

Healthy Places Walkability Study Tussing Neighborhood Pride

Columbus Public Health Healthy Places program is conducting walkability studies in the 2009 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 cyclists; and 3) identify neighborhood destinations.

Synopsis

Date	5/19/09
Community Participation	7
Distance Walked	1.3 miles
Weather	Beautiful, sunny spring day

The Tussing neighborhood is most concerned about safety in their neighborhood. The neighborhood has a park, sidewalks, great street trees and good residents. However, neighbors do not feel safe walking alone or using their park because of teenagers and young adults that roam the neighborhood and take over the park. Speeding on streets is also an issue.

Neighborhood Findings

Recreation

- Neighbors are really interested in encouraging families to use Independence Park not only for a community space but it would keep out the bad element.
- There is a walking path in the park.

Walking

- We have lots of walkers in our neighborhood, in the evening and the morning and families with babies.
- Most neighbors would not feel safe walking alone in their neighborhood, especially at night and in the park.
- My comfort level of walking depends on the crowd I see in the park.
- I walk everywhere, even up to 10p at night.
- If I have to walk alone when it is dark, I keep within a few blocks of my house.
- Stray dogs and dogs off leash worry me and have bothered me and my dog. I carry a stick.
- Cars do not slow down for pedestrians.

Safety

- Gemstar is a street we avoid.
- Teenagers and young adults roam the neighborhood and night and hang out in the park.
- We have an issue with gang houses in our neighborhood.
- Publicize the curfew even if we do not have special officers assigned to enforce it.

Traffic Concerns

- There are no traffic signs at many intersections throughout the neighborhood (i.e. stop signs)
- Specific intersections with no signage of note are:
 - Deepwood and Bennell
 - Continental and Centennial
 - Metuchin and Arrowsmith
- Streets that are cut-through streets and have high speeds are:
 - Centennial Dr
 - Bennell Dr
 - Ambarwent Rd
 - Arrowsmith Dr
- Residents would like to have speed bumps on the above streets

Infrastructure

- Water pipes in the sidewalk with no caps were noted at:
 - In front of 6832 Metuchen Place
 - 2991 Arrowsmith Drive
 - 6825 Arrowsmith Drive
 - 3095 Deepwood Drive
 - 6764 Bennell Drive (water pipe in grass near driveway and sidewalk)
- Sidewalks are a problem throughout the neighborhood-either they are flaking and full of gravel or they are pushed up and are tripping hazards.
- The property owned by the Groveport Madison school district is an empty field and does not have sidewalks. There is also a sidewalk gap on Centennial between Deepwood Dr and Hubbardton Pl and on Arrowsmith between Creighton Pl and Stockton Ln where the park meets the road.
- The city built an ADA ramp in front of my house and I have had flooding and drainage ever since. The water backs into my garage and I now have foundation problems.

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Independence Park has lots of green space, basketball courts and a walking path. Neighbors would like to see more families in the park and less bad people.



Hubbardton Place looking west from Metuchen with great street trees and sidewalks.



Flaking sidewalk is common in the neighborhood as is sidewalks that are raised or uneven.

This report will be used to create walking maps through the neighborhood. The mile-marked 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 Green, Healthy Places Coordinator at 645-5318 or CGGreen@columbus.gov.

Addendum

Site Specific Comments
Routes
All Pictures

Questions from the neighborhood

Will there be mosquito fogging in our neighborhood this year?

Mosquito traps will be set starting the week of 6/1/09 and fogging will occur in late June/early July. This website: http://www.publichealth.columbus.gov/programs/programs_109.asp will be updated during the summer.

Why are there no stop signs or yield signs at our intersections?

The traffic volume does not “warrant” or allow for stop or yield signs. Drivers are supposed to use basic rules of the road and yield to the person on the right.

If someone falls on your sidewalk are you liable? What about in the winter?

Still getting confirmation on this question.

How far is the walking path in the park?

The path is .36 miles (3 times around is 1.08 miles). Recreation and Parks reports .2 mile on their website but they confirmed the .36 miles and will be updating the website.

Site Specific Comments

Street Comments	Comment
<i>Fast Traffic</i>	
Ambarwent Road	Cut-through street-fast traffic and kids walk to school on this street
Centennial Drive	Cut-through street
Bennel Drive	Cut-through street
Tussing Road	No sidewalks, fast traffic, kids walk to school
Arrowsmith Drive	Cut-through street
<i>Intersections</i>	
Centennial and Continental	No one stops at this intersection
Deepwood and Bennell	No on stops at this intersection
<i>Safety</i>	
Dewbourne	Two houses which are hot spots
Gemstar	Neighbors are afraid to walk down and is an area of criminal activity

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No Sidewalks	Sidewalks
Centennial Drive between Deepwood and Hubbardton Place (property owned by Groveport-Madison School System but the property is empty)	Rest of the neighborhood
Arrowsmith Places between Creighton Pl and Stockton Ln (this is where Independence Park meets the street)	
Tussing Road-kids walk to school	

Location	Sidewalk Issue
In front of 6832 Metuchen Place in sidewalk	Water pipe sticking up
In front of 2991 Arrowsmith in sidewalk	Water pipe needs a cap
In front of 6825 Centennial in sidewalk	Water pipe not capped and is raised
In front of 3095 Deepwood Drive in sidewalk	Water pipe needs a cap
In front of 6764 Bennell Drive in grass between sidewalk and mailbox	Water pipe is sticking up
In front of 6835 Metuchin	Sidewalk has worn to gravel
In front of 6837 Centennial	Sidewalk is raised
In front of 6769 Centennial	Sidewalk is raised
3035 Deepwood	Sidewalk is raised
3065 Deepwood	Sidewalk is cracked and raised
3083 Deepwood	Sidewalk is raised

Pictures (Explanation of pictures below)



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Picture Explanation

Picture Number	Explanation
1-2	Independence Village Park
3-4	Neighborhood view at Tildon/Metuchen/Hubbardton with sidewalks and street trees
5	Deteriorating sidewalk on Metuchen Pl
6	Arrowsmith Dr is a wide road and has a problem with speeding
7	Raised water pipe in sidewalk (in front of 6832 Metuchen Pl)
8	Great sidewalks on Centennial Dr
9	Raised sidewalk (in front of 6837 Centennial Dr)
10	Broken and raised water pipe in (front of 6825 Centennial Dr)
11-12	Raised sidewalk (in front of 6769 Centennial Dr)
13	Intersection of Centennial Dr and Continental Dr
14	Sidewalk stops on Centennial between Hubbardton Pl and Deepwood Dr
15	Creek that runs through the park and neighborhood, this picture from Deepwood Dr
16-17	Uneven sidewalk (in front of 3035 Deepwood Dr)
18	Cracked and uneven sidewalk (in front of 3065 Deepwood Dr)
19-20	Uneven sidewalk (in front of 3083 Deepwood Dr)
21	Nice house on Deepwood Dr
22	Water pipe needs a cap (3095 Deepwood Dr)
23	Nice landscaping on Deepwood Dr
24	Deepwood Dr and Bennell Dr-traffic does not stop at this intersection
25	Bennell-street is wide
26	6764 Bennell Dr water pip in grass is sticking up and needs capped
27	Bennell Dr
28-29	Park land on Arrowsmith Dr between Creighton and Stockton Ln, no sidewalks
30-31	Independce Village park walking path
32-33	Tussing Rd in front of the school with no sidewalks