A Resident’s Guide for Working with the City

There are many opportunities for community members to show support and help create Seattle’s Neighborhood Greenways. Below is a list of possible ways to be involved.

Build a network of involved citizens who want to be involved in the process of Neighborhood Greenways.

Encourage group leaders to arise who will be able to either communicate with officials, fundraise, educate the community or facilitate route selection activities.

Seek out other neighborhood groups, local community groups, schools, business associations, local health leaders, and anyone else who might like to be involved in the process.

Visit the Seattle Neighborhood Greenways website or neighborhoodsa.wordpress.com, to connect with other neighborhoods’ Facebook, Twitter and Google Groups accounts.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

ORGANIZE

Build a network of involved citizens who want to be involved in the process of Neighborhood Greenways.

DEFINE THE SCOPE

Clearly define the borders of the neighborhood. Typically administrative or geographical borders will apply but steep slopes or watersheds may create a natural boundary.

INFORM, EDUCATE, AND MOTE

Develop a clear message for the neighborhood group. Talking points and other tools are available on the Seattle Neighborhood Greenways website.

IDENTIFY DESTINATIONS AND POSSIBLE ROUTES

Know your audience and target the message to entice different groups.

EXPLORE FUNDING AND COLLABORATIVE ALLIANCES

Continue to identify and use a variety of outreach tools to engage with other potential users.

Prioritize projects.

CAPTURE MOMENTUM AND INVITE PEOPLES TO THE STREET

Survey potential users to better understand their needs. For example, school children can fill out questionnaires where they describe the route they use for coming to school.

Take Action... 

Imagine what it would be like if the neighborhood had a greenway.

INVOLVE THE PUBLIC

Consider how Neighborhood Greenways could help accomplish other neighborhood projects or aspirations.

DO RESEARCH

Think practically. Begin evaluating streets that have a low motorized traffic speed and, ideally, less than 1,000 cars a day.

EXPLORE VENUES AND CHALLENGING ROUTES

Identify streets that are already preferred for walking and biking by observing or counting the pedestrians, bicycles, and cars in the area.

INFORM, EDUCATE, AND MOTIVATE

Invite all types of users to help map all destinations in the area - parks and spaces, schools, shops, transit hubs, markets, sport facilities, libraries, child care, etc. Expand the scope to include destinations and bicycle routes in adjacent neighborhoods.

CAPTURE MOMENTUM AND INVITE PEOPLES TO THE STREET

Identify potential barriers along each route and specific intersections that will need special considerations.

INFORM, EDUCATE, AND MOTIVATE

Analyze the existing conditions of the possible routes using the ‘Quality Criteria.’

IDENTIFY DESTINATIONS AND POSSIBLE ROUTES

New opportunities emerge once routes are decided. Consider who might directly benefit and reach out to them.

EXPLORE FUNDING AND COLLABORATIVE ALLIANCES

Think creatively. A variety of private funding sources could be used to supplement available funding for construction or even to hire a design consultant to explore innovative traffic calming solutions.

CAPTURE MOMENTUM AND INVITE PEOPLES TO THE STREET

Apply for Seattle Neighborhood Matching Funds and other city programs that can be used to fund workshops and planning initiatives.

INFORM, EDUCATE, AND MOTIVATE

Invite all types of users to help map all destinations in the area - parks and spaces, schools, shops, transit hubs, markets, sport facilities, libraries, child care, etc. Expand the scope to include destinations and bicycle routes in adjacent neighborhoods.

CAPTURE MOMENTUM AND INVITE PEOPLES TO THE STREET

Identify potential partners on a bike ride or walk to show them the problem areas and opportunities.

INFORM, EDUCATE, AND MOTIVATE

Analyze the existing conditions of the possible routes using the ‘Quality Criteria.’

IDENTIFY DESTINATIONS AND POSSIBLE ROUTES