

[Click Here to Support Walkable Communities](#)

AMERICA WALKS

Making America a Great Place to Walk

March 2017

Mardi Gras is Made for Walking



Crowds lined up at the 2016 Endymion Parade in New Orleans. Photo by Tricia Keffer.

Better known for bars, burlesque and Bourbon Street, New Orleans is increasingly a walking and bicycling city, and no time of year is this more evident than during Mardi Gras and the city's other large festivals, writes America Walks' Emilie Bahr. Yet this year's Fat Tuesday festivities highlighted the Big Easy's ongoing struggles to keep people on foot safe as they move through the public rights of way. [Read more here.](#)

NRPA and Walk with a Doc Partner to Promote Physical Activity in Parks

[The National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\)](#) and [Walk with a Doc \(WWAD\)](#) have partnered on a new initiative called [A Walk in the Park!](#) This initiative will launch in [eight cities](#) across the country to increase physical activity in communities through parks and recreation and healthcare systems collaboration. America Walks is excited to learn and share more about this new initiative as it develops.



In Case You Missed This Month's Free Webinars:

- [The Right to Walk](#) considered how communities and organizations are

addressing some of the challenges to walking and physical activity and how we can all work to make sure walking, biking, and physical activity can be part of the daily lives of every community member. You can download a recording of the session [here](#).

- [Advancing Neighborhood Change Through Equity and Development](#) looked at how to protect and promote the identity and culture of a community, while making room for new development and change. Explore the resources and download a recording of the session [here](#).

Meet America Walks Board Member Steve Hooker

We're thrilled by the depth and breadth of experience that makes up our board of directors and hope you'll enjoy learning a bit more about these thoughtful, insightful walking advocates over the course of 2017. This month, we're profiling [Steve Hooker](#), a professor in the Department of Health Solutions at Arizona State University. Read more about him and why he thinks drivers hold one of the keys to more walkable communities [here](#).



Steve Hooker

Monthly Theme Highlight- The America Council on Exercise

This month, The American Council on Exercise is helping lead the way with our monthly theme encouraging people to find ways to walk more during the day. The American Council on Exercise (ACE), a leading non-profit health and fitness organization, is dedicated to ensuring that individuals have access to well-qualified health and fitness professionals, as well as science-based information and resources on safe and effective physical activity. Ultimately, we want to empower all Americans to be active, establish healthy behaviors and live their most fit lives. ACE strongly supports walking initiatives and building walkable communities as part of our mission and commitment to creating a culture of health that values and supports physically active lifestyles. Check out some of their walking resources:

- [Walk This Way](#)
- [Walk the Talk](#)
- [Creating Walking Meetings](#)

Mark Your Calendars!

- **March 30:** Join America Walks and the National Center on Health, Physical Activity and Disability at 1 p.m. ET [for this webinar](#) outlining a new microgrant program to fund strategies to increase inclusion of the disabled population.
- **April 3-9:** [National Public Health Week](#), a celebration of the power of prevention, advocating for healthy and fair policies, sharing strategies for successful partnerships and championing the role of a strong public health system. Join us and others for a Twitter Chat on April 5th at 2pm using #NPHWChat.
- **April 12:** [Exploring the Outdoors: Partners in Open Space](#). The next installment America Walks' free webinar series will explore opportunities to

prioritize outdoor space as a means of encouraging physical activity.

- **April 18: [The Transit-Walkability Collaborative](#).** Part of America Walks' free webinar series, this session will go into more depth about a partnership announced in February that aims to promote the benefits of walkable, transit-rich communities; to bring together transit and walkability advocates at the local, state, and national level; and to identify and implement programs and policies that expand walkability and transit services in communities across the U.S.
- **May 2-4: [Vision Zero Cities 2017 Conference](#),** New York City.
- **May 15-16: [Community Agency and Health Symposium](#),** Oakland, CA. Explore how fostering community agency is key to the future of health and fundamental to sustainable and equitable communities.

What We've Been Reading

- In Bolivia, volunteer "zebras" are making crosswalks come alive and helping to protect people on foot. "They may be dressed up as zebras," one of the organizers of this program told [The Atlantic](#), "but they defend what is human about the city."
- Columnist [David Leonhardt argues](#) that traffic fatalities represent a public health crisis in America requiring immediate intervention and that technology can help to save us from the growing epidemic of distracted driving.
- [Kevin Mills of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy](#) and an America Walks Board Member worries President Trump's budget proposal puts active transportation funding at risk.

Help Make Every Community a Walkable Community

Our Sponsors

America Walks thanks our sponsors for their generous support of this publication and all of the work being done by America Walks to promote the walkable movement. Thanks for helping to make America a great place to walk!

8-80 Cities, Active Living By Design, Active Transportation Alliance, Alliance for Biking & Walking, American College of Sports Medicine, APBP, BungyPump, California Walks, Carmanah, CDC, Chaffin Luhana, LLP, Circulate San Diego, Daniel Rose Law, Dynamic Vitality, Eco-Counter, Estey & Bomberger, LLP, Every Body Walk!, Federal Highway Administration, FedEx, Feet First, Group Health, Health by Design, Hoosier Rails to Trails Council, Idaho Bike Walk Alliance, Jurewitz Law Group, Kaiser Permanente, Keep Highways Safe, Kellogg Foundation, Landman Family Charitable Trust, Law Offices of Jay S. Knispel, Lyft, MIG, Inc., Michigan Auto Law, Nelson Nygaard, Orthotic Shop, pathVu, PedNet Coalition, PEDS, Posternak, re:Streets, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Sally Flocks Charitable Fund, Sally Morin Law, Shaping New Jersey, ShoreWalkers, Inc., Synergy, LLC, The Reeves Law Group, US Fish and Wildlife Services, W-Trans, Walkapocket, Walk Boston, The Walking Company, Weissman-Landman Family Trust

Have an item for our newsletter or a question for our team? Contact America Walks

Stay Connected



Be sure to get the latest news and events by updating your profile at the link below!

[Click Here to Support Walkable Communities](#)