

Sidewalk Safety Form

Instructions: Use this form to report sidewalk cracks, sidewalk obstructions, grates on sidewalks that become slippery in wet weather and overgrowth that interferes with neighbors walking safely along the sidewalk. For future purposes, please list areas in need of sidewalks, walkways or curbing. Please return your completed form to Karl Weyrauch, 4545 49th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105, or fax it to 206-525-9631.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

What kind of problem are you reporting:

Crack in sidewalk Need for new sidewalk, walkway or curbs
 Sidewalk overgrowth Other (describe below)
 Unsafe grate on sidewalk

Description of the problem: (For sidewalk cracks, please indicate whether the crack has resulted in an uneven surface where the lift is greater than 1/2 inch. For all problems, indicate if the area is heavily traveled and whether there are children on the block and older walkers.)

Exact street address/location of the problem: _____

Other comments: _____

Questions? Contact Karl Weyrauch at 206-525-5562 or karlweyrauch@hotmail.com or Jeannie Hale at 206-525-5135 or jeannieh@serv.net.

Laurelhurst Sidewalk Safety Program

- Learn how you can help to keep neighborhood sidewalks safe for all neighbors!
- Get cracks in your sidewalk that pose a safety hazard repaired for a reduced cost.
- Learn the City's rules regarding sidewalk maintenance responsibilities.
- Learn traffic safety rules to avoid getting a ticket from the police for sidewalk obstruction.

Sponsored by:



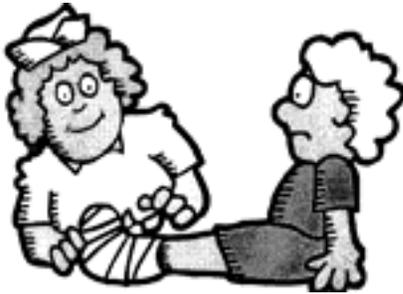
Laurelhurst Community Club

Laurelhurst Sidewalk Safety Program

The Laurelhurst Community Club (LCC) would like to work with neighbors and the Seattle Transportation Department to improve the safety of sidewalks in the neighborhood.

The plan is to educate neighbors about sidewalk safety problems, develop an inventory of Laurelhurst sidewalks where problems exist and to develop a plan for the City, the Laurelhurst Community Club and neighbors to work together and to share some of the cost of safety repairs.

Usually, sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. But, there are exceptions and LCC is committed to sidewalk safety and willing to chip in on the cost to keep our neighbors safe. The Seattle Transportation Department is interested in partnering with our community in this regard.



The Problem: Cracks in sidewalks that result in a sidewalk that is no longer level or where there is a gap in the sidewalk due to a crack can pose serious safety risks, especially to older neighbors and children.

Sidewalk overgrowth narrows the width of the sidewalk and prickly overgrowth can injure neighbors and make it difficult for strollers and

other neighbors to pass by. In some areas, overgrowth obscures vehicle visibility and poses a risk to both vehicles and pedestrians.

Neighbors with unsteady gait or who rely on assistive devices such as canes and walkers are especially at risk for falls from cracked and uneven sidewalks. For these neighbors, a broken hip or other serious injury can all too easily result from a fall. For some, recovery from this kind of accident could require surgery or be very slow and some may never recover completely.

Children playing on the sidewalk can end up with skinned knees or worse. Neighbors often end up walking in the street to avoid hazards associated with unsafe sidewalks and this also poses risks.

The Solution: Here is our three-point program:

1. Sidewalk Inventory: The plan is to have neighbors identify specific locations where there are cracks in sidewalks that contribute to unsafe conditions, unsafe utility grates and overgrowth that poses safety risks to pedestrians.

Neighbors are encouraged to complete a Sidewalk Safety Form and return it to the Laurelhurst Sidewalk Safety Coordinator. A Sidewalk Safety Form will also be available on the Laurelhurst website at www.scn.org/neighbors/laurelhurst. Volunteers will also walk our streets to identify other areas. The inventory will also include a listing of areas where sidewalks and or curbs are lacking and desired.

2. Paying for Repairs/Maintenance: While we are unsure of the volume of sidewalk repairs and maintenance necessary in the

neighborhood, the plan is to develop a listing and work with Seattle Transportation on putting together an estimate for the cost to make the repairs or do the work.

The idea is that if we have several repairs lined up to be completed at one time, the cost will go down. Our hope is to have the City pay for one-half of the repair/maintenance, LCC pay for one quarter of the cost and individual neighbors pay the remaining one quarter.

This would be a big savings to neighbors who might otherwise have to pay the full cost.

The cost of new sidewalks, walkways or curbs is considerable particularly because drainage usually must be included. It is unlikely that funds will be available for these types of capital improvements, but at least we will have an inventory and can work towards funding in the future.

Neighbors are responsible for maintaining vegetation so that it does not interfere with pedestrian safety. LCC would like to provide assistance in dangerous locations for seniors who are unable to do the work and are on a fixed income.

3. Education: The Sidewalk Safety Program will also include information for neighbors on the Seattle Municipal Code requirements governing sidewalks and owner responsibilities and the traffic code provisions regarding sidewalk obstructions.

