding on the street; sidewalks and street trees are present
16	Denmark Road and Holbrook Drive-sidewalk does not continue to street
17	Denmark Road and Holbrook Drive does not have ramps at the corners
18	House proud neighbor
19	Denmark Road leads to Independence High School; Denmark and Refugee Road intersection which leads to the high school is very well marked and has pedestrian signals
20	Holbrook Drive street trees and sidewalks
21	Neighborhood commercial on Carbondale Drive and Lindora Drive
22	Lindora Drive-sidewalk stops on north side of the street from the path to the park to Carbondale Drive
23	Carbondale Drive-sidewalk also stops on east side of Carbondale drive around the baseball field
24	Cardondale Drive with sidewalks and street trees; neighbors report speeding down this street
25	Neighborhood commercial at Cardondale Drive and Lindora Drive
26	Neighbor passed away and no one is caring for the house
27	Some neighbors allow weeds and grass to grow up around the house
28	Lipton Road with sidewalks and trees
29	Obstruction in the sidewalk, neighbors need to care about their property including the sidewalk

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30	Sidewalks in the neighborhood are beginning to crack or settle causing unevenness which makes it hard for walking
31-32	Keelson Drive
33	House proud neighbors
34	Keelson Drive
35	Keelson Drive and Carbondale Drive-great ADA access; this intersection leads to the park

This report will be used to create walking maps through the neighborhood. The mile measured routes will highlight neighborhood features, safe paths and destinations. The report will also be forwarded to City of Columbus departments that can assist neighborhoods in addressing their needs.

The mission of the Healthy Places program is to enhance healthy and active living by establishing development policies and practices to reduce negative health impacts and by creating places that foster physical activity as a part of everyday life. For more information, please contact Christine Godward, Healthy Places Coordinator at 645-5318 or CLGodward@columbus.gov