



COST EFFECTIVE WALKWAYS

April 2019

What are cost effective walkways?

Cost effective walkways are an alternative to traditional “curb-and-gutter sidewalks” that are raised from the street by a curb. Cost effective walkways can consist of paint or street-level asphalt or concrete. We choose walkway treatments based on several factors, including the space available on the street, drainage needs, existing infrastructure, impacts to parking, slopes, and estimated construction costs.

Why do we install cost effective walkways instead of sidewalks?

Traditional concrete sidewalks cost \$400,000 or more per block to construct, whereas cost effective walkways can often be installed for under \$100,000 per block. Over 11,000 blocks citywide currently have no sidewalks. We implement cost effective walkways where we can to maximize resources and provide dedicated pedestrian space on as many streets as possible.

How do we decide where to install cost effective walkways?

We use our Pedestrian Master Plan and Safe Routes to School Action Plan to prioritize which streets have the highest need for new pedestrian routes. We typically install cost effective walkways on non-arterial (residential) streets, as they have the lowest traffic volumes, allowing us to install walkways that are comfortable and inviting spaces. We may also install cost effective walkways on arterial (busier) streets as an interim measure and where street conditions allow a cost effective walkway to be constructed.

How are cost effective walkways maintained?

Like any other standard sidewalk, cost effective walkways are managed as city-owned assets and are maintained by adjacent property owners and SDOT crews. If there are maintenance concerns with a cost effective walkway, any member of the public may submit a request to repair the walkway. Some cost effective walkways, such as painted walkways, are often designed to be temporary improvements before a traditional sidewalk is built. In these cases, maintenance may be coordinated with the future sidewalk project.



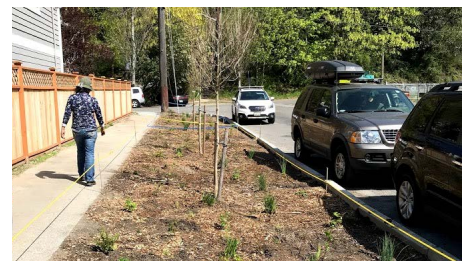
Painted walkway



At-grade asphalt walkway



At-grade concrete walkway with wheel stop delineators



At-grade walkway with natural drainage features

Have other questions?

Check out our website for more information:
www.seattle.gov/transportation/projects-and-programs/programs/pedestrian-program



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