

Lake Avenue Sidewalk Enhancement Project – Project Q&A

Project Basics:

Q1. What is this project?

A1. This project proposes to widen the existing 4'-6' sidewalk along the north side of Lake Avenue between West Boulevard and W. 117th Street to 10', and in some limited areas 8'. More information is available on the project webpage at www.clevelandmetroparks.com/LakeAvenue.

Q2. How does this relate to the Lake Avenue roadway repaving project?

A2. The sidewalk enhancement project is not a part of the Lake Avenue resurfacing project that the City of Cleveland is performing this summer through the Ohio Department of Transportation but has been proposed to augment that project since bicycle lanes could not fit within the roadway along this segment. Please visit www.lakeavenuecle.com for more information about the Lake Avenue resurfacing project. Cleveland Metroparks is the project sponsor for the Lake Avenue sidewalk enhancement project and will be responsible for community engagement, design, construction, and maintenance.

Q3. Why is this sidewalk enhancement project being considered?

A3. Many planning studies, including the [Cuyahoga Greenways Plan](#), and comments from the public from the Lake Avenue resurfacing project public engagement held online between December 2020 and January 2021 have shown interest in providing for continuous trail and bicycle connections. This connectivity is important to building an interconnected regional network of trails and bicycle lanes. Furthermore, Lake Avenue is an important connection along the lakefront between Edgewater Park and Cleveland Metroparks' Rocky River Reservation.

Q4. When would this sidewalk project happen?

A4. The project would likely proceed between spring and fall 2022.

Trees:

Q5. Will this remove street trees?

A5. It is not anticipated that any trees would be removed as a part of the sidewalk enhancement project. In some sections, the sidewalk may be reduced in width to 8' in order to allow for additional buffer from existing trees.

Q6. Will this kill street trees?

A6. The sidewalk extension will be designed with the health of the street trees in mind to preserve their root structure. An expert third-party arborist provided a preliminary assessment of the trees, distance to the existing and proposed sidewalk bounds, and overall feasibility to construct the project with little impact.

Q7. How will trees be protected during construction?

A7. The expert third party arborist will be retained to oversee tree health as part of the project's design and construction methods in collaboration and consultation with the City of Cleveland's arborist. Techniques such as using air spading to decompact soil around the roots during construction is one way to safely prepare the site around the trees.

Aesthetics & Site-Specific Concerns:

Q8. How will this fit in the neighborhood?

A8. The sidewalk enhancement will replace the existing concrete and sandstone sidewalk with a new 10' wide concrete sidewalk. Ensuring the existing mature street trees will not be disturbed will result in minor changes to the current look of the sidewalk and tree lawn area. Different options exist for sidewalk jointing and tooling which can be discussed during development of the plans for the project.

Q9. Will the sidewalk be painted down the middle with a dashed striped line like a trail?

A9. The sidewalk will not be striped.

Q10. What are the construction limits?

A10. The vast majority of work will occur within the public right-of-way in the tree lawn and will not impact private property north of the existing sidewalk. All work will take place on the north side of Lave Avenue between W. 117th Street and West Boulevard. Cleveland Metroparks will work with the City of Lakewood to develop a future connection between W. 117th Street and Cove Avenue. Also, if funding is available, a paved asphalt all purpose trail will be constructed on the north side of Lake Avenue between West Boulevard and Clifton Boulevard at the same time as the subject sidewalk enhancement project.

Q11. How will driveways be impacted?

A11. As occurs today, the sidewalk will extend through the driveway and concrete will be extended to the nearest driveway apron joint (toward the street) to avoid the need for undesired saw cuts.

Q12. How will garden walls, screen walls, or decorative posts be impacted?

A12. During the design the team will work with individual property owners on specific and unique site conditions, including decorative walls or posts and these would be protected during construction. Since there will not be work done on private property there should be limited instances of impacts.

Q13. What if the lawn has an irrigation system or underground electric pet fence?

A13. As the project progresses through the design phase the team will work with individual homeowners to locate any underground irrigation systems and sprinkler heads or electric pet fences to minimize impacts and any damage resulting from construction would be rectified. If an irrigation system or electric pet fence is impacted during construction it will be repaired.

Q14. What if my lawn has a special seed mix or my street tree is surrounded by landscaping?

Q14. The design team will work with individual property owners who have special seed mixes (i.e. bent grass, Kentucky blue grass, etc.) in order to restore any impacted area with a like-kind seed. Furthermore, if landscaping exists at the base of a street tree it will be replaced if impacted.

Maintenance, Use & Funding:

Q15. How many people will use the enhanced sidewalk?

A15. There is not an exact projection of how many people will use the enhanced sidewalk; however, there have been demonstrated increases in people walking and biking during the COVID-19 pandemic. By filling the notable gap between Edgewater Park and the bicycle lanes in Lakewood, there is an expectation of a healthy level of usership. Expanding the sidewalk will help accommodate multiple users and allow comfortable and safe passing areas. Providing adequate walking and bicycling options also may reduce vehicular traffic along Lake Avenue to Edgewater Park.

Q16. Who is expected to use the enhanced sidewalk along the Lakefront Greenway?

A16. It is expected that walkers, joggers, runners, dog walkers, recreational bicyclists, commuting bicyclists, and rollerbladers, among others, will use the family-friendly facility. The enhanced sidewalk is a great example of an improvement open to all ages and abilities. That stated, like the existing sidewalk, motorized vehicles are not permitted. Furthermore, Cleveland Metroparks finds that those more experienced distance bike riders (non-novice / non-recreational) typically stick to using the roadway (i.e. "road bikers").

Q17. Who will be responsible for maintenance of the sidewalk?

A17. The Lake Avenue sidewalk enhancement will be a pilot project for Cleveland Metroparks as a way to complete an important gap between Cleveland Metroparks reservations, and as such, the Park District will commit to maintain the sidewalk including snow removal when conditions warrant.

Q18. How is this project being funded?

A18. As a result of the public engagement of the Lake Avenue roadway repaving project it was made evident that the community wanted additional improvements as part of the project between W. 117th Street and Clifton Boulevard. Cuyahoga County will now be contributing funds to the Lake Avenue roadway repaving project which then allow for City of Cleveland funds to be utilized to fund the enhanced sidewalk improvement.