

**AGENDA: TSC 3/3/14**

ITEM NO. 3: Consider request to establish NO PARKING along one side of Hilltop Drive between Harvard Road and Oxford Road.

Staff Report:

1. Hilltop Drive is classified as a "local" street in a residential area paved approximately 25 feet wide.
2. Parking is currently permitted along both sides of Hilltop Drive.

**MINUTES: TSC 3/3/14**

ITEM NO. 3:

Consider request to establish NO PARKING along one side of Hilltop Drive between Harvard Road and Oxford Road.

Woosley reviewed the information provided in the staff report and noted the receipt of two (2) e-mail's concerning the request; one (1) in opposition and one (1) in support.

Public Comment:

Sarah Martin, 1108 Hilltop Drive: I won't rehash my letter, but most importantly, it has become a frustration getting into and out of my driveway; it's primarily the school traffic that's parking on this block on both sides; I fell like, at some point, I'm going to hit someone at the end of my driveway; I feel limiting the parking on at least one side would help, whether that's all the time or during certain hours of the day.

An unidentified resident of Hilltop Drive indicated that she supported the request.

Commission Discussion:

Commissioner Devlin asked if it was a problem during KU athletic events; Martin advised that it does fill-up on a football day, but, that's to be expected.

Commissioner Storm asked if there was a preference as to which side of the street to restrict; Martin noted that the sidewalk is on the east side of the street.

Commissioner Boley asked about restricting the parking from 7am-5pm Mon-Fri; Martin advised that would help; we don't see much problem after hours or on weekends.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BOLEY, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER HARDEN, TO RECOMMEND ESTABLISHING NO PARKING 7AM-5PM MON-FRI ALONG THE WEST SIDE OF HILLTOP DRIVE BETWEEN HARVARD ROAD AND OXFORD ROAD; THE MOTION CARRIED, 8-0.**

## David Woosley

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**From:** David D Willig <dwillig@kc.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 02, 2014 11:20 PM  
**To:** David Woosley  
**Cc:** David Woosley  
**Subject:** Opposition to request - Hilltop Drive Parking Restrictions... March 3rd Traffic Safety Commission  
**Attachments:** 140302 Willig 1127 Hilltop ltr re Parking Restrictions.docx

Mr. Woolsey:

Please confirm receipt of this email and the attached correspondence in opposition to the request. . Please forward to Mr. Rothrock, whom I had the pleasure of speaking to at home this evening. Sadly, like myself he will be unable to attend the meeting. Please forward to and please cc me, to all the other Commissioners since their contact information, like the agenda for this meeting is not available on the city's site as of this writing.

Very much concerned with the request and the manner it was rushed as far as notification to the adjoining stakeholders. By way of this e-mail I request complete service on any items present or future regarding this item.

Sincerely,

<ddw>

David and Lisa Willig  
1127 Hilltop Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66044

Cell 913 221-8614

Traffic Safety Commission – Edwin Rothrock - Chair  
City of Lawrence  
6 East 6th Street  
Lawrence, KS 66044

March 2, 2014

Re: Individual's Petition Hilltop Dr. Parking Restriction(s) – Harvard to Oxford

Dear Traffic Safety Commission Members/Staff:

My wife and I are in receipt of a non-personalized letter postmarked February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 of a meeting occurring, with less than three business days' notice, about an individual seeking parking restrictions on our street. We are unable to attend your meeting.

The request and the one page agenda are wholly unclear in regards to scope, distance, timing, season and side of street of these proposed restrictions. Due to a lack of information in the request (no agenda posted on the city website to date) and a lack of involvement or outreach to Hillcrest Elementary School, Hillcrest Neighborhood Association, Mr. Robert Wilson of Bridge Haven Memory Care Residence or residents that I have been able to reach, given the rushed circumstance of the city's notice, we must, at this time oppose, such a request that is bereft of detail, neighborhood outreach and involvement.

It is agreed that there can be challenges for parking on Hilltop as the petitioner points out. These are the down side of the benefit of having a neighborhood elementary school but we feel its value far outweighs the challenges. The same can be said to our area's proximity to the University, it comes with the overarching value of being in walking distance to campus. These entities were in place long before any of us purchased property in the area. These times I have observed of most challenge are mainly at the start and the end of the elementary school day, especially the end, when parents wait for their children.

Hillcrest Elementary is in the midst of planning for a long awaited addition which will make changes to parking and perhaps flow. I defer to city staff and USD 497 planning expertise on that, but I believe recently some parking may have been altered (lost to parents) for additional parking for buses on the west side of Hilltop Dr. (east side of School) north of Harvard during the construction phase to start soon. The principal at the school, Ms. Tammy Baker, confirms she was unaware of this petition/concern.

The requestor clearly shows there could be better enforcement or education of existing city parking rules especially concerning parking near intersections and stop signs.

Enforcement is a necessity given any parking or traffic circumstance. The current traffic and parking pattern while crowded may even act as a speed calming deterrent. We are not privy to accident or property damage statistics on our street at this writing. In the summer, with less parking, we saw higher speeds, perhaps due to people cutting through off Iowa construction or maybe any evening rush hour as people by-pass the 9<sup>th</sup> and Iowa lights to reach 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Again enforcement on any afternoon at that time might bear fruit.

The petitioner points out the condition of curbs and sidewalks in our area, I am glad she has. I feel however their poor condition falls more at the City of Lawrence's *lack of upkeep* and the passage of nearly 60 years. Quite frankly, *our curbs are non-existent*; they are perhaps one fourth their original depth as a result of layers of overlay and deterioration. I find that drivers really don't know where the street/sidewalk ends because there is little demarcation. And given that there is *very poor street lighting* in the area, it doesn't surprise me in the least the petitioner can illustrate someone missing the area to park and being up on the sidewalk. (I can show you're the ruts in my front yard too!) Also with the poor curbs/gutters comes poor drainage, there are areas on the block in rainy times that do not drain and are iffy for parking in a car side puddle.

I wonder too, if the Alzheimer's group home, though not contacted, but mentioned prominently in this current letter, might find that its resident's loved ones will find it difficult to visit them for lack of parking.

In closing, given the lack of concrete information at hand, the vacuum of adjoining stakeholders input and rushed circumstance, *we must oppose* the effort to restrict parking on Hilltop Drive, Harvard to Oxford at this juncture. We keep an open mind to our neighbors including the requestor, our neighborhood school's opinions, and city professional staff thoughts on the situation, more heads are better than one in a well thought out approach.

Sincerely,

<dw/lw via e-mail>

David and Lisa Willig  
1127 Hilltop Drive  
Lawrence KS, 66044

## David Woosley

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**From:** Mary Curtis <mary@drckansas.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 03, 2014 12:08 PM  
**To:** David Woosley  
**Subject:** Item No. 3: No parking side of Hilltop

I am writing to address the proposed change to make one side of Hilltop Drive between Harvard Road and Oxford Road a “No Parking” zone. I strongly support the requested change. I am a homeowner and resident of that portion of Hilltop Drive. Over the last several years, traffic along Hilltop Drive has increased dramatically, creating a very unsafe situation.

Hilltop is used much more frequently as a parking lot by KU students and employees of Hillcrest Elementary school than it was in the past. The traffic at pickup and drop off times for the elementary school has increased dramatically, as well. During inclement weather this winter, I literally could not get through from my house to Harvard because there were cars parked on both sides of the street and there was not enough space between the parked cars for a single car to pass. On more than one occasion I had to back down the street and turn around and go out the other way. The street is not wide enough to accommodate cars parked on both sides, and yet parents and employees of the school continue to park on both sides and essentially shut down traffic flow on the street at certain times of the day.

Making the parking restricted to one side of the street will also reduce traffic flow on what used to be a quiet residential street. It will reduce the number of cars going up and down the street, because fewer drivers will drive up the street, turn around in one of our driveways, and then drive back down the street looking for spot closer to the elementary school.

I also believe the increased traffic in the area has created a hazardous situation, which would be helped by restricting parking to one side of the street. Parents and employees of the school park all along the street, and around the corners going both ways. The traffic congestion and the proliferation of parked cars make it difficult to see the children, who are walking to and from school. I am frequently startled by a young child entering the roadway from between parked cars, when I could not see the child as I approached, and there is not enough room, with cars on both sides of the street, for me to avoid the child. I drive very slowly and cautiously, but have had several near misses because of the congestion.

Please make one side of Hilltop **No Parking** between Harvard Road and Oxford Road.

Mary Curtis  
1116 Hilltop Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
[mary@drckansas.org](mailto:mary@drckansas.org)

Sarah Martin  
1108 Hilltop Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
sjackson77@yahoo.com

Traffic Safety Commission  
City of Lawrence  
traffic@lawrenceks.org  
dwoosley@lawrenceks.org

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to respectfully request your consideration to limit street parking to one side of the street in the 1100 block of Hilltop Drive. Please find attached photographs of recent parking conditions at the north end of the 1100 block.

Currently, parking is allowed on both sides of the street in this block. Many of the challenges are brought on by the limited parking available at nearby Hillcrest Elementary School. The proximity of this street to the school makes it an ideal parking area for parents and staff associated with the school. As a result, busy periods include weekdays during which school is in session, and particularly at the start and end of school days. Other busy days include those during which the University of Kansas is hosting a football game, but this includes only a handful of Saturdays during the fall.

During these busy periods, automobiles are parked on both sides of the street up to (and occasionally overlapping) residents' driveways. Drivers often park on the curb or sidewalk, presumably due to the narrowness of the street, which has damaged curbing up and down the block.

Why limit parking to one side of the street? Most importantly, emergency and service vehicles need 24-hour access to Hilltop Drive, and the current parking allowances make this difficult. (This block of Hilltop Drive is home to Bridge Haven Memory Care Residence, a home for those with Alzheimer's and memory loss.) Second, maneuvering into and out of driveways with cars parked on both sides of the street is difficult and increases the likelihood of fender benders. Third, an abundance of parked cars limits drivers' visibility of pedestrians and bikers and pose safety risks, and many people walk and bike through this neighborhood. Lastly, it is my opinion that limiting parking to one side of the street should be of minor inconvenience to residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

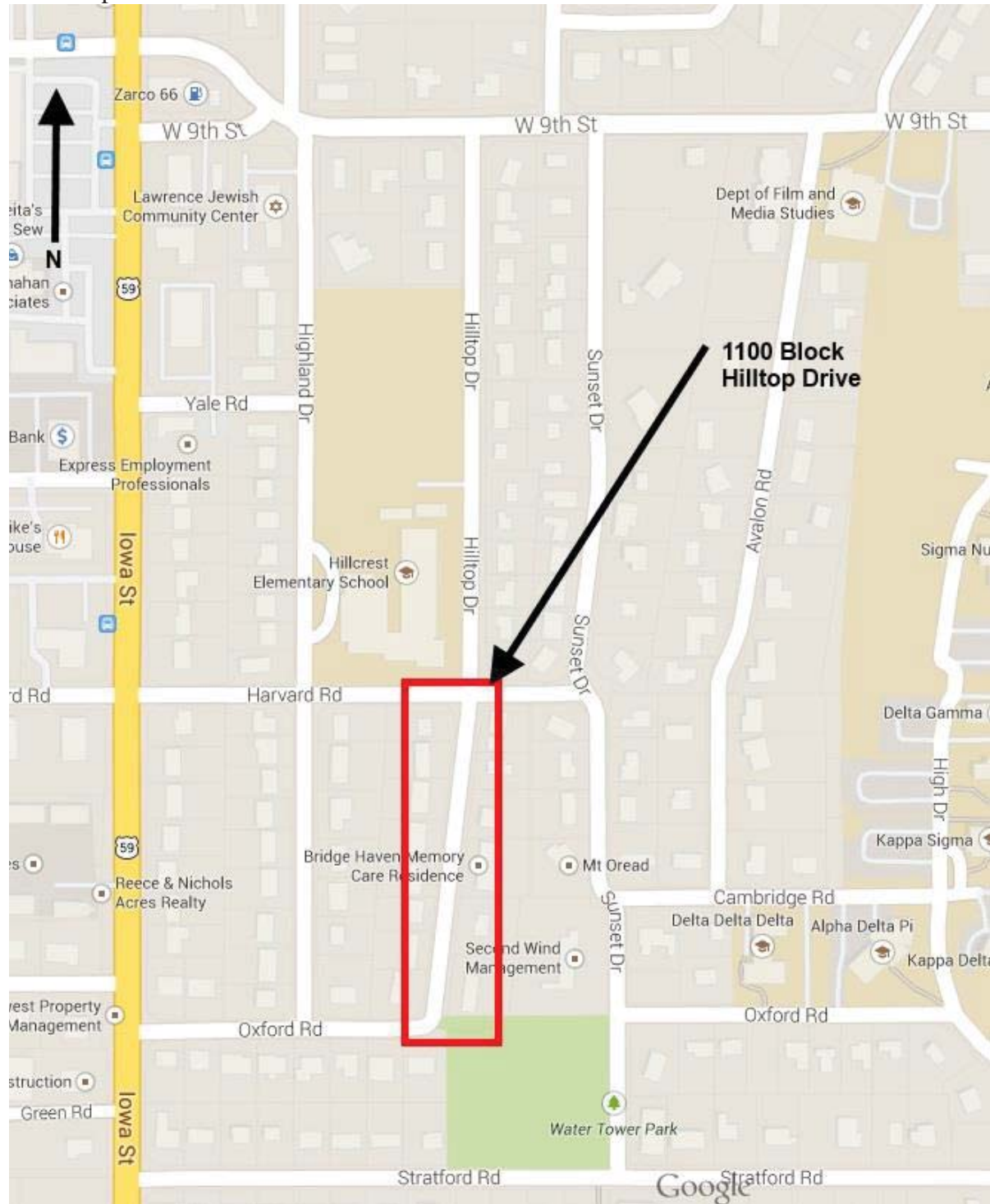
Sincerely Yours,

Sarah Martin, homeowner

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

Area Map



Photographs 1 & 2: Hilltop Drive, facing north toward intersection with Harvard Road. Shows limited room for vehicles to maneuver along Hilltop Drive. 2014.

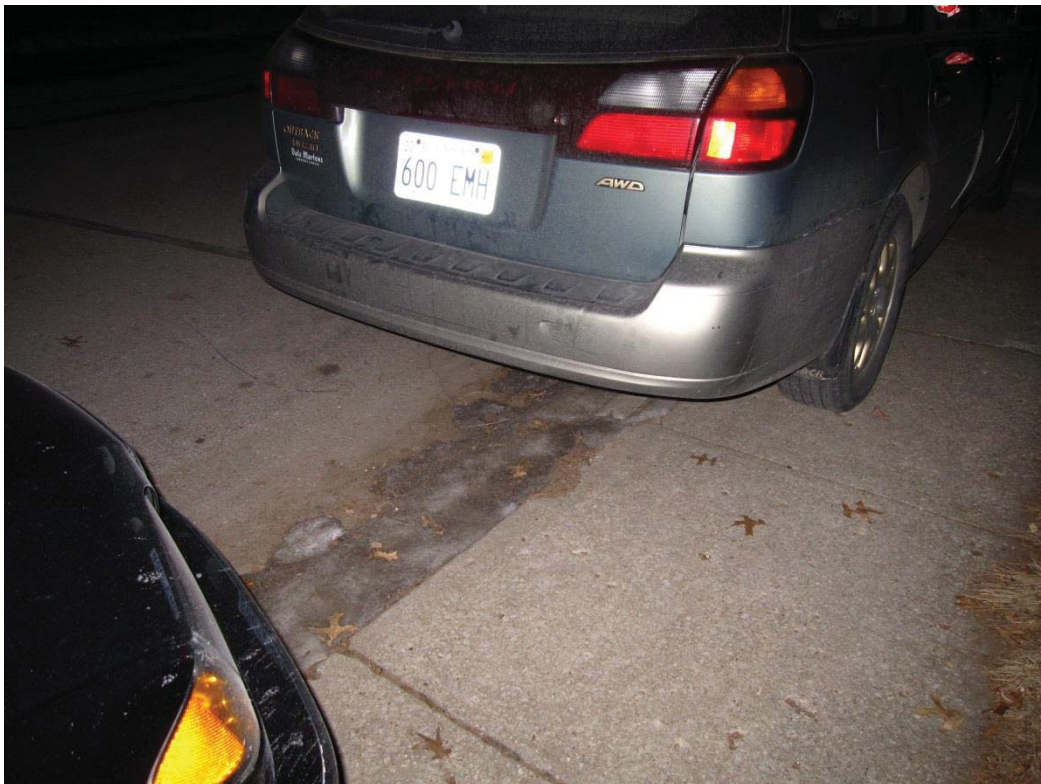




Photographs 3 & 4: Photos taken standing in driveway of 1108 Hilltop Drive, facing west looking at house at 1109 Hilltop Drive. Photo shows cars at both ends of and behind driveway, the volume of cars along the street, and the closeness of cars to one another. 2014.

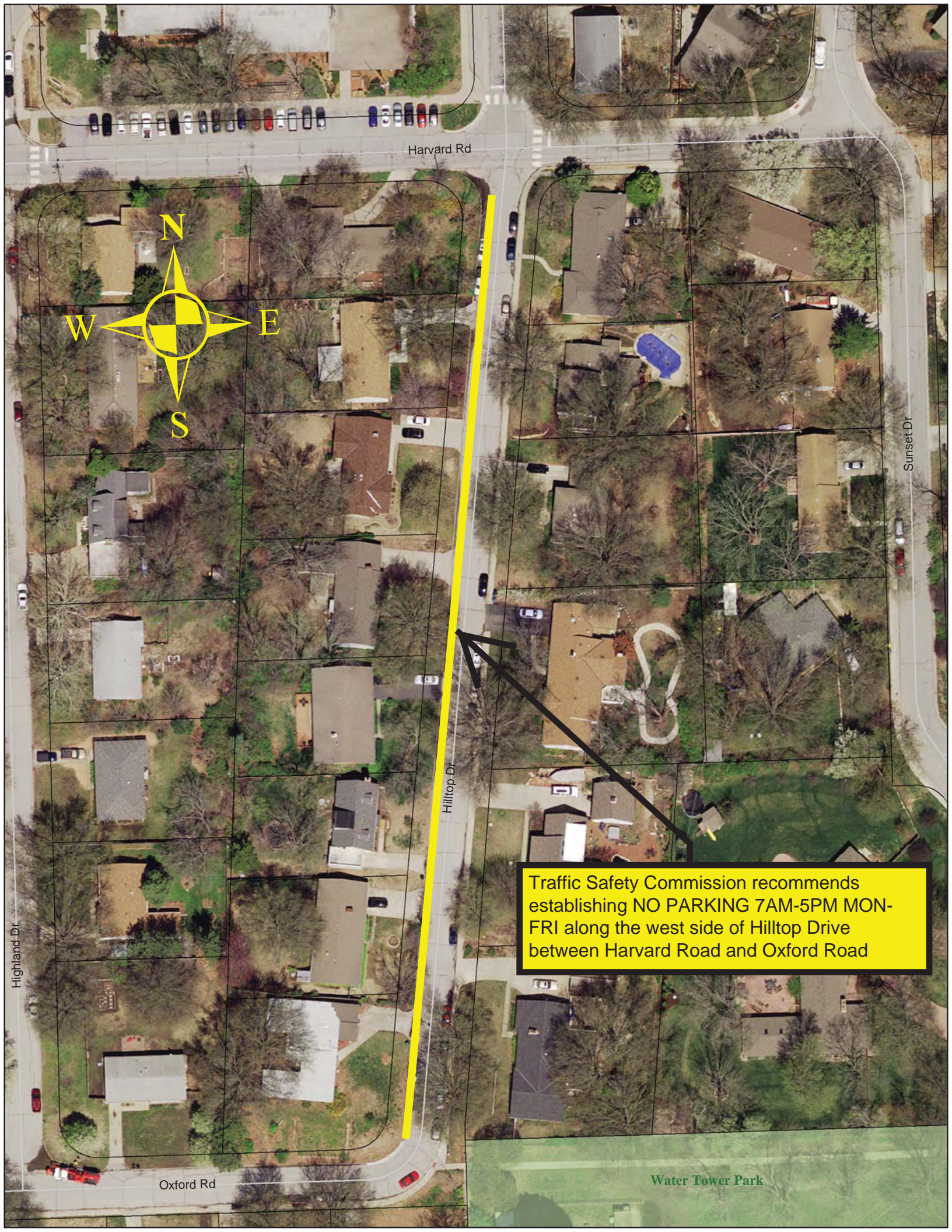


Photographs 4 & 5: Photo taken along sidewalk in front of 1102 Hilltop Drive, facing south. Photos show cars parking on sidewalk.



Photograph 6: Photo taken from Hilltop Drive, facing south toward Oxford Rd. following mid-February 2014 snowstorm. Photo shows same parking challenges among snow piles.





Harvard Rd



Sunset Dr

Hilltop Dr

Traffic Safety Commission recommends establishing NO PARKING 7AM-5PM MON-FRI along the west side of Hilltop Drive between Harvard Road and Oxford Road

Highland Dr

Oxford Rd

Water Tower Park