



2015 Neighborhood Safety Program Application

Workshop: January 22 | Application Deadline: February 9

(Note: One project location per application)

Contact Information

Neighborhood Association: Highlands Neighborhood Chair: Karen Story

Mailing Address: 9017 Slater Ave NE 98033

Phone: 425-576-1269 E-mail: karen@nwnative.us

Project Coordinator: Same

General Project Information

Project Name: 116th Ave NE and CKC Stairs Project Location: 116th Ave NE and CKC

Project Estimate: **\$12,000**

1. Please describe the safety problem or issue this project will address. (75–100 words) Please submit photo(s) with your application to illustrate the location and safety issue.

This stairway is the access to the Cross Kirkland Corridor from the north end of the Highlands neighborhood. It is the only CKC access point between 111th Ave NE and 120th Ave NE. It is also the closest CKC access point for many North Rose Hill residents (they can walk across the NE 100th Street overpass). The stairs are currently dangerous: steep and slippery, with big drops. Some of the stairs are tilting downward. (See photos and location map below.)

Technical Evaluation (0–100 points)

2. Please describe how this project will address this safety need with a viable and creative solution resulting in a lasting, positive community impact. (75–100 words)

Volunteers will add interim steps, erosion control, gravel fill, and a new bridge across the ditch to the CKC. (See photos and drawings.) The lead volunteers have extensive experience with stair projects like this. We expect these stairs to see heavy use by pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages.

Neighborhood Panel Evaluation (0–50 points, 10 bonus points)

Neighborhood and Community Benefit (0–25 points)

3. Describe how and who will benefit from the project including those located within a ½ mile of the project (e.g. school, hospital, retirement facility, hospital, park, bus stop). Please use additional sheet if necessary.

These stairs will be bike and pedestrian friendly. Kirkland Middle School kids will use them, as well as residents who want to access the CKC or the businesses in the Fred Meyer/Justice Center area.

This stairway could also be part of a “stair exercise circuit” (see map of other stair locations).

Neighborhood Association Support (0–10 points)

4. Priority Ranking for this Project (Priority 1 or 2) 1

Please outline the process your neighborhood used to select and prioritize this project.

Several people submitted this to “Suggest a Project.” We sent email to the nearly 600 people on our email list asking them to vote. This project received the most votes.

Project Readiness and Feasibility (0–15 points)

5. Did the Project Coordinator attend Neighborhood Safety Program Workshop? **Yes**

6. Did City staff evaluate scope and ongoing maintenance of project? **Yes**

Please attach the **Project Scope** form that includes the project scope prepared by City staff.

7. Did City staff evaluate cost of project? **Yes**

Please attach the **Project Scope** form that includes a cost estimate of the project prepared by City staff.

Community Support (0–5 bonus points)

5. Does this project have (or need) community support? **Yes**

If so, please demonstrate how you acquired that support.

We sent email to the nearly 600 people on our list, asking them to vote on their top projects. This project received overwhelming support. Many people have volunteered to help. Please see attached email comments from neighbors.

Project Partnership Contributions (0–5 bonus points)

6. Will there be financial contributions or volunteer hours for this project? If so, please list below.

Description	Non-City Contributions		
	Grant (\$)	Donation (\$)	Volunteer Hours (#)
Volunteer labor			100+
Total Partnership Contribution			100+ hours

Please submit Neighborhood Safety Program Application to:

City of Kirkland

Kari Page, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

123 5th Avenue

Kirkland, WA 98033

For any questions or further information, please contact Kari Page at kpage@kirklandwa.gov or (425) 587-3011.

Photos of Current Unsafe Stairs



Stairs are steep, slippery, tilted, and eroded.





The trail between the base of the stairs and the CKC



The crossing to the CKC needs a bridge (see photo below)



Bridge with plastic "ThruFlow" decking at the Crestwoods CKC crossing. Low maintenance, non-slippery.

Julie Orta wrote:

I support the 116th stairs project for a number of reasons.

- The stairs and the path to the stairs are in disrepair. They are uneven and overgrown and steep.
- With the corridor improvements, it is difficult to access the trail from these stairs. Many commuters use this route as it is the only north/south pedestrian route out of the highlands.
- by not improving these stairs, recreational access to the CKC will be limited from the Highlands area.

My husband and I would be willing to help out on this project.

Rick Butzberger wrote:

I support this project, as it provides the shortest connection for pedestrians and cyclists from most of the Highlands to Totem Lake. I would be willing to help.

Andrea Havran wrote:

I am very much in support of the north access to the new trail. It seems that there are not very many access points to the trail. It makes so much sense to have an access at the north end of 116th. I would vote on a paved switchback trail for bikes and strollers.

Margaret McLaughlin wrote:

I am an avid runner and walker. I log about 50 miles a week walking and jogging through the neighborhood and especially now the new trail--it is AWESOME! Each day my neighbor and I walk my 2nd grader to Peter Kirk, and then come home (now along the trail and up these stairs). Just recently we have noticed that there have been so many more people using the trail at all times of the day!

I totally support the 116th stairs and bridge project for everyone's safety and the fact that it is personally an important part of my exercise each week. I have often just done workouts on the stairs-up and down. Only recently, I have noticed that they are getting so washed out and more like a ramp than stairs. It would be wonderful to make the stairs closer together like the ones on NE 100th, which are a great improvement. Also, the little bridge connecting to the trail would be much used and would avoid people having to climb through the mud and up the steep embankment. It also seems like it could improve the safety of that access point to pedestrians young and old to have the bridge surface.

It would be wonderful if our neighborhood could receive funding for this project. My family and I would certainly be willing to commit to working and helping in any way we can. Also quite sure that we could get a good crew of friends from our street that would also help.

Margaret McLaughlin
11735 NE 106th Lane

Jim Jung wrote:

I think this is an important project from both an access and safety standpoint. The path from the north end of 116th is steep and slippery. One could easily fall and hurt themselves. The path across the ditch beside the Cross Kirkland trail is even steeper and usually has water in the bottom. I always take extra care in crossing it to reach the Cross Kirkland trail so as to avoid wet feet and injuring myself.

This is also an important access to the Cross Kirkland trail for those of us living in the north end of The Highlands. If we don't get on the trail here we have to go 4 blocks away to 112th which is reachable via either a steep hill or a wet muddy trail. I believe that improving this trail will encourage more people in the Highlands to use the Cross Kirkland trail.

I will help work on the project both in its constructed and trimming back the blackberries after it is completed.

Jason Dodson wrote:

I support the 116th stairway project. The current steps are very dangerous and in its current state, I don't feel it is safe to walk with my 5 year old or my dog on the steps. Especially when it rains, the dilapidated steps are very slippery.

I might be available to help with the project depending on scheduling.

Jason Dodson
11516 Ne 103rd place

Martha Coppola wrote:

I believe that rebuilding the stairs at the end of 116th is such an important project for the city to address. Here's why:

It is very UNSAFE the way it is now. The risers are not spaced regularly and they are VERY SLIPPERY. This causes me to try and walk on the side of the steps, but there has been some erosion and it is muddy much of the time with loose rocks. This access is simply unsafe.

Because the entry leading to the path at the top of the steps is nicely paved, it's clear that the city wants us to use this access - but once you're off the paved access, it's not easy to navigate the deteriorating path and stairs. This is especially true for older people or if you have a dog on a leash.

It is the only access for the north end of the Highlands neighborhood. The next closer access is from NE 100th. That's a bit of a walk for those of us north of 100th, and makes it difficult to walk a loop trail on the Corridor.

Please convey to the city how UNSAFE and impractical the stair access is right now.

Mari Bercaw wrote:

I would love for the stairs at the end of 116th down to the CKC to be repaired. The current stairs are rotted. I am available to help build the new stairs.

Gayle Birrell wrote:

I support the safety project for the stairs because of its importance for safety and connectivity. The current stairway is too steep, its railroad tie construction is slippery and dilapidated, and the surrounding vegetation makes navigating difficult. We really need a bridge across the ditch from those stairs to the CKC. In the Highlands neighborhood, the only other bridge crossing that ditch, as far as I know, is quite a ways south at Cotton Hill Park. A bridge here would connect the CKC to the northern end of our neighborhood, like the one at Cotton Hill Park connects the trail to the west side of our neighborhood.

Cindy Manheim wrote:

I support the stairs project.

Jeri Wohlman wrote:

Our family uses the stairs almost every day. We walk our dog down the stairs to the corridor. After our wet winter the stairs are very damaged and somewhat dangerous. To have repairs on the stairs would be very appreciated.

Yes my husband and I would be willing to help repair/replace the stairs.

Jeri and Doug Wohlman

Janet Moore wrote:

I strongly support the construction of the 116th Street steps that would connect to the Cross Kirkland Corridor. The corridor needs to have easy and safe connection points. This location needs improvement so it is a safe access point.

I live on NE 92nd Street and use the local parks and corridor almost daily with my husband and three dogs. We would use these stairs multiple times a week. We would be very happy to help with clearing the area and assist with construction.

Janet Moore

11246 NE 92nd ST

Adam Tillotson wrote:

I am writing to urge you to make funding and executing the upgrades for the stairs from the north end of 116th down to the Cross Kirkland Corridor a top priority for the City of Kirkland. As the Cross Kirkland Corridor has become a priority for the City of Kirkland and its residents, so should increased and safer access to this excellent resource.

In line with the City's recent focus on increasing the health of its employees with Vera Whole Health Clinic, by improving the stairs down to the Cross Kirkland Corridor, this not only allows safe access to this resource, but also promotes health through activity for our community. Similar to the Burke Gilman trail or the Iron Horse trail from the town of my youth (San Ramon, CA), the Cross Kirkland Corridor is a safe, stable area for people to run, walk, or commute. This promotes health, activity and a sense of community and is vitally important to the Highlands neighborhood and its residents.

As an added incentive, myself and my wife Andrea would gladly volunteer our time to assist in these improvements and upgrades as a show of our investment in our city and community.

I urge you to consider this project a top priority for our city and help improve the health and safety of our community.

Sincerely,
Adam Tillotson

Steve Wolf wrote:

I think the stairs are a great idea. I use the path often and it is unsafe in its current state.

A slope to bring bicycles down would be nice.

I can help with construction.

Steve Wolf
11203 NE 106th Place Kirkland
206-819-3930

Essie Swanson wrote:

Having safe stairs from 116th to the Cross Kirkland Corridor would help to promote healthier lifestyles. If the stairs were in good repair and one did not need to walk across the ditch to get on the trail, more people would be able to access the trail. Having a good, safe place to walk would encourage people to walk more and have better health. Having more people out walking on the trail would also build community. People start saying hello to fellow walkers which may start conversations that they would not normally have. Making our neighborhood more walkable improves the quality of life and helps Kirkland to be a more desirable place to live. I would definitely volunteer to help with this project.

Logan Pannoosamy wrote:

I don't think there are too many people in the Highlands who knows about [the stairs] since it has an obstructed view. I use it to access the trail and it would be nice if more people knew about it.