

Healthy Places Walkability Study Deshler Park Neighborhood Pride

Columbus Public Health Healthy Places program is conducting walkability studies in the 2009 Neighborhood Pride areas. The goals of the walkability study are to increase neighborhood residents walking in their neighborhood and to identify destination places that are within walking distance. This will be done by walking with neighborhood residents to 1) identify positive places to walk in their neighborhood; 2) inventory barriers to pedestrians and bikers; and 3) identify neighborhood destinations.

Synopsis

Date	July 14, 2009
Community Participation	6
Distance Walked	1.4 miles
Weather	Warm, beautiful morning

The Deshler Park neighborhood residents love their neighborhood and want to enhance it. They have a garden club and several very nice gardens at homes throughout the neighborhood. They also have Deshler Park which they would like to make more of a community meeting space with a walking path, benches, picnic tables and more playground equipment.

Neighborhood Findings

Neighborhood

- Residents feel the safest in their own neighborhood, we don't cross boundaries. People are conscious of their neighborhood and who is in their neighborhood. Lockbourne is a boundary.
- I don't worry about boundaries, I walk wherever.
- I go to Three Creeks/Smith Farms to walk but I have to drive.
- Some people go to the track at Marion-Franklin too.
- You can find some hills around here-take Frebis to Alum Creek; Whitter from Berkley to Miller.
- We need to take care of the barriers in our neighborhood-why would young people move here now (in context of the sidewalk conversation).
- In 30 years the neighborhood has changed, kids walk in the street and won't move, they just look at year or yell at you.
- I choose street that I feel comfortable around the people and know the people on the street.
- I have met so many neighbors just walking in the neighborhood. I may not know their name but we wave every morning and now I feel safe on their street.
- People are encouraged by you when you are out walking-you don't know them but they wave because they see you everyday.
- Walking in this neighborhood is nice and quiet.
- Neighbors will cut overgrown lawns in the neighborhood-sometimes with the people inside.

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Street

- We need sidewalks on Fairwood-Fairwood does not connect into the neighborhood via sidewalk. There is only a sidewalk in front of the park and the City building.
- Lockbourne sidewalks are spotty.
- Frebis sidewalks are uneven.
- No sidewalks throughout the neighborhood-not even around Deshler Elementary and the Deshler Park (pictures 4-6, 29-30).
- We would like sidewalks even on one side of the street.
- There is not a street sign for Berkeley Road at E. Gates St. (311 service request # 907177418, work order in progress as of 7/23/09)
- At Mithoff and Berkeley there are sidewalks-only in front of houses built with federal funds (picture 3).
- We need sidewalks wide enough to be able to walk with your girlfriend hand in hand.
- Speed bumps need to be at different heights to slow traffic.
- Berkeley is a fast street-it goes all the way through from Whitter to Deshler and there are fewer trees closer to Deshler so the cars go faster (pictures 10-13).
- Whitter is downhill from Lockbourne and people go fast-there are no sidewalks here.

Safety

- Dogs are a concern-people carry sticks and golf clubs when they walk.
- People let their dogs out and don't chain them.
- There are no sidewalks around Deshler Park School-kids are walking in the street. Cars fly down Berkley and Miller where the kids are walking to school (pictures 10-14, 23-24).
- Some kids have to walk far for the bus-to Moler or to Hayes and there are no sidewalks.
- We do not want to walk in the street, kids and seniors are the least safe.
- Kids are ducking and dodging through cars as they walk to school-even the little ones have to walk.
- It is dark in the morning and gets dark early in the evening and we have kids walking on the street.
- It is terrifying to have kids walk to school.
- Berkeley has dogs-they are restrained but appear aggressive.
- Frebis is a street I am cautious on, there are men hanging out, probably from Mary Haven. Nothing has happened but I feel I need to be careful.
- Kids don't watch for cars.

Recreation and Parks (pictures 7-9, 26-28, 36)

- There are no paths through Deshler Park for kids to walk to the school-they cut through the field. Then their shoes and pants are wet. There is a worn path from Miller to the school ever since we were kids. I would rather my kids walked on a main road so they are visible.
- Berkeley baseball diamonds (at Deshler Park) are not used often. The South High girls use them to practice and there is a football league that uses them.
- Baseball fields are not made for other sports-you can't play soccer on them.
- There is a lot of space at the park but nothing to do. We need a playground near Berkeley, the one by the school is tucked back and hidden.
 - The playground at Corpus Christi is heavily used, gangs use to be a problem but now it is for kids.
- Life guards at the pool need to be role models for the children (in reference to life guards being in good shape)

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- The school playground and basketball courts are public-you can access them year round but kids do not use them in the summer.
- A walking track would be nice in the park-it would be eyes on the park and parents could walk while kids practice, especially since there is no sidewalk around the park.
- Benches and places to do exercises would be nice in the park.
- A diagonal path through the park to help the kids get to school is needed. It is dark in the morning so we need more lights too.
- The park is next to people's homes so we need to be careful what we put near their homes.

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A neighbor across from the school with a day care reminding drivers to slow down.



Beautiful garden in Deshler Park.



Deshler Ave in front of Deshler Elementary School does not have sidewalks.



Deshler Park has lots of room for added features such as soccer fields, picnic tables, benches and a walking path.

This report will be used to create walking maps through the neighborhood. The mile-marked maps will highlight neighborhood features, safe paths and destinations. The report will also be forwarded to City of Columbus departments that can assist neighborhoods in addressing their needs.

The mission of the Healthy Places program is to enhance healthy and active living by establishing development policies and practices to reduce negative health impacts and by creating places that foster physical activity as a part of everyday life. For more information, please contact Christine Godward Green, Healthy Places Coordinator at 645-5318 or CGGreen@columbus.gov.

Addendum

Site Specific Comments

Routes

All Pictures

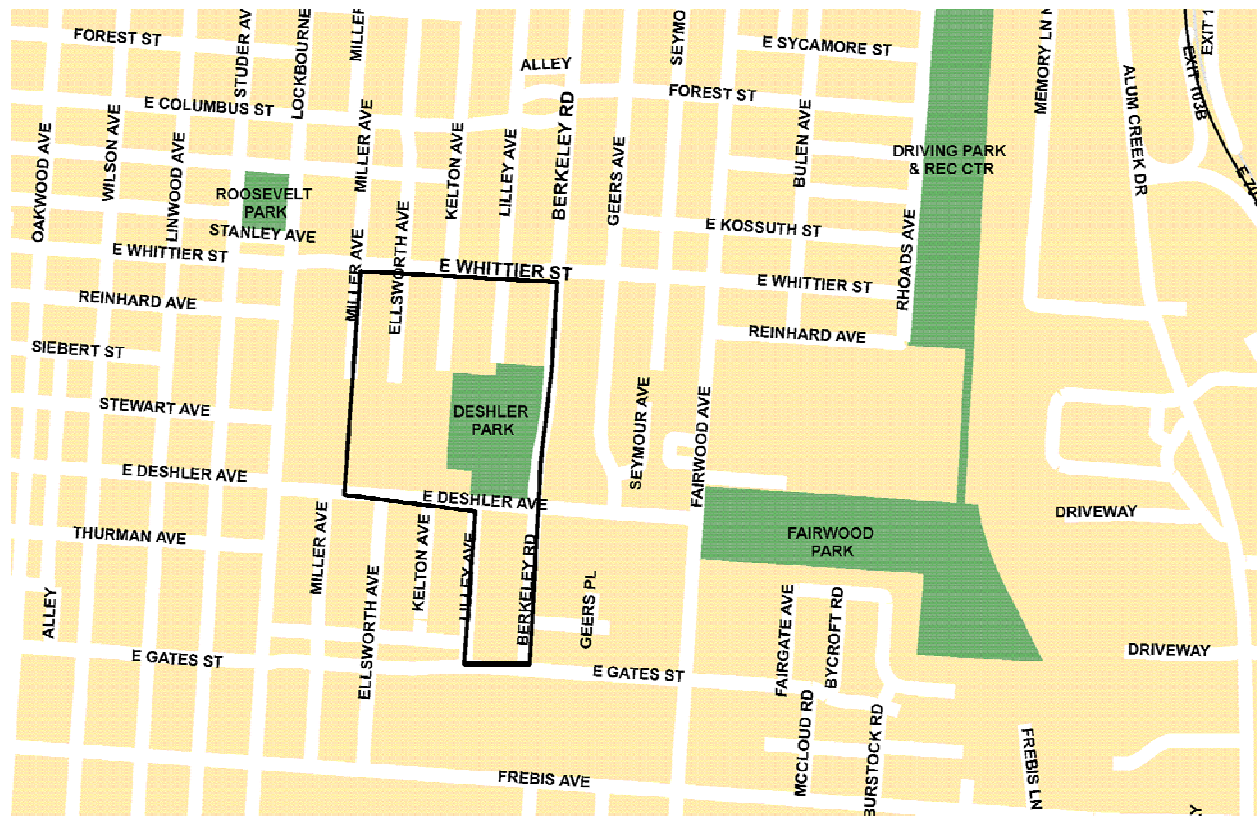
Site Specific Comments

Street Comments	Comment
Berkeley Rd south of Whittier to Deshler	People speed because there are less street trees, the road opens up (pictures 10-13)
In front of 1427 Whittier	Pole in sidewalk (pictures 15-16)
Whittier east of Lockbourne Rd	Slight hill, wide street and people speed

No Sidewalks	Sidewalks
Fairwood	Fairwood-only in front of park and City building on east side
Lockbourne-missing pieces	Lockbourne (poorly maintained)
Whittier (spotty) (pictures 14-22)	Whittier (spotty) (pictures 14-22)
Deshler (pictures 29-30)	Frebis (poorly maintained)
E. Gates Street (pictures 1-2)	Miller (stop before school) (pictures 23-24)
Lilley Avenue (picture 37)	
Berkeley Rd (pictures 10-13)	
Kelton	
Ellsworth	
Miller at school (picture 24)	

Recreation and Parks	
Deshler Park (pictures 7-9, 26-28)	Need a path for kids to access school from Berkeley Rd, they cut through the field
	More playground equipment, park benches or things to do on the Berkeley side of the park, the school side is tucked away

Route Walked



Pictures (Explanation of pictures below)



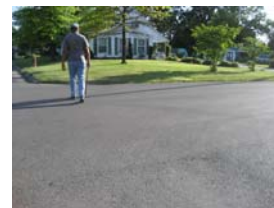
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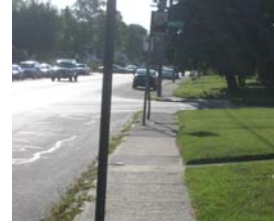
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Picture Explanation

Picture Number	Explanation
1	Gates St looking west from Lilley Ave
2	Gates looking east from Lilley Ave
3	Some of the only sidewalks in the neighborhood are on Berkeley north of Mithoff-the houses were built with federal funds and the sidewalks do not continue on all of Berkeley Rd.
4-6	Intersection of Berkeley Rd. and Deshler Ave does not have sidewalks or crosswalks and is a crossing to Deshler Elementary School and Park
7-9	Deshler Park
10, 12	Berkeley Rd looking south near the park, traffic speeds up near Deshler
11, 13	Berkeley Rd looking north
14	Whittier St looking east near Berkeley Rd, sidewalk has no buffer or tree lawn from the street
15-16	In front of 1427 Whittier St, pole in the sidewalk
17-18	Whittier St sidewalk near Berkeley Ave is in poor condition
19-20	Whittier St west of Lilley Ave the sidewalks stop and people must walk in the street
21-22	Side of Whittier St where people have worn a path at Ellsworth Ave
23-24	Miller Ave leads to Deshler Elementary School and is used by school children, the sidewalk is stops a few parcels from the school
25	Entrance from Miller Ave to Deshler Elementary, there is no walkway just a worn path
26-28	Deshler Park and playground near the elementary school
29-30	Deshler Ave in front of Deshler Elementary School has no sidewalks
31	House across from Deshler Elementary reminds drivers to slow down for children
32-33	Nice houses on Deshler between the school and park
34	View of street near park
35	Deshler Ave near Deshler Park looking east towards Fairwood Park-there are no sidewalks connecting the parks
36	View of Deshler Park from Deshler Ave
37-38	View of Lilley Ave and house on Lilley Ave with beautiful gardens