

Support Walkable Communities

20 years strong
**AMERICA
WALKS**

September 2019



Learning from Place in Columbus

America Walks kicked off the National Walking Summit–Columbus earlier this week. The Summit explored the theme of Places for People. Columbus is a prime example of the how decision-makers, advocates, and community members are coming together to create these places.

America Walks welcomed over 100 attendees from Columbus, Ohio, and around the US who heard from expert speakers representing local, state, and national efforts to promote walking and walkable communities, hit the ground in Columbus to explore projects demonstrating the power of change, and took part in a Collective Action Workshop that allowed them input into the plans for the future of Ohio.

[Miss the Summit? Read the Full Recap Here](#)



Want a Healthy Community? Think Green.

Wherever you live, our changing climate affects your mental, social and physical health. For low-income populations and communities of color who face environmental, economic, and development injustices, these barriers are even more critical.

See what the **National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)** is doing about this issue to boost resiliency in communities throughout the U.S. **Read the guest blog** by Jenny Cox, Conservation Program Manager at NRPA, and join in on the "Turn Your Community Green" monthly theme by following along with #Walk4Change.



New Poll Finds Strong Support for Safe, Walkable Sidewalks

No surprise to us here– it turns out that an overwhelming majority of Americans (nearly 85%!) value safe sidewalks in their neighborhoods and believe taxpayer funding should be spent on sidewalks.

Read more about the results of a recent poll in this guest blogpost written by Jonathan Klingler, the principal analyst of Praecones Analytica, and an assistant professor of political science at the University of Mississippi.



Vision Zero Conference to Explore Walkable, Safer Streets

Transportation Alternatives' **5th Annual Vision Zero Cities Conference** on October 10–11 at Columbia University in New York City will feature discussions on urban transportation policy and implementing Vision Zero priorities for more walkable, safer streets across the US and the world. Panels will explore increasing accessibility and improving wayfinding for pedestrians, emerging mobility like scooters and their relationship to pedestrian spaces, new safety technologies and improving community participation in forward thinking pedestrian planning. Keynote speakers include Polly Trottenberg, NYC DOT Commissioner, and Corey Johnson, New York City Council Speaker. **View a full list of programming here.**



WALKING FOR CIVILITY

"The walking is probably the most intimate part of our experience. It is a really nice way to get people comfortable talking before they are in a larger group..." – *Andrea Christelle, Benjamin Franklin Circle walking group leader for Sedona Philosophy.*

At America Walks, we believe walking and moving can be used as an accessible, gentle, and tactical intervention for division in our communities. This three-part blog series on Walking for Civility examines the ways the act of walking and promoting walkable communities functions as a bridge to civility, connection, and community change. Our first blog features the inspiring, intimate work of a walking Benjamin Franklin Circle group, sparking ideas for how you can start a similar activity in your community.

Read Walking for Civility: Moving Through the Benjamin Franklin Circle Virtues

Mark Those Calendars

- **October 1st: Join Smart Growth America** for a webinar on Building Complete Streets: The Developers' Perspective to discuss opportunities and barriers to engaging developers in creating healthy, active, and engaged spaces.
- **October 5th–9th:** The AASHTO Annual Meeting is one of the industry's most important gatherings of transportation, government and commercial organizations. Find out more and [register for the week long networking and innovation event here](#).
- **October 9th: Join America Walks' free webinar, *The Walkable Campus: Mobility Options for Higher Ed*** where we'll explore examples of how universities and colleges are promoting walkability and movability in their communities.

Register for Our October Webinar

THE WALKABLE CAMPUS - MOBILITY OPTIONS FOR HIGHER ED



Content We Loved This Month

- [America's Healthiest Schools 2019 / *Healthier Generation*](#)
- [Rural Play Streets Guide / *Baylor University*](#)
- [Caltrans' New Director: Toks Omishakin Has Credentials in Active Transportation / *Streetsblog*](#)
- [U.S. Obesity Rates Reach Historic Highs / *Trust for America's Health*](#)
- [Active and Engaged: Community Outreach Strategies for Health / *America Walks*](#)

America Walks Thanks 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!

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