

Neighborhood Greenways: Frequently Asked Questions

[Neighborhood Greenways](#) are safer, calmer neighborhood streets for you, your family, and your neighbors where we make people walking and biking the priority. These streets work together with trails and protected bike lanes to provide connected routes to bring people to the places they want and need to go as part of [Seattle's all-ages and abilities bicycle network](#).

Neighborhood Greenways are defined by three elements:

1. Safer crossings of busy streets
 - a. Easier for people of all ages and abilities to cross busy streets
 - b. Make drivers more aware of people walking and biking
 - c. Crosswalks, curb bulbs, flashing beacons, or traffic signals
2. Walking and biking priority
 - a. Speed humps to calm traffic
 - b. Speed limits reduced to 20mph
 - c. Stop signs for side streets crossing the greenway
3. Wayfinding
 - a. Identify the street as a Neighborhood Greenway so people know what to expect
 - b. Signs and pavement markings to help people find their way

Stay up to date on greenway projects coming to your neighborhood by subscribing to our new Neighborhood Greenways email lists on [our webpage](#).

Question	Response
Why don't Neighborhood Greenways build curb ramps throughout the Neighborhood Greenway project area?	The City of Seattle strives to make city programs, services, and activities equally accessible to all. Features such as curb ramps, sidewalks, detectable warnings, and street crossings are components of an accessible pedestrian network. SDOT prioritizes accessibility improvements to the pedestrian

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	<p>network and has been making great strides under the current levy to increase the number of accessible crossings and intersections.</p> <p>Unfortunately, adding ADA-accessible curb ramps is sometimes beyond the scope and budget for a particular Neighborhood Greenway project's budget and funding source.</p> <p>SDOT's ADA Program is responsible for the planning, design, and implementation of infrastructure improvements requested by the public to enable those living with disabilities equivalent access to Seattle pedestrian facilities. Accessibility improvement requests can be made by individuals living with disabilities or those who directly care for individuals living with disabilities. The program is not intended to address community concerns other than access for people with disabilities. ADA requests are logged and scheduled for improvements in the order in which they are received. Please visit the program website for more information: https://www.seattle.gov/transportation/permits-and-services/make-an-ada-request</p>
<p>What improvements are being made to increase safety in the project area? Will a Neighborhood Greenway slow down traffic on my street?</p>	<p>In addition to 20 MPH speed limit signs, streets designated as Neighborhood Greenways will receive traffic calming improvements such as speed humps and stop signs on the intersecting neighborhood streets. We will also be making it easier to cross busy streets through crossing signals, flashing beacons, and marked crosswalks.</p> <p>When needed, we may install curb ramps or trim trees to improve sight clearance for traffic signs. Increased safety enhancements could include painted or concrete curb bulbs and median islands, traffic diverters, or changes to parking.</p>
<p>How can I get a Neighborhood Greenway in my neighborhood?</p>	<p>The initial group of Neighborhood Greenways were constructed as part of the 9-year, \$930 million Levy to Move Seattle approved by voters in</p>

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	<p>November 2015. That transportation levy provided funding to improve safety for all travelers, maintain our streets and bridges, and invest in reliable, affordable travel options for a growing city.</p> <p>Specific routes were identified through guidance provided in the Bicycle Master Plan, which outlined specific implementation details for expanding the city's bicycle network.</p> <p>In 2024, SDOT adopted the Seattle Transportation Plan (STP), outlining our vision for the next 20 years. Our earlier modal plans are now replaced by the STP's eight elements focused on mobility options and street functions.</p>
<p>What does the timeline look like for the construction of a Greenway? How long will it take?</p>	<p>Many factors contribute to how long construction of a Greenway will take. How far does the Greenway go? Is it a standard installation or are there significant improvements to one or more intersections? Are we partnering with other City departments or government agencies to make additional improvements at the same time (e.g., electrical, drainage, stormwater).</p> <p>While timelines can vary, the best way for you to stay updated on a project is to subscribe for email updates here.</p>
<p>I heard about a new Neighborhood Greenway in my area, but I can't find any information about it. Where should I look?</p>	<p>Our website has a list of active Neighborhood Greenway projects grouped by area. If you scroll to the bottom of the page, you will find drop down menus for North, Central, and South Seattle project webpages.</p> <p>While we often send out informational mailers, construction postcards, or conduct flyering in project areas, the best way to stay alerted about upcoming projects and updates is to sign up for one of our Neighborhood Greenways lists. You can sign up for all the lists covering our city, or just the one addressing projects in your area: Northwest, Northeast, Central, Southwest, and Southeast!</p>

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<p>Can I see the specific designs for this project?</p>	<p>When significant improvements are being proposed to an intersection or crossing, we often post helpful graphics along with other design elements on our project webpages.</p> <p>A great way to stay informed about the Neighborhood Greenway project in your area is via website updates. The project page will show information such as project maps, fact sheets, and project updates. If you scroll to the bottom of the page, you will find drop down menus for North, Central, and South Seattle project webpages.</p>
<p>Why are you starting this project? Do we really need a Neighborhood Greenway?</p>	<p>Neighborhood Greenways are often suggested by people in your communities who are concerned about safety for students at nearby schools, families having fun together, and neighbors looking to engage in healthy activities.</p> <p>These routes connect you and your neighbors to nearby schools, parks, and businesses, as well as the citywide transportation network, light rail stations, and regional trails. The new neighborhood greenway can bring affordable active transportation options for people of all ages and abilities. It can also offer places to present public art, community events, and neighborhood gathering spaces.</p>
<p>How will parking be affected?</p>	<p>While construction is ongoing, there may be temporary impacts to parking in the project area.</p> <p>Although affecting existing parking in the neighborhood is not the purpose, improvements such as new stop signs, curb bulbs, or speed humps may have some minor impacts on parking. For example, stop signs are added to side streets where they intersect with a Greenway. As with all stop signs, this comes with a setback of 30 feet where no parking is permitted. Unauthorized on-street parking located within 20 feet of the intersection will be removed for the permanent sign installation.</p>

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Past signage and improvements have not been effective. What will change about this project?	Neighborhood Greenways typically utilize standard signage installations across all city projects for uniformity and wayfinding purposes. We also continue to monitor and evaluate projects after installation is complete. If new safety enhancements are not effective, we can consider additional improvements in the future.
Will speed humps accommodate all vehicles, cyclists, etc.?	Yes! Speed humps and speed cushions are installed based on slope and design considerations. Speed cushions cross the entire length of the street and include gaps that should not be a difficult obstacle for people walking, biking, or for any other users to navigate. Both speed humps and speed cushions are installed to calm traffic and improve safety for all road users. You can find more information on the use of speed humps and cushions on this webpage .