

## Achievements

- First city outside of California to install in-pavement light crosswalks.
- First city in U.S. to implement pedestrian flag program.
- First city in Washington to adopt a “Complete Streets” ordinance.
- NRPA Community Spotlight Award and WRPA Award of Excellence for “Step Up to Health Initiative,” 2006.
- Presenter at the first annual Health and Livability Summit in Atlanta, Georgia (2007). This conference was co-sponsored by NRPA and the Center for Disease Controls.
- Voted “Top 15 Most Walkable Cities” by Walking Magazine.
- Received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Achievement award (2008).



City of Kirkland

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City of Kirkland



# Walkable Community Profile

The City of Kirkland, Washington recognizes pedestrian safety and walkability as key components in the quality of life for those that live, work, and play here. The City has preserved its public pathways along Lake Washington Boulevard, a walker’s paradise. Much of the City’s success is attributed to the longstanding commitment of the City Council to continuously improve and enhance walkability. This profile highlights current programs and achievements.

## The Kirkland Steppers Walk Program

- Provides a Free program for adults 50+ years old.
- Departs from the Peter Kirk Community Center.
- Offers Tuesday and Thursday walks in downtown, June through September.
- Has 160+ active participants in 2007.
- Offers formal recognition of participants with the “Finish Line Celebration” event.
- Promotes the City’s Pedestrian Safety Campaign and participates in city events.

## “PedFlag” Pedestrian Safety Program

- Created in 1995, Kirkland was the first city to use pedestrian flags.
- This program has been implemented in other cities across the U.S.
- A system of orange flags are placed at over 30 crosswalk that are used by pedestrians.
- Research has shown that pedestrian flags are effective at getting drivers to yield to pedestrians. The City is now working on increasing the use of pedestrian flags. This will include a flag redesign and other improvements based on social marketing techniques.

## Complete Streets Ordinance

- First city in Washington State to adopt a Complete Streets Ordinance (2006).
- Provides for the design of streets that will enable safe access for all users.
- Juanita Drive and Slater Avenue are designated as “complete streets.”

## Flashing (In-Pavement Lights) Crosswalk Program

- The program was created in 1997 in partnership with the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission.
- Flashing light units are installed just below the pavement surface along the crosswalk lines are designed to warn drivers of the presence of a pedestrian about to cross or already in the crosswalk.
- There are approximately 30 installations in the City are at uncontrolled crosswalks.
- Various studies from Kirkland and elsewhere show significant increase in the number of drivers that yield to pedestrians and increase in the distance from the crosswalk where drivers apply brakes.

Steppers



PedFlag

## Neighborhood Walking Opportunities

### Neighborhood Walking Maps

- Partnership with Public Health-Seattle & King County are designed to inspire and encourage a walkable and healthy community.
- Printed walking maps are available for the Lakeview, Houghton, Totem Lake, Juanita, North Rose Hill, and Moss Bay neighborhoods.
- Maps delineate various walking paths within the neighborhood with varied degrees of difficulty.
- Public art, parks and open space and environmental features are identified on the map.

### American Volkssport Association walking routes in Kirkland

- Guided signs are on display along the South Kirkland/Waterfront route.
- This Kirkland walk was voted as 7th Best Place in the Top Ten Year Round Events in 2001 as voted by volkssporters from all 50 states.



## Active Living Task Force

- Community-based strategy: preparation, promotion, programs, policy and physical projects that promote walking and bicycling.
- Task Force created in 2007 and comprised of residents, community agencies, local business and City representatives.



## City policies and regulations that support and encourage pedestrian-friendliness

- Comprehensive Plan:** Includes policies that recognize the importance of having a land use pattern that supports walking and other non-single occupancy vehicle forms of transportation.
- Land Use regulations:** Require pedestrian connections that promote walking within commercial and multi-family projects and to adjoining streets and properties.
- Non-motorized Transportation Plan:** Provides a plan to improve the City's pedestrian and bicycle systems.

### Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

- Sidewalk Maintenance Program:** From 1986 to 2006, approximately 22% of annual transportation budget has been allocated to sidewalks and non-motorized facilities per year. For the 2008-2013 CIP, \$6 million has been allocated.
- Neighborhood Connection Program:** City funding (\$100,000/year) available to neighborhoods for pedestrian safety (pedestrian islands, flashing crosswalks, walkway improvements, sidewalk connections) and park improvements.
- Downtown Design Guidelines for Pedestrian-Oriented Business Districts:** Establish design elements for building fronts, sidewalks, and overhead weather protection that promote the predominant pedestrian character of key Kirkland business districts.
- Multi-disciplinary internal Pedestrian Safety Task Force** meets monthly to coordinate and encourage pedestrian safety efforts.

### QUICK STATS:

Standard Sidewalks: 120 miles  
Publicly owned paths & trails: 80 miles  
Public Streets: 310 lane miles  
Bicycle Lanes: 41 miles

## Parks and Community Services Department

- Adopted National Recreation and Parks Association's Step Up to Health campaign.
- Formed Kirkland Partners for an Active Community (KPAC), collaborating with Seattle King County Public Health, Evergreen Hospital, Bastyr University, and University of Washington to encourage active lifestyles.
- Launched the Take the Stairs Campaign.
- Involved in Regional Seattle/King County Obesity Forums.
- Implemented Step Up to Health community wide summit, to set active lifestyle goals for the community. This was attended by over 80 community members. The community's plan includes:
  - Exploring a new Indoor Recreation Complex.
  - Offering alternative youth sports for non varsity athletes
  - Expanding walk routes city wide
  - Implementing the Walking School Bus program.



## Kirkland Police Department

- Crosswalk monitoring:** Kirkland Police Department (KPD) enforces high volume pedestrian crosswalks.
- School speed zone enforcement:** KPD Traffic Unit and Patrol Division enforce speed limits in school zones.
- Police Partners Program:** KPD teaches kindergarten through 3rd grade students about pedestrian safety and train crossing guards.

