

Healthy Places Walkability Study Weinland Park Neighborhood

Columbus Public Health Healthy Places program is conducting walkability studies 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	April 19 th & 22 nd 2008
Community Participation	19 th : 5 adults and kids (one mother with a stroller) 22 nd : 1 adult and 5 kids
Distance Walked	1.63 miles
Weather	Sunny and warm; overcast and chilly

Neighborhood Findings

Surveys completed	11
Findings of interest	In rating the quality of the walking environment in the neighborhood across five categories, all categories were rated less than 3 on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being the lowest rating.
Frequency residents walk in the neighborhood	Majority walk everyday
Number of destinations places residents walk/bike	Majority walk 1-2 places per week
Other walkers seen in the neighborhood	59 (total is for both walks)
Other bikers seen in the neighborhood	4 (total is for both walks)

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Overall Comments

Housing

- Restoration of housing and warehouses are desirable.
- Abandoned housing and warehouses result in animal rat and raccoon infestations, as well as reported incidences of sexual assault.

Economic Development

- Consideration by Mayor Coleman of the Short North up to Chittenden is wanted in order to make improvements.
- More opportunity and positive influences for children in the area.
- The car dealer at the north west corner of Summit and 5th Ave does not take care of the property, it has weeds and dirt on the sidewalk and a neglected fence.
- Bristol has cigarette butts that litter their sidewalk.
- Free Geek used to be in the neighborhood and now is just outside-it is a tech firm that assists non profits and allows people to earn free computers with volunteer hours. They also recycle computers and put them into productive use.
- People own vacant buildings and they are just sitting on them waiting for the best price. In the meantime, they are not secured and an eyesore to the neighborhood.

Recreation

- Basketball Court in Weinland Park is located on the outside of park.
- The park should not be on 4th Street, there needs to be more slides
- Bike racks are needed at the Pre-school and elementary school.
- Children often have nothing to do.
- A Pool and Recreation center for children desired.
- Vacant lots could be converted into recreation areas for children.
- The site of Godman Guild use to be a park, then it was a school building for Weinland Park Elementary over flow and Columbus Coated Fabrics turned the rest of the park land into houses.

Walking

- There are not many locations to legally cross the street (absence of pedestrian walk signals).
- Utility poles are placed within sidewalks leaving insufficient room for pedestrians to fit on sidewalks especially those with strollers, wheelchairs, etc.
- There were many dusty and dirty crosswalks that cause a barrier for pedestrians and anyone using a wheelchair or stroller.
- Barriers to utilizing sidewalks include; holes and jagged metal in sidewalks, size restrictions, overgrown shrubbery, cracks and crumbling of concrete, flooding, leftover and improperly installed piping, broken glass, and litter. A resident reported tripping and breaking their shoe on the sidewalk.
- Timed pedestrian lights are needed within crosswalks
- Afraid to walk because of gun shootings
- There isn't enough time to walk (schedule restrictions).
- We need it to look like Bexley.

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- Problems with potholes on the sidewalks that are hard to pass, cars too fast, bushes overgrown, litter, broken and missing sidewalks (survey comment)

Street Comments

- Alleys are sometime more safe than streets. They could use more lighting.
- Potholes need to be fixed in the streets.
- Utilities wires are exposed on sidewalks children climb on these.
- Summit and 7th has very high pedestrian activity-it is near a school, day care, park and the grocery store.
- Utility box was not locked on the pole at the northwest corner of N. 4 St and E. 5th Ave. (311 ticket number 0805013801)

Sidewalks/No Sidewalks

- Sidewalk paths often to not coincide with the flow of traffic
- Broken or missing sidewalks are hard to navigate for parents with strollers and wheelchairs; parents have to push the wheelchair hard and pull up the front wheels.
- Hills in front yards are not stabilized and the dirt is on the sidewalk.
- Sidewalks flood in the rain and it is hard to push the stroller through and the bottom of my pants gets wet.
- There is glass on our sidewalks and kids walk in flip flops.
- Aprons of business are in poor condition-including the sidewalks.

ADA Ramps

- ADA ramps not positioned where the traffic flows

Public Transportation

- Seating, shelter and litter receptacles for bus stops are rarely provided. Absence of shelter and benches result in riders sitting on residential porches.
- Trash cans are needed at bus stops to keep litter off the ground.

Bike Amenities

- There are no bike lanes and broken glass in the streets result in deflated tires.
- There is a lack of bike racks in the neighborhood. Kroger has one.
- Glass on the street is an issue for bikes. We need bike paths, lanes and trails.
- We have no bike lanes or paths and riding a bike down a four lane arterial road (e.g. Summit) is nerve-wracking. (survey comment)

Neighborhood Projects

- Neighbors have adopted the area around 7th and 8th, Summit and Hamlet-they pick up litter and have a trash can on the sidewalk for people to throw their trash away.
- The University Area Enrichment Association sponsors clean ups every Sunday from 10am to 4p.
- Weinland Park Community Garden at Godman Guild is a community garden, public art, and hosts other activities for kids in the neighborhood.
- The new Community Policing Center will have community meeting space and space for community gardens. It will be a neighborhood destination.

Safety

- Its fun, not safe (survey comment)

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- It's bad because people have guns (survey comment)
- I don't like walking where I live because people asked me if I want some drugs and when I say I don't do that they call me out of my name.
- There is shooting at night, I do not feel safe.

Other Comments

- Code enforcement is not allowed to ticket around litter. We have been trying to get enabling legislation at the state level but it is blocked by lobbying groups.
- Some of the flyers and litter objectify women or have other pictures I do not want kids to see.
- Only 13 percent of the properties are owner occupied.
- Decay is allowed to happen in this neighborhood.



A common issue in the neighborhood is sign pole holders still left in the sidewalk.



Vacant and unsecured buildings in the neighborhood.



Weinland Park Community Garden at Godman Guild with public art, a playground and a community resource center.

This report will be used to create walking maps through the neighborhood. The mile measured maps 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.

Addendum

Routes

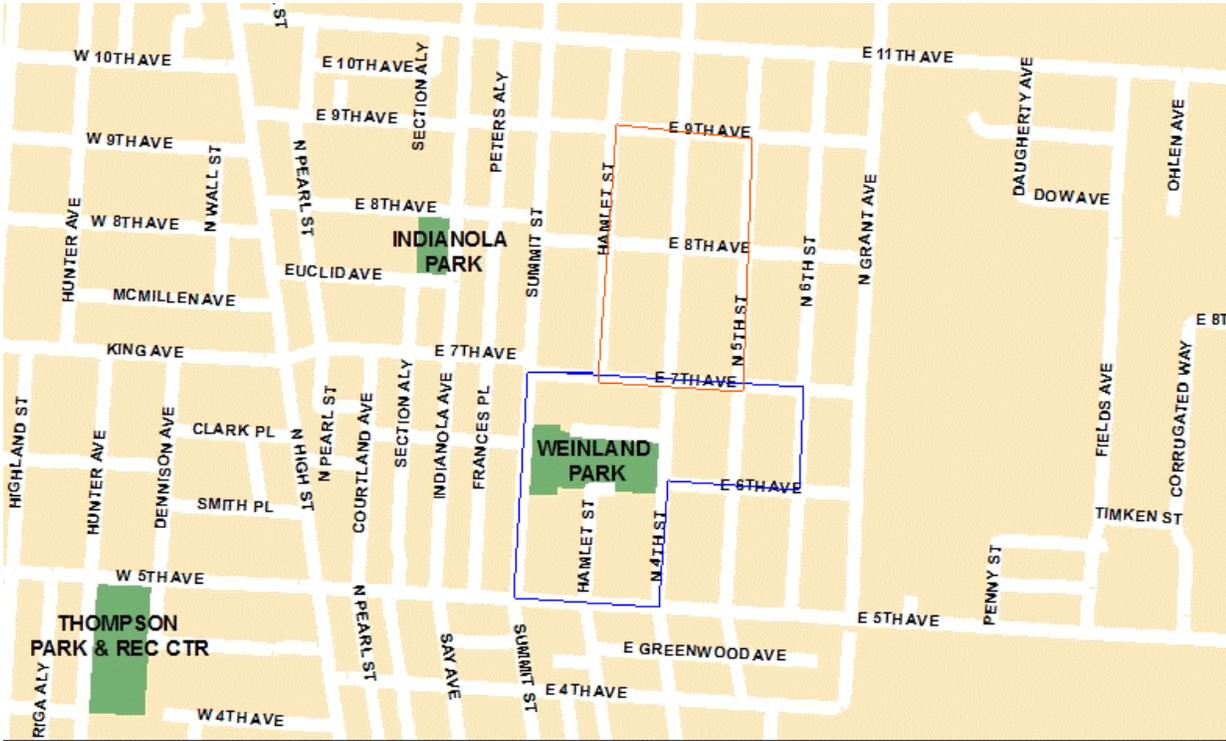
Site Specific Comments

All Pictures

2007 Walk to School Day Results

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Routes Walked



— April 19th
— April 22nd

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Site Specific Comments

Specific Street	Comment
Intersection Issues	
7 th and Summit (picture 5-7)	Need a pedestrian phase in the traffic signal, we cannot close a cross walk, people will walk there anyway, we need to make it safer; this intersection is next to a school and daycare and on the way to the only grocery store in the neighborhood; the next legal place to cross is about 2 blocks away
5 th Ave and Summit	It takes too long for the signal to change to allow pedestrians to cross-most people cross against the light because they are tired of waiting. There are a lot of kids in the neighborhood-count down pedestrian signals would be good. Cycle is not long enough for pedestrians to cross-the walk signal begins to flash and we are not even half way across the street. No button for crosswalk.
Summit (picture 8)	An artery to downtown through the middle of our neighborhood-we have a lot of kids and the traffic is very fast
Summit and 6 th Ave (picture 22-24)	No crosswalk to park
Intersection of 4 th Street and 11 th Ave	Very wide, crosswalks are warn and not high visibility

Location	Sidewalk Issues
Summit and between 7 th and 6 th west side of the street (pictures 9-10, 27)	Holes in the sidewalk; Pole in the sidewalk-difficult for wheelchair, stroller or groups of people to navigate
1277 N. 4 th Street	Drainage on the sidewalk
1271 N. 4 th Street (picture 34-35)	Sidewalk in poor condition
1305 Summit	Sidewalk is missing, in poor condition
6 th and Summit (pictures 24-25)	No sidewalks, traffic is 40 mph and there are many kids in the area
1271 Summit	Sidewalk is only 38.5 inches across due to erosion of front yard, dirt is on the sidewalk; sign holder sticking out
North side of 5 th Ave east of Summit (pictures 42-43)	Poles in the sidewalk
4 th Street near Weinland Park Elementary (pictures 67-68)	Glass on sidewalk
5 th Ave east of Hamlet (picture 46)	Sidewalk in poor condition, crumbling
4 th Street north of 7 th Ave	Sidewalk in poor condition; crumbling

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6 th Street at 7 th Ave	Sidewalk is overgrown, broken (pictures 86-88)
7 th Ave east of 4 th Street (picture 92)	No sidewalk
4 th Street north of 7 th Ave	Sidewalk floods when it rains
Hamlet between 7 th Ave and 11 th Ave	Erosion onto sidewalks; poorly maintained of sidewalks (pictures 97-99)
7 th to 9 th Ave on Hamlet; 5 th to 11 th on 7 th Ave	Sign holder sticking out of sidewalk (picture 100)
1445 5 th Street	Missing sidewalk (picture 115)
5 th Street between 8 th Ave and 7 th Ave	Erosion (picture 122-123)

Other Issues	Location
Businesses that have trash on their property, not maintain landscaping or have poor condition of property in general	Summit and 6 th Ave (picture 26)
	Northwest corner of Summit and 5 th Ave (pictures 38-40)
	Northeast corner of Summit and 5 th Ave (picture 41)
	Northwest corner of 4 th Street and 5 th Ave (pictures 51-58)
Bus stops have broken benches, do not have shelter and collect trash	4 th Street north of 5 th Ave (picture 63)
Industrial site not maintained or secure	4 th Street north of 5 th Ave (pictures 64-66)
	7 th Ave and 5 th Street (pictures 71-72)
Debris on the sidewalk or in the street	Hamlet north of 7 th Ave (picture 96)
	Hamlet south of 11 th Ave (picture 107-108)
Cars parking on tree lawn	5 th Street south of 11 th Ave (pictures 109-111)
Resident houses that have trash in front yard and landscaping issues	1453 5 th Street (picture 114)
	5 th Street south of 8 th Ave (pictures 119-120)
Abandoned housing	5 th Street between 8 th Ave and 7 th Ave (picture 124)

No ADA ramps
7 th Ave and 5 th Street (pictures 73-75)
6 th Ave and 7 th Ave (picture 87)
5 th Street and 8 th Ave

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Pictures (Explanation of pictures below)



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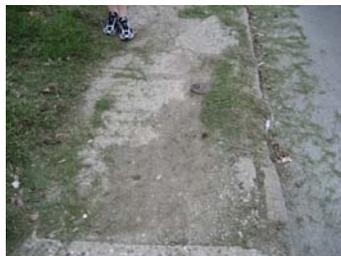
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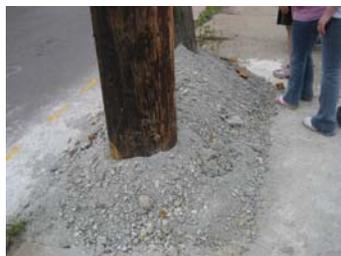
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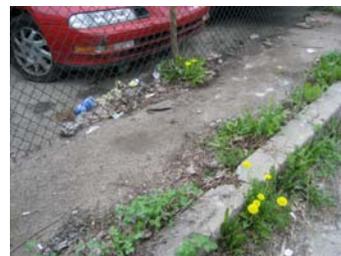
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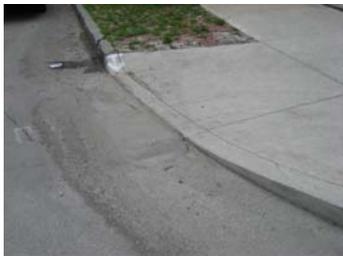
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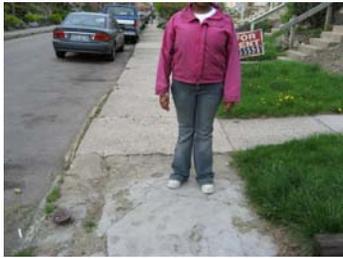


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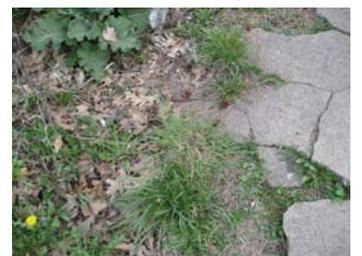
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Picture Explanation

Picture Number	Explanation
1-2	Weinland Park Elementary School
3-4	Cut through at the Elementary School, this is not suppose to be a walkway but since it is the closest path to the school, the neighborhood uses it
5-7	Intersection of 7 th Ave and Summit; very heavy pedestrian traffic; pedestrians will also cross at the part without a crosswalk
8	Summit Street, no buffer between pedestrians and cars
9-10	Summit Ave just south of 7 th Ave; poles make it difficult for stroller to get through
11-21	Summit Ave from 7 th Ave to Weinland Park; issues with sidewalk condition, poles in the sidewalks, unstable front yards which cause dirt to collect on sidewalks
22-24	Weinland Park-there are no crosswalks to lead pedestrians to the park
25	6 th Ave west of Weinland Park-closed to traffic but does not have sidewalks. Needs to stay open to pedestrians since it is close to park and school. However, when pedestrians get to Summit, there is no crosswalk (Pictures 22-24)
26	6 th Ave-store keepers do not keep up property; dumpster sits where sidewalk should be located
27-31	Summit Street south of 6 th Ave; metal sign holders left in the sidewalk, erosion results in dirt collecting on sidewalk, pole blocking sidewalk
32-33	Sidewalk only 37.5 inches across at 1271 Summit due to pole and erosion.
34-35	Dirt on sidewalk from erosion and pole in sidewalk leaving only 25 inches to walk; sign pole holder left in sidewalk 1241 Summit
36	Vacant and abandoned home on Summit just north of 5 th Ave
37	1225 Summit has a good, stable hillside
38-40	Car dealer on the northwest side of Summit and 5 th Ave; property not kept up and pole construction not complete
41	Business that does not keep sidewalk clean at northeast corner of 5 th and 4 th
42-43	Pole and guide wire in sidewalk, 37.5 inches to walk
44-45	Hamlet and 5 th - ADA ramps are not placed were traffic flows
46	Poor sidewalk on 5 th Ave east of Hamlet
47-48	Neighborhood bike coop
49-50	Walker crossing where convenient; walker going to food bank-Fruit of the Vine
51	Poorly maintained property at northwest corner of 4 th and 5 th ; neighborhood carryout
52-58	Sidewalk around the carryout at 4 th and 5 th ; in poor condition, child choked when drinking riding in the stroller over the sidewalk
59-60	Unlocked traffic control box at the northwest corner of 4 th and 5 th
61-62	Property on the northeast corner of 4 th and 5 th
63	Bus stop on 4 th Street north of 5 th Ave-no benches or shelter
64-66	Industrial site that is not maintained. Chain was lying on the ground, the are is very unsightly and dangerous for curious kids.
67-68	Glass on sidewalk on 4 th Street near the Weinland Park Elementary

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69	Poor sidewalk on 4 th Street north of 7 th Ave
70	4 th Street from 7 th Ave
71-72	Abandoned building at 7 th Ave and 5 th Street; the building is unsecured
73-75	Sidewalk/corner at 7 th Ave and 5 th Street near Godman Guild
76-82	Godman Guild and the Weinland Park Community Garden at Godman Guild
83	7 th Avenue Baptist Church
84-85	6 th Street looking north from Godman Guild
86-88	6 th Street at 7 th Ave
89	7 th Street west from 6 th Street
90	5 th Street looking north from 7 th Avenue
91	Crosswalk near Weinland Park Elementary at 7 th Avenue and 4 th Street
92	Family walking west on 7 th Avenue without a sidewalk
93-94	North on 4 th Street from 7 th Street; sidewalk floods in the rain
95	Crosswalk at 7 th Ave and Hamlet in front of Weinland Park
96	Landscaping is blocking the ADA ramp
97-98	Erosion of front yards makes sidewalk impassable
99	Poor landscaping blocking the sidewalk
100	Side holder that is still in the ground; very dangerous for children playing; there was at least 5 of these from 7 th Ave to 9 th Ave on Hamlet and at least 3 on 5 th Street from 11 th to 7 th Ave
101-102	Sidewalk issues, there were at least 7 similar examples throughout the walk
103-104	Landscaping that is beautiful and prevents erosion
105-106	New Policing Station will include community meeting rooms and a community garden
107-108	Sidewalk obstructions on Hamlet Street south of 11 th Ave
109-111	Incidences of cars parking on tree lawn; 5 th Street south of 11 th
112	Fences in front yards
113	4 th Street and 11 th Ave-very wide intersection, crosswalks are not high profile
114	1453 5 th Street-trash
115	1445 5 th Street-missing sidewalk
116-117	Picture of 5 th Street
118	5 th Street and 8 th Ave-no ADA ramps
119-120	5 th Street sidewalk with landscaping and sidewalk issue
121	Children were playing and hanging on these wires
122-123	Erosion, sidewalk on 5 th Street between 8 th Ave and 7 th Ave
124	Abandoned house on 5 th Street between 8 th Ave and 7 th Ave

Survey Results
Walk to School Day
Weinland Park Elementary School
October 3, 2007

Did you have enough room to walk?

4 Yes; 10 No

Sidewalk or paths started and stopped	3
Sidewalks were broken or cracked	6
Sidewalks were blocked with poles, signs, dumpsters etc.	3
No sidewalks, paths or shoulders	1
Too much traffic	3
Other: bushes	1
Other: too close to the street	1

Comments:

- Continue sidewalk from Hamlet Street to school
- Lots of traffic on Summit, no crossing guard
- 7th West Summit (location of problem)
- 7th Ave (between 6th and 4th) (location of problem)
- Rush hour-Summit and 4th

Was it easy to cross the street?

10 Yes; 4 No

Road was too wide	0
Traffic signals made us wait too long or did not give us enough time to cross	0
Needed striped crosswalks or traffic signals	3
Parked cars blocked our view of traffic	
Trees or plants blocked our view of traffic	1
Needed curb ramps or ramps needed repair	1
Cars turning right from 7 th (Summit and 7 th)	1

Comments:

- 5th Ave (location of problem)

Did drivers behave well?

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8 Yes; 6 No

Backed out of driveways without looking	0
Did not yield to people crossing street	1
Turned into people crossing streets	2
Drove too fast	3
Sped up to make it through red lights	2
Other: women on bike hit by car	1

Comments:

- 7th and Summit (location of problem)
- Within 5 block radius of the school (location of problem)

Was it easy to follow safety rules? Could your child...

	Yes	No
Cross at crosswalks or where you could see and be seen by drivers?	12	2
Stop and look left, right, and left again before crossing streets?	14	0
Walk on sidewalks, or shoulders (if no sidewalks), facing traffic?	11	3
Cross with the light?	13	1

Comments:

- 7th between 4th and 6th streets (location of problem)

Was your walk pleasant?

5 Yes; 9 No

Need more grass, flowers, or trees	1
Scary dogs	1
Suspicious activity	3
Not well lit	1
Dirty, lots of litter or trash	5
Other: hole in sidewalk (west side of Summit between 7 th and 6 th)	1

Comments:

- N. 6th and 7th (location of problem)

Other comments:

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- Very scary to walk by myself (student)
- 4th and 4th people are going way to fast (site of cyclist/bus accident)
- 4th and Summit Streets-people try to beat the lights by speeding
- Residents must cross 4th Street to get to the school; Summit to get to our grocery store and High Street to get to the Library.
- Speeding truck frightened kids riding a bike onto the sidewalk.