

City Sidewalk Policy

As a fast growing community, the City of Sun Prairie recognizes the value of and need for residents of all abilities to get to, through, and around the city. As such, an integrated transportation network is critical meeting the needs of present and future residents of the community. Sidewalks play a vital role in that network.

The primary objective of the policy is to provide a safe and enjoyable pedestrian network by:

- Installing sidewalks on both sides of all new and reconstructed streets.
- Filling in gaps in the network on a case-by-case basis, with priority near schools and other pedestrian destinations.
- Including new street trees as part of the sidewalk retrofit projects.



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General Inquires

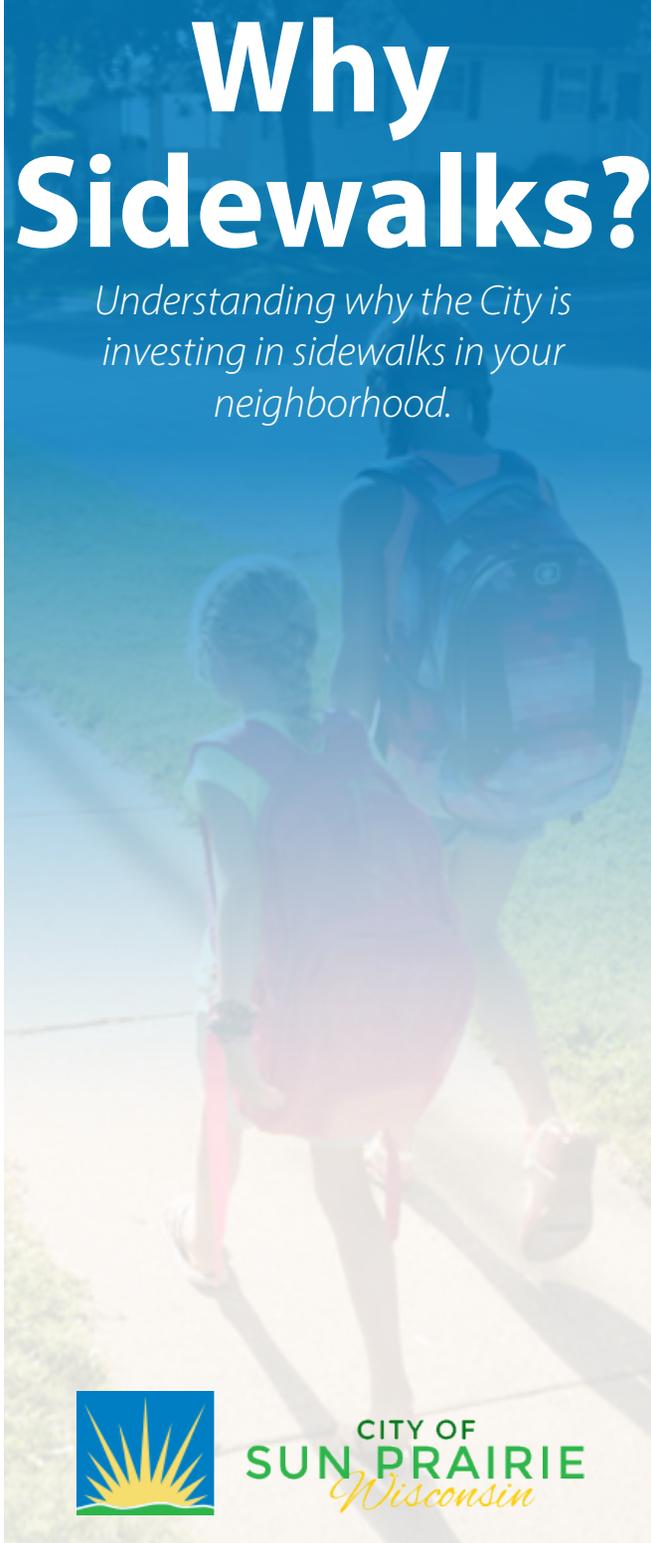
City of Sun Prairie

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Why Sidewalks?

Understanding why the City is investing in sidewalks in your neighborhood.



CITY OF
SUN PRAIRIE
Wisconsin

Benefits to the Community

Safety

Streets with sidewalks are safer for pedestrians than streets without sidewalks. A Federal Highway Administration study found that pedestrian crashes are 88% lower on streets with sidewalks than without. Further, WisDOT found that children account for more than 1/3 of all pedestrian injuries each year.

Accessibility & Mobility

30-40% of the population cannot or does not drive. This group includes children, the disabled, elderly, and low-income individuals, among others. Providing sidewalks on both sides of the street provides accessibility and mobility to those individuals.

Health

Research shows that sidewalks increase the likelihood of recreational activities, such as running and walking. The presence of sidewalks can also ease parents' fear of their child(ren) walking to bus stops and/or school.

Benefits to Homeowners

- Sidewalks can improve the quality of life in your neighborhood by encouraging physical activity and enabling safe travel to destinations.
- Sidewalks can promote a sense of community in your neighborhood and can serve as a place to socialize.
- Sidewalks can improve the safety of the neighborhood with more "eyes on the street" to reduce property crime.
- "Walkable" neighborhoods have been shown to have higher property values than areas with low pedestrian accessibility.
- Sidewalks are installed with street trees, where terrace space allows.

Expert Recommendations

All nationally recognized transportation agencies and organizations have taken the following position on sidewalks:

- Sidewalks should be required on both sides of arterial and collector streets, and
- Sidewalks are preferred on both sides of local or residential streets.



To learn more:

The sidewalk policy is outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan. To see the full policy, go to cityofsunprairie.com/sidewalks.

Common Questions

Do I have to pay for the installation of sidewalks?

Unlike residents of neighboring communities, property owners in Sun Prairie are not individually assessed for the repair or installation of sidewalks adjacent to their property.

Will I have to remove snow?

Yes, property owners are required to remove snow on sidewalks and crosswalk ramps that front or adjoin their property within 24 hours of a snow event. However, if a multi-use trail is installed, the City will provide snow removal services.

Will trees be lost to install sidewalks?

Trees and other plants established within the right-of-way that inhibit the ability to install sidewalks may be removed. The City will make every effort to leave trees undisturbed; however, trees planted close to property boundaries may be removed and replaced if compromised by sidewalk installation.

Don't sidewalks reduce property values?

Studies show that adding sidewalks improves property values. Increasingly, home buyers are choosing areas that are walkable.

Do Sun Prairie residents want sidewalks?

Community surveys in 2008 and 2018 express strong community support for sidewalks.

Will sidewalks be installed on my property?

Sidewalks are installed on public right-of-way. Right-of-way was reserved for streets and sidewalks when your neighborhood was platted.



Sidewalks are a long-term community investment.