

Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility

For members of Ohev Sholom National Synagogue

Introduction

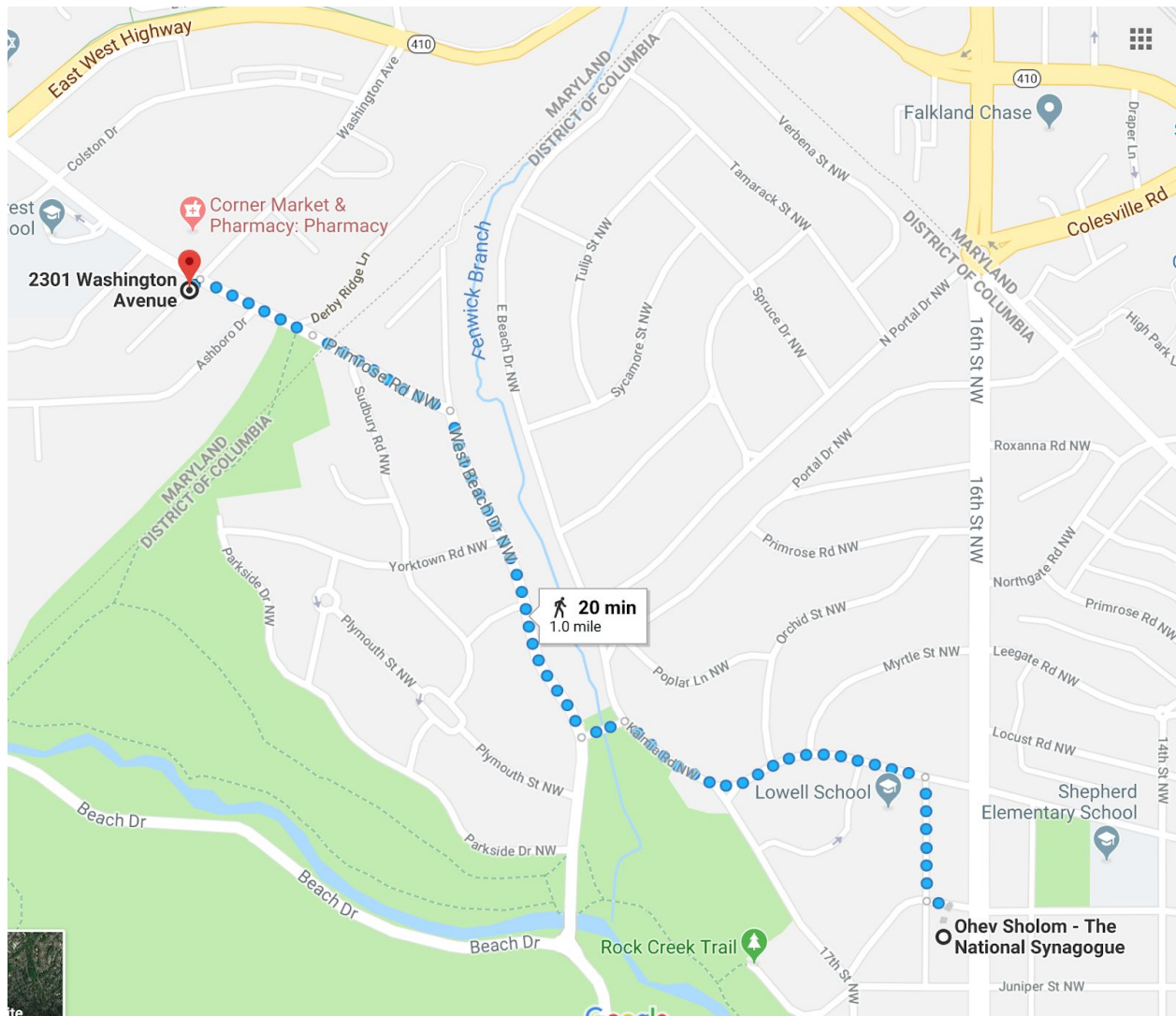


The following report documents issues related to pedestrian safety and stroller/wheelchair accessibility along a popular walking route connecting members of Ohev Sholom National Synagogue in Washington DC to surrounding residential neighborhoods in DC and Montgomery County.

Ohev Sholom is a Modern Orthodox Jewish synagogue located at 16th Street NW and Jonquil Street NW in Washington DC. The synagogue has 1,011 members, including many families with young children and elderly citizens up to age 105, who largely refrain from the use of cars and electricity on Shabbat and Jewish holidays. Accordingly, they have no choice but to walk, push strollers and roll wheelchairs to synagogue. As a result, pedestrian safety and wheelchair and stroller accessibility are paramount concerns.

The popular walking route includes two streets with insufficient or inaccessible sidewalks: (1) West Beach Drive NW between the Kalmia Bridge and Primrose Road NW, and (2) Primrose Road NW between West Beach Drive NW and Derby Ridge Lane. These streets are not only used by synagogue members but many neighborhood residents who use the path as a central pedestrian artery to access public transportation on 16th Street. Included herein is a listing of issues with photos, locations, narrative descriptions of the problems and suggested solutions.

The Walking Route



This map shows a popular and most direct walking route connecting the Ohev Shalom National Synagogue and residential neighborhoods of Colonial Village in DC and Rock Creek Forest in Maryland. The following includes pictures and narrative descriptions of the pressing issues posing the greatest threat to pedestrian safety and wheelchair/stroller accessibility.

Issue 1



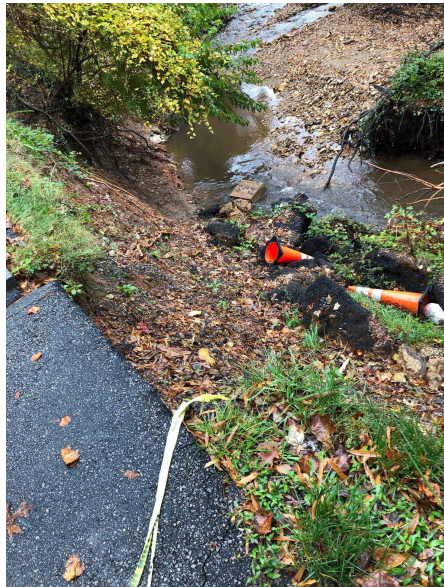
Utility pole on east side of West Beach Drive, across the street from residence of 1821 Sudbury Lane, is located within the sidewalk, fully blocking stroller and wheelchair access. We recommend that the pole be moved or the sidewalk widened.

Issue 2



Utility pole on east side of West Beach Drive, at the precise intersection of the 8000 block of W. Beach Dr. NW and the 1800 block of Sudbury Ln. NW, is located on the edge of the sidewalk, partially blocking stroller and wheelchair access. We recommend that the pole be moved or the sidewalk widened.

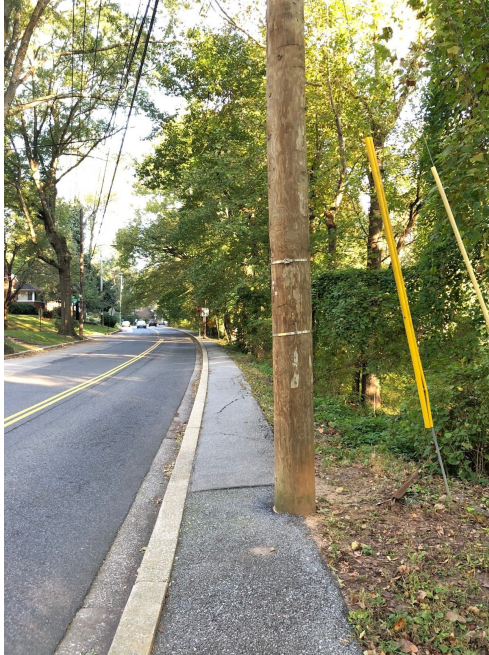
Issue 3



View of sidewalk at street level (Upper left image). View from street level down to forested area below (Upper right image). View of fallen tree and root structure (Lower left image).

Also on the east side of West Beach Dr. NW, at the intersection of the 8000 block of W. Beach Dr. NW and the 1800 block of Sudbury Ln. NW, is a treacherous stretch of unsupported sidewalk along a 25 foot precipice that descends sharply towards a rocky and forested median below, as a result of a recently fallen tree. We recommend immediate erection of a temporary fence to block off this area, followed by prompt repair of the sidewalk.

Issue 4



Utility pole on east side of West Beach Dr. NW, across the street from the residence of 8010 West Beach Dr. NW, is located on the edge of the sidewalk, partially blocking stroller and wheelchair access. We recommend that the pole be moved or the sidewalk widened.

Issue 5



A small utility pole and stop sign on the east side of West Beach Dr. NW, at the intersection of the 8000 block of W. Beach Dr. NW and the 1800 block of Yorktown Rd. NW, are located in the middle of the sidewalk, **fully** blocking stroller and wheelchair access. We recommend that the pole be moved or the sidewalk widened.

Issue 6



There are numerous areas along the east side of West Beach Dr. NW between the Kalmia Bridge and Primrose Road where the sidewalk is crumbling, therefore making stroller and wheelchair access very difficult. This issue is particularly acute at the intersection of the 8000 block of W. Beach Dr. NW and the 1800 block of Yorktown Rd. NW. We recommend that the stretch of sidewalk on the east side of W. Beach Dr. between the Kalmia Bridge and Primrose Road NW be repaired.

Issue 7



The sidewalk on the east side of West Beach Dr. NW, across from the residence of 8114 West Beach Dr. NW, has a lip between the sidewalk pavement and the stormwater catch basin, making wheelchair and stroller access difficult. We recommend that the pavement be repaired to offer a smooth transition.

Issue 8



The sidewalk on the east side of West Beach Dr NW, across from the residence of 8142 West Beach Dr. NW has a lip between the sidewalk pavement and the stormwater catch basin, making wheelchair and stroller access difficult. We recommend that the pavement be repaired to offer a smooth transition.

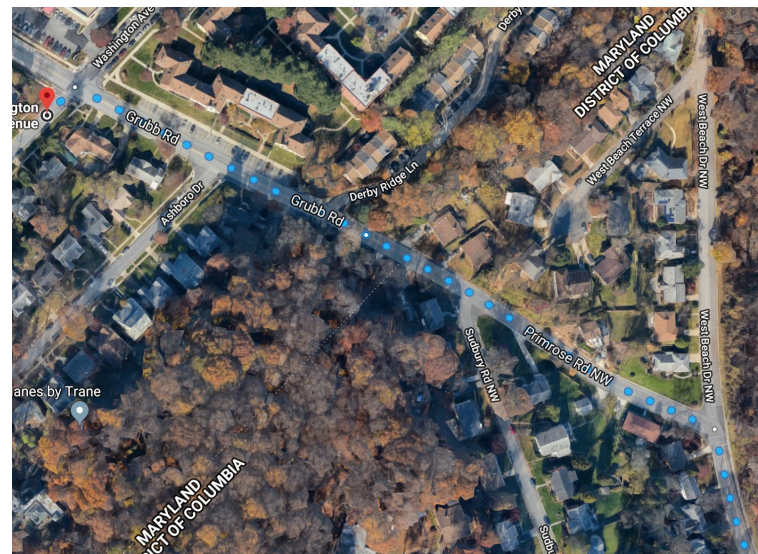
Issue 9



There is no sidewalk on Primrose Road NW between the 8200 block of West Beach Dr. NW and Derby Ridge Lane. DDOT pedestrian policy states, “There shall be a sidewalk on at least one side of every street or roadway where pedestrians are legally permitted in the District of Columbia.”¹

Therefore, we would like a sidewalk added, ideally on the west side of Primrose Road NW, to eventually connect to an existing sidewalk on Grubb Road at Washington Ave. Primrose Road NW becomes Grubb Road over the Montgomery County line. Many synagogue members live on the west side of Primrose Road NW and Grubb Road so a sidewalk along this side of the street is ideal. The lack of

sidewalks poses a significant threat to pedestrian safety and accessibility due to poor visibility resulting from the sloped nature of the street and overgrown foliage from Rock Creek Forest National Park, and fast traffic pattern. There are no stop signs or speed bumps in this area of Primrose Road NW.



¹ The District Department of Transportation’s Sidewalk Installation Guidelines and Policy available online at <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/sidewalk-installation-guidelines-and-policy>