

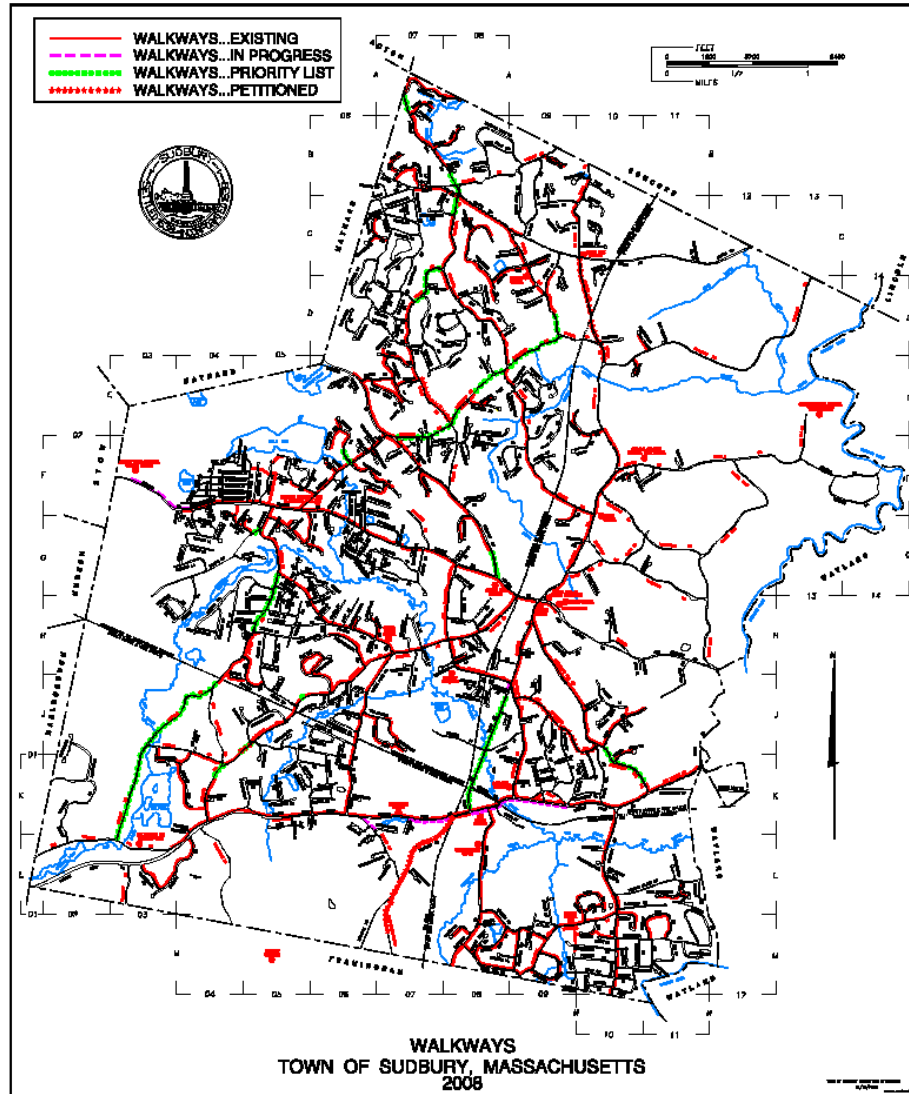
Article 35 - Walkways

Walkway construction and connection of walkway links has been a public safety issue since the inception of the walkway program in the 1960's. To date, we have over 40 miles of walkways constructed along 160 miles of roads. These walkways were predominantly funded through articles approved at Town Meeting, such as Article 35. In recent years, we have also had the opportunity to collect additional funds from developers during development review, which has substantially increased our ability to construct walkways, and decreased the need for taxpayer funding of walkways.

However, we aren't done. A walkway master plan was completed in 2000 which identifies at least 16 additional miles of roads needing walkways. Busy roads from north Sudbury to south Sudbury need walkways.

Dutton Road, Haynes Road, Marlboro Road, Powers Road, Dakin Road, Pantry Road, Nobscot Road, Union Avenue and parts of Old Lancaster Road all need walkways.

The green lines on the next slide indicate a portion of the roads in Sudbury without walkways.



We will continue to need additional walkways as the town continues to grow.

This article requests the dedication of \$200,000 of Community Preservation Act funds to construct walkways town wide.

This \$200,000 will enable the Department of Public Works to construct another 2-3 miles of walkways over the next 2 years, similar to recent Town Meeting approved funding requests in 2000, 2001 and 2004 and 2006.

Over the past several years, walkways have been constructed on Peakham Road, Maynard Road, Horse Pond Road, Landham Road, Route 20, Willis Road, Mossman Road, Concord Road, Haynes Road and the most recent project on Raymond Road. Those of you who live in or near these neighborhoods know first hand how necessary these walkways were, and how the ability to safely move about your neighborhoods has increased since their construction. Our walkways provide us the opportunity to recreate conveniently, right out our front doors. Not after driving across town to the soccer field, or to the gym. But right in our neighborhood.

Without a system of walkways, walking along many of Sudbury's roads would be too dangerous. We wouldn't feel safe allowing our children to bike to their friend's house along the road. Sudbury's roads are too narrow to be safe for pedestrians. This is a primary reason why we need walkways.

Concord Road



Mossman Road



Maintaining Sudbury's charming historical past is also very important. The narrow roads contribute to this charm. By maintaining a system of pedestrian walkways that are separated from the roadway pavement, we can preserve that small town look, but also increase our ability to move around town using non-motorized means.

Our recent experiences working on Scenic Roads exemplifies the need, and the ability, to creatively design walkways to be both safe and attractive. On the Willis Road project, stone walls were maintained and reconstructed. The walkway was constructed behind the stone wall to create a safe buffer from the roadway. The Raymond Road walkway meandered around large trees.

Willis Road Walkway



Raymond Road Walkway



When initially conceived, walkways were thought of primarily in utilitarian means. They would provide school children an opportunity to walk to school, thereby reducing the cost of school busing. They would enable residents to walk from neighborhoods to town recreation and conservation areas. While this premise still holds true, the more recent use of walkways is purely for recreation. Everyday, residents of all ages are on town walkways – walking, running, biking, and roller blading.

In recent years, the Town has begun to work to develop other types of recreational programs, outside of typical team and field sports, to broaden the spectrum of recreation available to all town residents. Given the recent statistics on obesity and the need for Americans to exercise more frequently, walkways provide that convenience which may motivate an otherwise sedentary person to exercise. Some town residents will never join an organized sports team. Some may not swim at the Atkinson Pool, or utilize the toddler playground. Walkways provide an equal opportunity for residents of all ages, abilities and interests to exercise.

The location of where walkways will be constructed with these funds has not yet been determined. The funds will be used to further the recommendations of the 2000 Report of the Walkway Committee, and walkways from the list in that report will be examined to determine where the greatest needs are. Considerations such as easements and wetlands impact on whether a walkway can be built. Residents who wish their street to be considered should submit a request to the Director of Public Works or the Planning and Community Development Director. A public forum to discuss and prioritize use of walkway funds will be scheduled in Spring of 2008, so that we can update the list and hear residents' issues.

None of this money will be spent on maintaining existing walkways. Walkway maintenance is a funded item in the DPW operating budget. Recent major maintenance projects to existing walkways include repaving the Morse Road walkway, the Pratts Mill Road walkway, and portions of the Peakham Road, Hudson Road and Concord Road walkways. All funds approved under this article will construct new walkway segments, as allowed by the Community Preservation Act under the category of creation of recreational areas.