



City of Takoma Park **City Manager Comments**

Report of October 7, 2020

COVID-19 Related Information

Halloween – Planning to Have Safe Fun!

We have Halloween information up on our website now. Go to [Halloween 2020](#) to learn all about decorating contests, online events on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31, as well as outdoor events on October 31.

All Washington, DC area jurisdictions are strongly discouraging going Trick or Treating door-to-door. And, some of the things we are planning may get changed as safety guidance changes from the CDC and the County Health Department. But whatever happens, we will have fun!

Other Information

Ballot Drop Boxes

The City of Takoma Park has a silver Montgomery County/Presidential election ballot drop box and an orange City of Takoma Park ballot drop box at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, in the lower level parking lot on Maple Avenue. There is also an orange City of Takoma Park drop box at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. The orange drop boxes for local City of Takoma Park ballots are being kept locked until City ballots go out in the mail to all registered Takoma Park residents. There has been a constant stream of people voting by placing their Montgomery County ballots in the silver drop box. Once the City of Takoma Park drop boxes are unlocked, voters must be sure to place the local City of Takoma Park ballot in the orange box and Montgomery County/Presidential ballots in the silver drop box. Both types of ballots may also be mailed through the U.S. Postal Service. The Takoma Park *Newsletter* and the City's election [webpage](#) have more detailed information.

We Belong Here: The Takoma Park Equity Walk

In January 2020 America Walks, an organization dedicated to advancing safe, equitable, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk, awarded \$1500 to Takoma Park Safe Routes to School to construct a half-mile equity-themed fitness route. We are calling it We Belong Here: The Takoma Park Equity Walk.

The Equity Walk offers a safe space for discussion and exploration of equity issues. One route intersects with the two elementary schools, the middle school, Community Center, Library and Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park. A second route, along Anne Street, adjoins the Crossroads Farmers Market.

To guide users through the route, an interactive [StoryMap](#) (in English, Spanish and Amharic) can be accessed with a smartphone via a QR code on a marker on the ground. Walkers can click on any station marker to pull up prompts for exploration and discussion. Below, and on the We Belong Here StoryMap, you will also find resources for continued learning and suggested age-appropriate literature compiled by our Takoma Park librarians. A print version will be available for individuals without digital access.

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/we-belong-here-the-takoma-park-equity-walk/>



Government > Housing and Community Development > Planning and Community Development > We Belong Here: The Takoma Park Equity Walk

WE BELONG HERE: THE TAKOMA PARK EQUITY WALK

In January 2020 America Walks, an organization dedicated to advancing safe, equitable, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk, awarded \$1500 to Takoma Park Safe Routes to School to construct a half-mile equity-themed fitness route. We are calling it **We Belong Here: The Takoma Park Equity Walk**.

The intention is to offer residents a safe space for discussion and exploration of equity issues. One route intersects with the two elementary schools, the middle school, Community Center, Library and Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park. A second route, along Anne Street, adjoins a weekly farmer's market.

Students, teachers, and parents can begin the route at any point to enjoy a 15-30-minute walk enhanced with fitness activities in the form of stencils on the sidewalk and equity-themed discussion prompts.

To guide users through the route, an **interactive StoryMap** can be accessed with a smartphone via a QR code on a marker on the ground. Walkers can click on any station marker to pull up prompts for exploration and discussion. Below, and on the **We Belong Here StoryMap**, you will also find resources for continued learning and **suggested age-appropriate literature** compiled by our Takoma Park librarians. A print version will be available for individuals without digital access.



Equity Walk

Search:

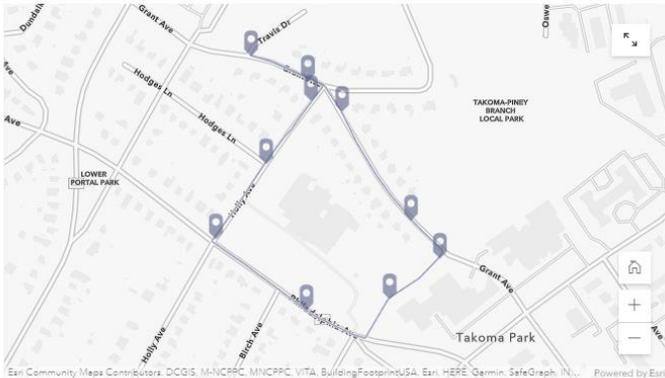
Trail Location	Location	Directions	Discussion Prompts	Quotes
Taking Steps				
	By the Community Center Basketball Court	Step from stone to stone. Only step on the big stones, only step on the small stones.	What makes you feel successful? What makes you feel proud?	<i>"Real change, enduring change happens one step at a time."</i> -Ruth Bader Ginsburg
	Anne Street	Pick a color and only step on that color.	What are your goals? Think about baby steps versus giant leaps. How does it feel to challenge yourself?	Book Suggestions
Bursting Bubbles				
	Near the Takoma Park Library Entrance	Jump on the bubble to burst stereotypes and make affirmations: Shred the Word, Black Lives Matter, Girl Power, I Belong, You Belong, We Belong.	What is a stereotype? What is an assumption? What is bias? What is prejudice? What is discrimination?	<i>"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."</i> -James Baldwin
	Anne Street	Think up your own thing to say as you "pop" the bubbles.	What is an affirmation?	Book Suggestions

Anne Street Stations



Anne St Locations between Kennewick Ave and University Boulevard

Community Center Stations



Takoma Park Community Center Locations (Philadelphia Ave, Holly Ave, & Grant Ave)