

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

CITY COUNCIL POLICY No. 2013 – 03

WALK FRIENDLY COMMUNITY POLICY

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the benefits of walking as a key element of a healthy, efficient, socially inclusive and sustainable community, and

WHEREAS, all people should be able to walk safely and to enjoy high quality public spaces in the City of Portsmouth anywhere and at anytime; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is committed to reducing the physical, social and institutional barriers that limit walking activity;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council adopts the following policy:

Municipal decision-making, practices and processes shall be carried out in order to further the following objectives:

- Provide clean, well-lit sidewalks free from obstruction, and with sufficient opportunities to cross roads safely and directly;
- Ensure seating is provided in outdoor public spaces in quantities and locations that meet the needs of all users;
- Provide protection for pedestrians from weather and climate elements with landscaping and facilities as appropriate (for example shade or shelter);
- Provide coherent and consistent information and signage systems to support exploration and discovery on foot;
- Build and maintain high-quality networks of connected, functional and safe walking routes between residential areas and local destinations;
- Provide an integrated, extensive and well-equipped public transportation service with vehicles which are fully accessible to all potential users and public transport stops and interchanges with easy, safe and convenient pedestrian access and supportive information;
- Encourage a pedestrian-friendly driving culture with targeted campaigns and enforcement of road traffic laws;
- Maintain reduced motor vehicle traffic speeds in residential areas, shopping areas, around schools, and in other areas with a high frequency of pedestrian traffic;

- Reduce the impact of busy roads by installing sufficient safe crossing points, ensuring minimal waiting times and enough time to cross for the slowest pedestrians;
- Ensure that facilities designed for cyclists and other non-motorized modes do not compromise pedestrian safety or convenience;
- Involve all relevant agencies at all levels to recognize the importance of supporting and encouraging walking and to encourage complementary policies and actions;
- Actively encourage all members of the community to walk whenever and wherever they can as a part of their daily lives.

This policy shall take effect upon the passage by the City Council.

Adopted by the Portsmouth City Council on: _____.

Kelli L. Barnaby, CMC/CNHMC
City Clerk