

Those with mobility challenges and seniors need to be able to walk without the hazards that currently exist on every block in Eugene, Oregon.

Around our parks, libraries, and the downtown Post Office...some of our most heavily used pedestrian areas... there are degraded, dangerous sidewalks.

Why is this critical? Because nearly everyone I know has fallen and been injured OR knows someone who has. I have a plate and seven screws in my right wrist from a sidewalk fall. Seniors especially need to walk. It is the best option for maintaining our health (think osteoporosis, heart disease, dementia, obesity, depression and isolation). Walking is needed to combat each. And it gives us a way to fight climate change by getting out of our cars.

Currently, there is no plan in place for eliminating these hazards because property owners are expected to provide upkeep to a part of the transportation system used by all. Eugene is proud of being awarded the 'Tree City USA' award each year for many decades, but most of the sidewalk hazards are created by tree roots, planted on City property by the city or a partner organization. We need trees for climate change but the cost of fixing the sidewalks is substantial and should not fall on the shoulders of property owners - many of whom simply can not afford it. Other cities around the country have found a non-regressive solution. Please, for those of us who cannot ride a bike, give us a safe way to improve our health and well being by finding and implementing repair and maintenance of our sidewalks!

Thank you!

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