

COMMUNITY SUPPORT**Rate Your Neighborhood****Get or Improve Facilities**

Sidewalks

Bicycle Facilities

Crossing the Street

Improve Access**Beautify the Neighborhood****Fight Crime****Deal with Drivers**

Talk with Your Neighbors

Educate and Enforce

Change in Your Streets or Neighborhood

Who Can Help**Organizing for Success**

Coalitions, Alliances & Partnerships

Get Involved

Safety Tips

Pedestrian Safety

Bicyclist Safety

Helmets

Driver Safety

Start Walking or Biking

10 Tips for Getting Active

Before You Start

Get Others Walking

Bike or Walk to School**Walking & Biking Maps**

Sidewalks

One of the key components of a walkable neighborhood is the sidewalk—the roadway for pedestrians. Characteristics of good sidewalks include:

- They are continuous—there are no gaps in the sidewalk network.
- They are installed on both sides of a street; while a sidewalk on one side of the street is certainly better than no sidewalk at all, this does not mean that a sidewalk should not exist on both sides of the street.
- They are separated from moving traffic. A planting strip is a common buffer, and if wide enough can include street trees. Parked cars or on-street bike lanes also provide separation of pedestrians from traffic.
- They are wide enough to comfortably accommodate at least two adults walking side by side, and are clear of obstructions both horizontally and vertically; this includes overgrowth, parked vehicles, and garbage or recycle containers.
- They are well maintained and free of cracks or lifted sections that could become tripping hazards and barriers to people in wheelchairs.



For more detailed information, see the Facility Design section about [sidewalks and walkways](#).

Learn more:

[Making the case for new sidewalks](#)

[Problems or obstructions on existing sidewalks](#)

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