



Walkable Washington

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For information about Walkable
Washington and other Feet First
programs

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Case Study

Walkable Washington

The Walkable Washington program grew out of the Feet First Cities Program. It showcases exceptional pedestrian-oriented improvements, community groups and outreach programs; maintains a statewide network for key contacts and stakeholders including an annual symposium; and provides assistance with Safe Routes to School, walking audits and other educational activities and programs.



Neighborhood Pathways Olympia, WA

Description and purpose

Starting as a new city program in 2013, Olympia's Neighborhood Pathways Program is an effort to increase neighborhood walkability and to involve residents in the creation of pedestrian and bicycle paths in their neighborhood.

The program's mission is to construct non-motorized routes that connect to parks, streets, schools and other services where it is needed most. In order to allow the opinion of neighborhood associations to be of top priority, applications for new pathways have no formal criteria.



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Costs and funding

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee gives an estimated total of \$150,000 in Neighborhood Pathways grants per year to neighborhood associations to construct their proposed pathways. Funding for the grants comes from a private utility tax which was approved by voters in 2004. Neighborhood associations can also ask the city to take charge of the implementation of the pathway if it is too complex for neighborhood volunteers. Three of the nineteen proposed pathways submitted by neighborhoods in 2013 are being given funding for construction. The next round of funding to Neighborhood Pathways projects will be announced between late 2013 and early 2014.

Implementation time-frame

On-going. Three neighborhood pathways projects were carried out in 2013.

Community involvement

The community, through local Neighborhood Associations, is the key driver behind the proposals for the program. The majority of construction is also expected to be done by the community volunteers.

Benefits and results

Overall, this program encourages neighborhood to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, and has enabled the people to identify opportunities for improvement. Even though the program has encountered issues such as limited funds and uncertainty of finding enough volunteer for construction, the city is confident in its positive impact.

Project Contacts

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Resources

Neighborhood Pathways Program, City of Olympia
<http://olympiawa.gov/community/transportation-options/walking/neighborhood-pathways-pgm>

Photo courtesy of City of Olympia



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