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PRINCIPLES of HEALTHY WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

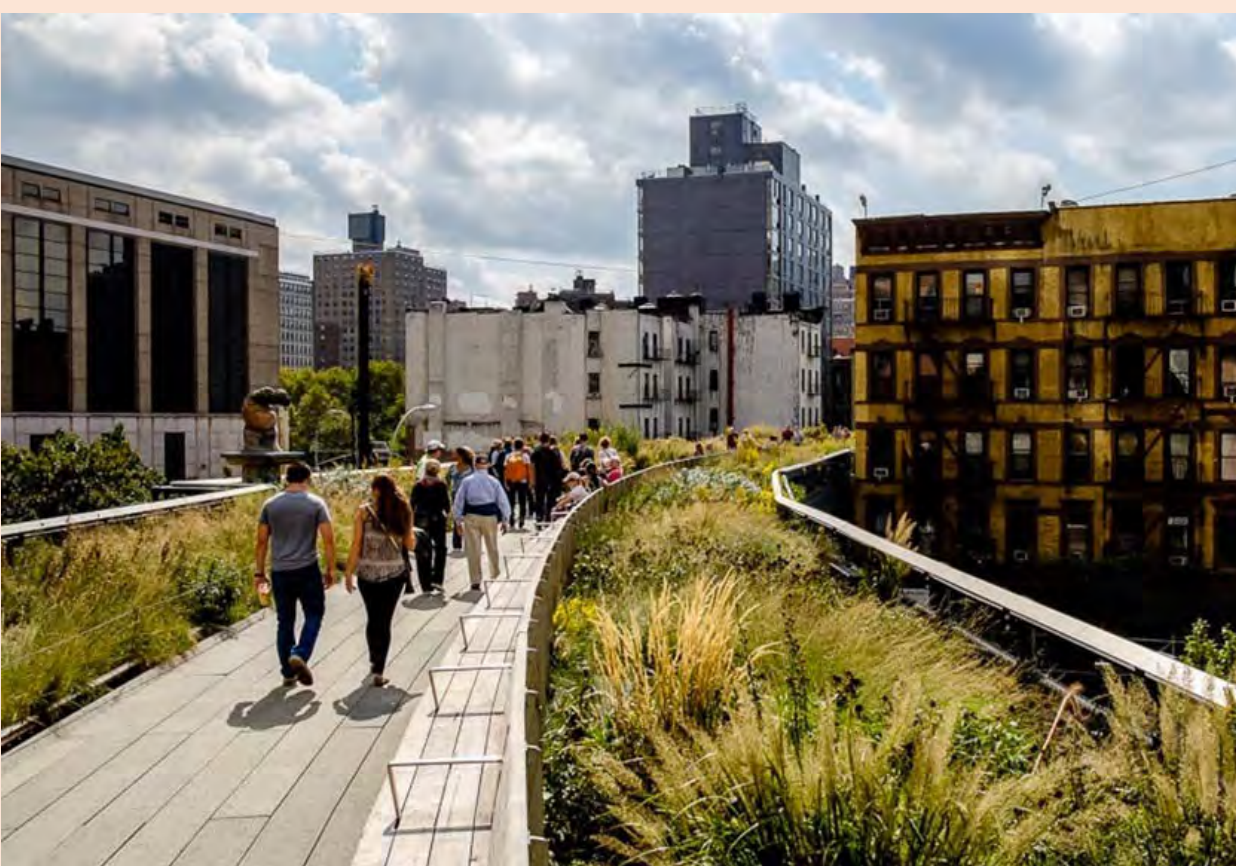


1. Design for multi-modal transportation

People are more likely to choose active transportation modes if they know they have options for getting around. Have you ever visited a city and walked around all day and then decided you were tired and took transit or Uber back to your hotel? Making those kind of choices convenient and safe builds a healthy community.

2. Design for bikes

Building facilities for biking has proven to encourage biking, reduce accidents, and calm traffic. Clearly defined space for bikes removes the confusion for drivers and bikes and often on-street bike lanes have the added benefit of creating a buffer between the sidewalk and the road.



3. Develop a robust street grid network

Most planned cities are laid out on a grid street system with short block lengths for efficiency reasons, but it is especially beneficial for active modes of transportation. Cul-de-sacs, loops and dead end streets force all the traffic into a few cross-town connectors whereas a grid distributes traffic more evenly and makes walking faster and more direct.

4. Create linkages

Have you ever gone "off road" and made your own path from one place to another. Formalizing those paths or reclaiming space to make more direct or more interesting connections can turn them into community assets. Think of the High Line project in Manhattan, a Rails to Trails path or the Big Dig project in Boston that resulted in the Greenway. Can you think of any places on Maui that could be turned into linkages?



5. Create comfortable sidewalks

Sidewalks should be wide enough for two people to walk side-by-side comfortably. They should be a smooth, even surface with some type of protective barrier between the vehicle travel lane and the pedestrian path. This could be a landscaped strip, a line of street trees, a bike lane or on-street parking.

6. Streets must be crossable with ease

The best place to cross a street is where a street is narrow and there are as few vehicle turning movements as possible. With design tools like curb extensions shown in the photo, clearly marked sidewalks, median islands and mid-block crossings, getting around town on foot can be a breeze.



7. Calm the traffic but keep it moving

Traffic moves more efficiently when it makes very few stops but moves slowly and steadily through a community. When traffic control devices force traffic to stop and then speed to the next stop sign or light it creates noise, congestion and hot tempers. Changing the geometry of the road for slower speeds improves the experience for the driver and the pedestrian.

8. Plant trees

The simplest of all the principles but the easiest and most immediately effective. Trees shelter us, cool the surface of the street and sidewalk, and clean the air. Planting trees between the road and the sidewalk creates an effective buffer while also serving to visually narrow the street, which causes drivers to slow down.



9. Develop streets with multiple uses

Neighborhoods that are active during the daytime, evenings and weekends are the safest and the most interesting. A mixed-use neighborhood with commercial uses on lower levels and residential above or small lot housing with a with a corner store make it easy to walk to meet your daily needs.

10. Incorporate public space

Spaces where the public is invited to sit, socialize and recreate within a community are what defines the character of a neighborhood and builds the social fabric. Public spaces can be as small as a bench on the street, as intimate as a sidewalk café or as intentional as a park. What is your favorite public space?