



Highlands Neighborhood Connections Program

Requests: 47
Ballot: May 2008
Final Action Plan: June 2008

Parks and Community Services

Highlands Park

1. No restrooms in Highlands Park. Build restrooms. (63)

Response: *Cost of restroom beyond funding available. Significant on-going maintenance costs would require additional funding as well. Adjacent neighbors have concerns about placement of a port-a-potty (odor and weekly cleaning truck noise and odor).*

Cotton Hill

2. Two Park Dept. signs for Cotton Hill Park (one for each entrance). (40)

Response: *Cotton Hill Park has not underwent a public process to determine the best use of this land. A significant monument sign would pre-empt this process. However, a smaller sized identification sign on a street pole could be added to the Cotton Hill Project on the list.*

3. Trash is dumped along steps/path on Cotton Hill between NE 100th and Railroad tracks and also along steps/path between 116th Ave NE and railroad tracks. Secure trash can at the top of the trails next to the street where they can be easily serviced. (68)

Response: *Referred to the Public Works Department (responsible for maintaining this neighborhood trail). Possible neighborhood work parties.*

Spinney Homestead Park

4. Need signs in Spinney Park saying it is not an off leash dog park (I'd like the signs to say "Dogs MUST be on leash. Call ##### to report violators." Even if the phone number is a message machine, just listing it on the sign makes dog owners feel more likely to get in trouble.). (54)

Response: *There is currently a "dogs on leash" sign. We will look into adding phone numbers to signs in the future.*

Parks General

5. No toys at Juanita High School pool. Buy rock climbing wall. (21)

Response: *Pool is operated by LWSD.*

6. Buoy and inner tubes. Advertise more open swim times. (22)

Response: *See response above.*

Police

7. Invite Allan O'Neill to next meeting (bring stats about break-ins). (57)

Response: *Allan has been invited to the next Neighborhood Meeting. Police Officers will periodically come to Highlands Neighborhood Association Meetings.*

Public Works

Street Lighting

8. Add street light along 114th (between NE 85th and NE 87th). Maybe close to neighborhood sign. (51)

Response: *There is no utility pole in the vicinity of the neighborhood sign, so a new pole would be needed. We will request a cost estimate from Puget Sound Energy if this project is selected as a high priority by the neighborhood. A rough estimate for planning purposes would be \$4,000–\$5,000.*

9. 115th Pl. NE Very dark—cannot walk across street without flashlight. Street light or have tree limbs thinned and cut. (61)

Response: *We have contacted the person who requested the street lighting to obtain additional information and to explain the process. Regarding the tree limbs, Public Works will review the street to see what trimming might be needed to keep the street clear of encroaching vegetation. The street should be clear of tree limbs between the curbs and up to 14 feet over the roadway. Public Works will provide this service as needed. Thinning the trees to allow additional sunlight to the street level is not practical—that much trimming would compromise the health of the trees. The viability of these trees has been a very sensitive issue for local residents.*

10. NE 103rd St cul-de-sac (west of 116th Ave. NE). This cul de sac and the private lane we live on is extremely dark at night making it difficult to walk or drive safely. Put a street light on the cul de sac. (38)
Response: *We have contacted the person who requested the street lighting to obtain additional information and to explain the process.*
11. NE 105th Lane (11850) End of lane on cul de sac. Too dark at night in my area. Street light at end of lane. (35)
Response: *We have contacted the person who requested the street lighting to obtain additional information and to explain the process.*
12. NE 106th No Street Lights. Add 2 street lights on NE 106th Pl. (14)
Response: *We have contacted the person who requested the street lighting to obtain additional information and to explain the process.*
13. Near I405 (cul-de-sac). Very dark at night. Street lamp (need pole). (18)
Response: *We have contacted the person who requested the street lighting to obtain additional information and to explain the process.*
14. 87th and 116th (at curve). The only easy way to walk to town is down 87th (7th Ave). This road is unlit and doesn't have completed sidewalks. Although I would love to walk to town, it is too dangerous. Lights and sidewalks on 87th. (34)
Response: *We have contacted the person who requested the street lighting to obtain additional information and to explain the process.*

Sidewalks, pedestrian and bike improvements

116th Avenue NE

15. Lack of sidewalk continuity puts pedestrians at risk. "I know that 25K only goes so far, and I don't know how responsible homeowners are if it isn't new construction, but what a difference it would make!" (2)
Response: *Capital Improvement Program has funded a continuous concrete curb, gutter, sidewalk and street trees along the east side of 116th Avenue NE from the existing sidewalk north of NE 100th St to NE 94th St. Two additional pieces of sidewalk are funded by the Neighborhood Connection (east side of 116th south of NE 94th St and between NE 88th and NE 94th Streets). These projects are scheduled to be completed in 2009 or 2010.*
16. No sidewalks throughout Highlands Neighborhood. Any sidewalks that exist are non continuous. Add sidewalks to main arterials (e.g. 116th). (15)
Response: *See above.*
17. More sidewalks on 116th added south of where sidewalk is planned (planned from NE 100th - 94th). I prefer sidewalk with curb even if we can't get as much (concrete - regular sidewalk). (26)
Response: *See above.*
18. I'm enjoying being able to walk safely on 112th Ave. NE but still cannot walk safely on 116th Ave. NE. It's hard to walk in the Highlands without using 116th as it is an arterial. Sidewalks or designated walkways on 116th Ave. NE. (36)
Response: *See above. Also the Capital Improvement Program has funded curb, gutter, sidewalks on the west side of 112th to the intersection of NE 87th St. The improvements will continue across the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad along the north side of 7th Avenue. The project scheduled to be completed*
19. Scattered sidewalks from NE 87th to 95th. Finish the sidewalks, curbs, and fill in the ditches with drain pipes. These are the basics. The rest is fluff and a waste of money. Our taxpayer's money. If someone wants a picnic table, let them donate it. The 1/4 million given to the neighborhoods each year can go to the basics. Roads and sidewalks. (39)
Response: *See above.*
20. Widen 116th Ave NE walkway just north and just south of NE 94th St, and build retaining walls as needed. (43)
Response: *See above.*
21. Asphalt 116th Ave NE walkway between NE 88th St and NE 90th St. (44)
Response: *See above.*
22. Walkway/sidewalk on E. side of 116th - cars park on walkway; muddy in places. New sidewalk, or new gravel and barriers to cars parking. (62)
Response: *See above.*

23. Put in sidewalk of some sort around the curve near 97th (cross street). It is dangerous to walk. (70)

Response: See above.

24. Difficult and dangerous for wheelchair to go down the main busy road. Complete sidewalk. (27)

Response: See above.

25. 87th and 116th (at curve) the only easy way to walk to town is down 87th (7th Ave). This road is unlit and doesn't have completed sidewalks. Although I would love to walk to town, it is too dangerous. Lights and sidewalks on 87th. (34)

Response: See above.

26. Check in with Noel about why the speed limit signs were not moved with the speed bumps on 116th. (53)

Response: The 25 mph pavement legends at the speed cushions were removed to avoid confusion between the 15 mph advisory speed hump warning sign and the legal speed limit of 25 mph. The 25 mph sign in the northbound direction could logically be moved farther away from the southern-most speed cushion to avoid the same kind of mixed message to motorists. However, the best place to locate the speed limit sign is the block just north of NE 87th St and that block already has a lot of signing for motorists to read: An advance Ped crossing sign; a 'no outlet to commercial area' sign; trees that would limit the visibility of a new sign in that section; and a crosswalk sign. If the speed limit sign is relocated here, I would recommend removing the 'outlet to commercial area' sign. Another possible location for the sign is just north of NE 88th St. If the relocation of this sign is important to the Highlands, I will work with the adjacent property owners to resolve any view/roadside clutter issues. No need for a Neighborhood Connections project.

27. Would like to see yellow stripe in center of road continued to end of 116th at NE 107th Pl. (37)

Response: Not recommended and not a good project for Neighborhood Connections funding. Most sections of 116th Ave NE are too narrow to provide a centerline and parking on both sides. The current operation without a centerline places the responsibility on the motorist to safely maneuver between parked and on-coming traffic. A centerline would encourage motorists to stay on their side of the line and would either create 'pinch' conditions or would encourage motorists to disregard the centerline. If the local residents strongly supported both a centerline and the removal of parking on at least one side of the street (parking would be removed on both sides between NE 102nd Place and NE 104th St), Public Works would be willing to work with the neighborhood on the details.

114th Avenue NE

28. This intersection seems to get worse each month. When you're at the stop sign on 114th facing north, it's hard to see oncoming traffic on 87th without pulling out into 87th - and traffic coming west on 87th comes quickly over the hill, often too fast. Put speed bumps on 87th to slow traffic down at this intersection or put in a stop light; restrict parking and cut back trees north and south of 114th on the south side of 87th. Do something before there's an accident! (4)

Response: No project for the Neighborhood Connections program. Public Works will further investigate this intersection for possible changes. Peak hour traffic volumes do make it difficult to enter NE 87th St from 114th Ave NE. However, recent cursory checks found adequate sight distances to the west and to the east if the northbound motorist stops at the crosswalk, checks for pedestrians, and then moves across the crosswalk to observe east/west traffic. During these checks, the trees were bare of leaves and cars were not parked as close to the intersection as legally allowed. Speed cushions are not a viable option on this street because of the volumes and the use as a primary emergency response route. Further checks and traffic control considerations will be done.

29. Traffic traveling west down the hill on 87th pose an unfair traffic hazard to traffic stopped on NE 114th coming from 85th and the I-405 freeway. Put a stop sign on the NE corner of 87th and 114th St NE. (17)

Response: Not a good project for the Neighborhood Connections program. Public Works will evaluate the intersection for a stop sign and take appropriate action.

30. Also look at re-stripping 114th as the paint is fading. (52)

Response: Agree. This will be done through this summer's pavement marking program. No need for a Neighborhood Connections project.

12th Avenue

31. Corner of 12th Ave onto 110th Ave NE, behind Peter Kirk Elementary. No sidewalk, narrow road and no street lighting. Dangerously low visibility for pedestrians, including school kids. Install sidewalk with curb, add street lights. Anything else to improve visibility. (8)

Response: The centerline of the street will be marked this summer in response to a request to better separate head-on traffic through the curve.

32. Corner between 12th St & 110th Ave is narrow and heavily traveled by both vehicles and pedestrians, causing potentially dangerous interactions Please build a sidewalk! (3)

Response: *The centerline of the street will be marked this summer in response to a request to better separate head-on traffic through the curve.*

33. I am submitting an idea in regard to the \$25,000 neighborhood improvement funding available for the Highlands Neighborhood. "Walking on the curve of 110th Ave. N.E. between the railroad tracks and where 110th Ave. N.E. becomes 12th Ave. is very dangerous. If there are cars passing in opposite directions, a pedestrian has no where to be safe except almost in the ditch. Can some sort of walkway be installed over the ditch (railroad track side) or maybe the fence of Peter Kirk Elementary School could be moved a few feet into the open space to allow for a sidewalk on that side of the street? Safety was greatly improved for drivers and pedestrians when the blackberry bushes were cut down on the school property on the curve so everyone could see around the curve, however, it is still a huge risk walking on the street and not having some sort of walkway. Thank you for this consideration." (5)

Response: *The brush on school property was cut by the Lake Washington School District and that did significantly improve sight distance between on-coming motorists. Also, the centerline of the street will be marked this summer in response to a request to better separate head-on traffic through the curve.*

34. Nice to see trimming at corner of 110th Avenue NE and 12th Ave. Need to keep this up year round. (56)

Response: *This trimming was done by the school. Complements (and requests for future maintenance) should go to the Principal of Peter Kirk Elementary School and to Scott Emry, Risk Management Coordinator, Lake Washington School District, (425) 702-3442.*

Traffic Islands

35. The shrubs, trees and plants in the Roundabouts need to be cleaned up on 116th and 102nd and on 101st PI NE. Trim Trees, Weed, spray weed killer, plant flowers or new shrubs and put bark down. (6)

Response: *This could be a good Neighborhood Connections project: hire a landscape maintenance firm to clean up and do routine maintenance of these islands. Typically such maintenance is done by volunteers or by adjacent property owners. Kirkland does not have the staff or budget to do this work.*

36. Unattended planting circle. Low maintenance plantings. (20)

Response: *The traffic island cited here is at the end of NE 105th Lane. This could be a good Neighborhood Connections project: hire a landscape maintenance firm to clean up and do routine maintenance of this and other islands in the Highlands Neighborhood. Typically such maintenance is done by volunteers or by adjacent property owners. Kirkland does not have the staff or budget to do this work.*

37. Near I-405 (cul-de-sac). Regarding the Traffic Islands: Please keep the vegetation low enough so that vision of the intersection is not impaired by it. Also these 4 way circle intersections should be controlled by stop signs on all four corners. (13)

Response: *The landscaped islands of concern here are in the Norkirk Neighborhood—especially on 5th St and on 7th Avenue. Because of past difficulty in keeping neighborhood volunteers interested in trimming some of these islands, Public Works is reviewing and updating it's policies for design, landscaping, and maintenance of these islands. Part of this review is develop a greater depth in the volunteer base and a greater commitment of the neighborhood organizations where these traffic calming devices are installed. Public Works had done trimming where safety issues existed.*

General

38. Huge electric pole in park. Work with electric company to bury that line which is less than a block long. (10)

Response: *Not a good Neighborhood Connections project. Undergrounding even a short distance of utility lines would far exceed the Connections allocation to the Highlands. No other funding source is available for such work.*

39. Very loud freeway noise. Wall along freeway. (19)

Response: *This would not be a viable project for the Neighborhood Connections program. Concerns should be made to the Washington State Department of Transportation.*

40. Who maintains the 100th St Bridge? Graffiti needs to be removed. Moss is growing on steps. (58)

Response: *The City of Kirkland maintains the 100th St bridge. We will have a look at the moss on the steps. Report graffiti to the Anti-Graffiti Hotline at (425) 587-3824. The Public Works Department monitors this line weekdays during normal business hours. If you witness graffiti in the act, please call the Police Department at (425) 587-3400.*

41. Relocate mail boxes (to free up parking). Move fire Hydrant. 10302 119th Ave. NE (24)

Response: *Moving the mailbox could be a good project for the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program. The local residents would need to work with the US Post Office to determine a new location. Public Works would need to review the draft proposal. Also, the mailbox shelter needs refurbishing, so the timing for such a project would be good. We recommend against relocating the fire hydrant to increase parking. This would be a very expensive project and only one undersized parking space would be gained—a full-sized car or truck could not park in the resulting space and still leave the required clearance from the adjacent driveways.*

42. Cars parking in front of my path to my apartment and all along the street, often making it difficult to unload my car of groceries. Increase parking by providing a diagonal system along both sides of Highland Park that are adjacent to the street. (9)

Response: *Probably too expensive for a Neighborhood Connections project. Diagonal parking could be placed along 112th Ave NE, but it would require drainage improvements along the shallow swale and it would require excavation and a retaining wall at the fence line. NE 102nd St could be widened by 5 feet without disrupting the berms that add character to the park. This extra 5 feet would provide a more stable base for parallel parking, but it would not add any parking spaces. To review specific parking issues, like parking too close to driveways, please contact the Neighborhood Traffic Control Coordinator for the north half of Kirkland at (425) 587-3870.*

43. Check Highlands Park parking along NE 100th St (maybe improve with gravel or grass Crete) for added parking. (55)

Response: *I assume it is NE 102nd St adjacent to the Park, not NE 100th St, that improved parking is suggested. Probably too expensive for a Neighborhood Connections project, but if the neighborhood wants to pursue this, we could develop cost estimates. Diagonal parking could be placed along 112th Ave NE, but it would require drainage improvements along the shallow swale and it would require excavation and a retaining wall at the fence line. NE 102nd St could be widened by 5 feet without disrupting the berms that add character to the park. This extra 5 feet would provide a more stable base for parallel parking, but it would not add any parking spaces. To review specific parking issues, like parking too close to driveways, please contact the Neighborhood Traffic Control Coordinator for the north half of Kirkland at (425) 587-3870.*

44. Stop putting posts everywhere. Take the car damaging speed bumps out. Take down the ugly radar speed signs - everyone has a speedometer. (30)

Response: *We agree that if everyone paid attention to their speedometers, obeyed speed limits, and would not park on obvious pedestrian walkways, these devices would not be needed and our world would be much less cluttered. Removing the speed cushions and radar signs would be a good project only if 70% of the effected residents supported such a project. The posts that are used to define temporary walkways would be removed when permanent curbs, gutters, and sidewalks are installed—which means they will be in place for the foreseeable future since funding is not currently available for most of these sections.*

45. I 405, 114th Ave. NE, and NE 85th St merging issue. (48)

Response: *The Neighborhood Association has been working with the State Department of Transportation and Don Anderson, Project Engineer. Contact Don Anderson for more information (425) 587-3826*

46. Many intersections with stop signs do not have the roadway marked with a white stripe noting the beginning of the intersection. Mark all intersections on the roadway clearly with a white stripe. (11)

Response: *Not a Neighborhood Connections project. White 'stop bars' are placed only at locations where stop signs need special emphasis. This is done for two reasons: to make special needs intersections stand out from all others and to help keep on-going maintenance manageable. If there are stop locations that need to be evaluated, please call (425) 587-3870.*

47. Need a stop sign at the intersection of 100th and 111th (on the west end) downhill? (12)

Response: *Not a good project for the Neighborhood Connections program. Public Works will evaluate the need for additional stop control at this intersection, but based on volume warrants alone, a stop sign at this location would not be appropriate.*