



Puyallup Watershed Initiative

Active Transportation

[www.pwi.org/activetransportation](http://www.pwi.org/activetransportation)

# Walk This Way

Here are some tips to help you have a great trip:

**We are all pedestrians.** Whether you're pushing a stroller, using a mobility device, or walking from a parking spot to a store entrance, walking is a fun way to get around while exploring your neighborhood.

**Be predictable.** Everyone should follow the rules of the road and obey traffic signals and signs, however they choose to get around. Here are some important signs and signals to be familiar with:



Stop Sign



Yield Sign



Pedestrian Crossing



School Zone



**Walk Signal:** Start crossing the street, watching for vehicles.



**Don't Walk Signal:** When flashing, finish crossing if in crosswalk or don't start. If the signal is steady, don't enter the crosswalk.

**Sidewalks and trails are great places to walk.** If there isn't a sidewalk or trail where you would like to travel, walk facing traffic in order to see or detect oncoming cars more easily.

**Cross streets at intersections with a traffic light or marked crosswalks when practical.** If a signalized crossing or marked crosswalk isn't available, crossing at an intersection of two roadways is the next best option. By state law, every intersection is a crosswalk (whether it is marked or not), but not everyone driving or bicycling yields the right of way. Be smart and be aware!

**Always look both ways before stepping into a roadway.** Wave to signal that you'd like to cross the street and, if you are able, make eye contact with the people driving or riding bicycles. Pay special attention to people who may be turning left or right; they may be less likely to look for someone walking.

**Stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.** When travelling at walking pace, it is easier to see your neighborhood in greater detail and to notice changes in the natural world. Enjoy your walk!

**Make a pedestrian fashion statement.** Consider bright and/or reflective clothing to help make you more visible, especially at night, dawn, or dusk and during times of the year when the weather is gray. Carrying a light can help you be more visible and identify potential hazards on the sidewalk or roadway.

**Be prepared for the weather.** If it is cold and rainy, consider wearing warm or waterproof layers or using an umbrella. If it is hot and sunny, consider bringing along a water bottle and protecting your skin with a hat, light-colored layers, and/or sunscreen.

**Take special care when traveling across alleys and driveways.** Remember to watch for car and bicycle traffic at these intersections, just like you would watch for extra traffic at the intersection of two roads.

**Skateboards and Scooters are a fun and efficient way to travel!** Protect your head by wearing a helmet every time you ride. People riding wheeled devices should yield to slower traffic and be mindful and courteous of other people. When riding a scooter or skateboard, you should also be extra cautious when crossing driveways or entering intersections, since people driving cars might not expect sidewalk users who are travelling at faster speeds.

**Is something blocking your way, like an overgrown blackberry bush or a large crack in the sidewalk?**

Let someone know by reporting it to the appropriate city or county department.

**Tell Your Story:** You can share your experiences walking in your community and give input on what you would like to see improved by connecting with your elected city, county, or state representative.

