

South Knoll Area Neighborhood Plan Fact Sheet

BICYCLING & WALKING

The Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Greenways Master Plan, an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan, provides guidance on how to improve the bicycling, walking, and the greenway system in the City of College Station. The goals of the plan are to improve connectivity and accessibility, increase safety, increase bicycling and walking outdoors, and encourage environmental stewardship.

Definition of Terms

- **Bike Lane** – A designated part of the roadway, typically 5-7 feet in width, that is striped, signed and has pavement markings to be used exclusively by bicyclists. A proposed bike lane would remove parking on both sides of a street.
- **Bike Route** – A roadway designated with signage that is shared by both bicyclist and motor vehicles. Typically, the road will have lower traffic speeds and volumes or may be a common route for bicyclists through a high-demand area.
- **Multi-use Paths/Greenway Trails** – All weather and accessible paths shared by bicyclists and pedestrians along a greenway or road corridor. They are also known as greenway trails that follow linear open space corridors along natural features such as creeks and rivers and the associated floodplain or riparian buffer.
- **Sidewalk** – Paved walkways alongside roads typically 5-8 feet wide for pedestrians.

Just the facts:

Below are facilities that currently exist and are proposed in your neighborhood. Input from YOU through this neighborhood planning process will help improve what is proposed to best meet your biking and walking needs.

Existing

- ❖ There are 3.2 **miles of bike lanes** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ There are 5.3 **miles of bike routes** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ There are 2.5 **miles of multi-use paths** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ There are 13.4 **miles of sidewalks** in the South Knoll Area

Proposed

- ❖ **Bike Lanes** -There is 1 mile proposed in the South Knoll Area, as follows:
 - Proposed: Glade Street and Brentwood Drive
- ❖ **Bike Routes** - There are 2 miles proposed in the South Knoll Area, as follows:
 - Proposed: Southwest Parkway
- ❖ **Multi-use Paths** -There are .67 miles proposed in the South Knoll Area, as follows:
 - Proposed: Bee Creek
- ❖ **Sidewalks** - There are 3.3 miles proposed in the South Knoll Area, as follows:
 - Proposed: Anderson Street; Dexter Drive, Haines Drive, Caudill Street, Southwest Parkway, Guadalupe Drive, Hondo, Drive, Southwood Drive, Nueces Drive, and Brentwood Drive.

Did You Know...?

- ❖ Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motor vehicles.
- ❖ Generally speaking, children under 9 years of age lack the hearing, peripheral vision and judgment capabilities necessary for them to be able to safely navigate busy streets.
- ❖ According to a study conducted by the Texas transportation Institute in 2005, almost 2,000 bicycle commuters enter campus every day – many of which come from/through this neighborhood.
- ❖ All streets in the City are swept once per month.

Who Do I Call?

Public Works 979.764.3690 – road (bike lane striping or bike route signs, sidewalk issues or concerns)

For Bike Maps – 979.764.3570

The City Bike Map can be found at www.cstx.gov/bikepedgreenways.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT

The City of College Station Code Enforcement Division is the “one stop shop” for premise code enforcement issues and is responsible for compliance with City codes and ordinances. The City has four Code Enforcement Officers, all licensed by the Texas Department of Health. Two Code Enforcement Officers are specifically assigned to areas that encompass the South Knoll Area Neighborhood. The most common violations include:

- ❖ Overflowing trash containers
- ❖ Parking in the Yard
- ❖ Property Maintenance
- ❖ Open storage – openly storing items
- ❖ Illegal Signs posted in yards and on street poles
- ❖ Tall Weeds & Grass

The City’s Code Enforcement Officers enforce the Property Maintenance Code, which requires certain maintenance standards for fences, exterior walls, roofs, and driveways. They are also responsible for enforcing the City’s Rental Registration ordinance, which requires all single-family homes and duplexes that are not owner occupied to register with the City and provide a local contact person.

Just The Facts:

- ❖ 97% Compliance within 30 days or less
- ❖ 96% Proactive Enforcement
- ❖ 99% Voluntary Compliance
- ❖ 100% of complaints investigated within 48 hours
- ❖ Over 11,000 Code Enforcement cases City-wide per year
- ❖ 536 Registered Single-Family / Duplex Rental units (47%) in the South Knoll Area

Violation Procedure:

- ❖ The City leaves a door hanger on the offending residence
- ❖ The City makes personal contact -education
- ❖ A letter is sent to both the tenant and owner
- ❖ A Citation is issued or the property is mowed and a bill is sent to the owner

Did You Know....?

The most common Code Enforcement violations are sanitation related, which include containers left at the curb, theft of service, and open storage. The second most common type of violation is related to health and safety, and include litter, stagnant water, and tall weeds & grass.

Who Do I Call?

Code Enforcement 979.764.6363 - Tall grass, open storage, parking in the yard, property maintenance, illegal signs, trash containers, etc.

The Police Department (non-emergency line) 979.764.3600 – Loud music, noise, illegally parked vehicles

Animal Control (in the Police Department) 979.764.3600 - Animal Complaints (barking, loose animal)

You can report Code violations on-line at <http://seeclickfix.com/college-station>.

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INFRASTRUCTURE & INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

Generally, the City of College Station is responsible for maintaining public infrastructure, including streets, sidewalks, water lines, wastewater lines, fire hydrants, street lights, and traffic lights. Most infrastructure is on a maintenance schedule, meaning it will be repaired or replaced before it fails. Emergency repairs or replacement are generally initiated by a citizen phone call.

Because South Knoll is an older area, with older infrastructure, the characteristics of the streets, placement of sidewalks, and locations of utilities are unique as compared to more recently developed parts of the City.

Just the Facts:

- ❖ 286 miles of streets in the City—**23.1 miles of streets** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ 130 miles of sidewalks in the City—**13.4 miles of sidewalks** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ 395 miles of water lines in the City—**29.9 miles of water lines** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ 313 miles of wastewater lines in the City—**24.2 miles of wastewater lines** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ 2,596 fire hydrants in the City—**213 fire hydrants** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ 5,409 streetlights in the City—**534 streetlights** in the South Knoll Area
- ❖ 85 traffic lights in the City- **19 traffic lights** in the South Knoll Area

How Does The City Decide When And Where To Place A Traffic Signal?

A new traffic signal or stop sign must be justified by a **warrant study** that examines a number of factors including the amount of traffic, the number of pedestrians, pedestrian characteristics (such as a crosswalk), the time of peak traffic, crash history at the intersection, and the roadway network that the intersection ties into.

Street Maintenance

An asphalt street generally has a life of 20 to 25 years. That period of time can be extended with preventive maintenance such as crack sealing, micro-surfacing, mill and overlays, and pothole repair. The City conducts an annual evaluation of streets and rates each street on a variety of criteria such as cracking, potholes, and other issues that require maintenance. The ratings are programmed into a 5 year street maintenance plan that contains strategies ranging from crack sealing up to a full overlay, and the street is programmed for maintenance. The majority of the maintenance consists of repairing potholes and crack sealing. Prioritization is based on the evaluation and on the amount of traffic that utilizes the street. A arterial or collector like Southwest Parkway or Longmire will receive a higher prioritization compared to a short residential street like a cul-de-sac that experiences much less traffic and subsequent wear.

Utility Maintenance

While it is estimated that new utility lines have a 50-75 year life span, utility lines in older parts of the City were often made of clay, which has a shorter life span and can be problematic with College Station's

shifting soil. Many patches and spot repairs have been done on lines in the area to extend the life of the older utilities. Utilities in portions of the South Knoll Area are currently being replaced with new lines. The City periodically tests its utility lines to ensure that they are working properly. Fire hydrants are inspected and flow tested each year. Maintenance and painting are scheduled as needed, based on the inspections.

Streetlight Maintenance

The City uses an automated system with a sensor on each street light that reports whether the light is in working or non-working order. The Public Utilities Department also relies on information from citizens about lights that are not working properly. Street light repair is a high priority and repairs generally occur within 36 hours.

Capital Improvements in the South Knoll Area

Recent completed projects in the area include:

- Southwood 5-7 Rehab in 2012 – rehabilitation of water and wastewater lines in the vicinity of Southwest Parkway, FM2818, Glade Street, Welsh Avenue, and Shadowood Drive.
- New traffic light at Texas Avenue and Krenek Tap at the edge of the planning area.
- Bike loop and Bee Creek Bridge – Bee Creek Park
- Hike and Bike Trail (Multi-Use Path) along Harvey Mitchell Parkway
- Hike and Bike Trail (Multi-Use Path) to Southwest Park
- Adamson Lagoon Bathhouse

Projects Underway:

- A utility rehab is currently underway for South Knoll / The Glade. This project includes the rehabilitation of water and wastewater lines in the Southwood area, in the vicinity of Haines Street, Southwest Parkway, Glade Street, and Langford Street. Construction is anticipated to be complete in about a year.
- Bee Creek Parallel Trunk Line – This project will install a gravity sewer line to increase the system capacity of the Bee Creek Trunkline Sub-basin. Phase I begins this year and spans from the Carter Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant to Welsh Avenue. Phase II is anticipated to start construction next year and will span from Welsh Avenue to areas north of Wellborn Road.

Did You Know...?

- ❖ All streets in the City are swept once per month!
- ❖ Pothole reported will be repaired within 48 hours! Thousands of potholes of varying size and shape are patched each year.

Who Do I Call?

Public Works 979.764.3690 - Pothole, traffic signals or sidewalk issues or concerns

Utility Dispatch 979.746.3638 - Street lights, power outage

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PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of College Station utilizes geographic policing, meaning that the City is divided into three sectors with each sector under the command of a Police Lieutenant. The Sectors are then divided into a total of eight beats, each with a Patrol Sergeant. The public safety concerns in South Knoll vary from area to area, but are generally similar to concerns in other areas of College Station.

Just the Facts:

Police

- ❖ **Chief of Police:** Jeff Capps
- ❖ **120** Police Officers City-wide
- ❖ City is divided into **8 beats**, each with a team including a Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Officers, Detectives, Traffic Enforcement, and Animal Control
- ❖ The South Knoll Area is within **Sector B**, Lieutenant Rodney Sigler
- ❖ The South Knoll Area is within **40 & 50 Police Beats**
 - **Beat 40**, Sergeant Matthew Ford – west of Dexter Drive
 - **Beat 50**, Sergeant Roy Shelton – east of Dexter Drive
- ❖ Average number of offences per year in the South Knoll Area from 2008-2012:
 - Burglary or Theft (247)
 - Assault (124)
 - Criminal Mischief or Trespass (275)
 - Warrant Arrest (88)
 - Drug related offences (80)
 - Alcohol related offences (94)
 - Harassment (26)
 - Disorderly Conduct (8)
 - Other (810)

Fire

- ❖ **Fire Chief:** Robert Alley
- ❖ **123** Certified Firefighters
- ❖ College Station currently has **6 fire stations**.
- ❖ The South Knoll Area is served by **Fire Station No. 1** (Holleman Drive East) and **Fire Station No. 2** (Rio Grande)
- ❖ An average of 623 service calls per year in the South Knoll Area from 2007-2011. Approximately 65% of the calls were for EMS service.

What Are the Most Common Public Safety Issues Raised By South Knoll Area Residents?

Parking: Parking complaints are common throughout the South Knoll Area and are most common during football season. Several streets in the South Knoll Area have had parking removed from at least one side of the street, but most streets allow on-street parking. Parking may be removed by City ordinance if a safety evaluation concludes that emergency services cannot be adequately provided.

Speeding: South Knoll Area residents cite speeding within the neighborhood as a primary safety concern, particularly on the main north/south roadways, such as Glade Street and Welsh Avenue. Traffic calming measures can sometimes be used to deter speeding. One of the easiest and least expensive ways to slow down traffic is to allow on-street parking.

Noise Complaints: All areas of the South Knoll Area have a fair number of issues with loud parties, similar to other areas of College Station.

Did You Know...?

You can report animal violations, offense and incidents and traffic complaints on-line!

www.cstx.gov – Police Department – On-line Reporting

Who Do I Call?

Non-Emergency Police: 979.764.3600

Fire Department Public Information Officer: 979-764-3708

