

ABC's *Good Morning America*

04/22/26

7:54:42 a.m. [TEASE]

5 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 8:12; Can Suburbs Go Car-Free?]

GINGER ZEE: Plus, I'll show you the Arizona suburb that's going car free and how other communities can follow

(...)

8:00:30 a.m. [TEASE]

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Celebrating Earth Day; Car-Free Community]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Celebrating Earth Day with a visit to one car-free community relying on walking and biking. The benefits from saving money on gas to saving the planet, and how other suburbs can take inspiration.

(...)

8:13:12 a.m.

3 minutes and 29 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: *GMA* Cover Story; How One Community Is Going Car-Free]

ROBERTS: We're back now with our *GMA* cover story and this morning as we celebrate and we do celebrate Earth Day, Ginger is bringing us a story about one community that was built to go car-free.

ZEE: Yes, no cars. And we can kind of imagine living that life, but when you go there, it's the silence, the biggest difference, that quiet calm that comes from a community that is car-free. It's kind of hard to imagine, especially with that loud home of traffic that likely awaits you in your city or town this morning, but it is possible to have life without cars. America is a car culture, nearly every community from our cities to our suburban and rural neighborhoods are designed for automobiles. But in Culdesac, a new community in Tempe, Arizona just outside Phoenix, it looks like a lot of new developments, except for one thing: no cars.

RESIDENT JACOB STEINKAMP: I'm starting to realize that being car-free doesn't necessarily mean you can't use cars. [SCREEN WIPE] It just means that you're not owning one, it's not being stored 90 percent of the time in a parking spot. I would say there's more options than you realize out there.

ZEE: Culdesac not only encourages walking and biking, it's built around it. Everything is meant to be walkable, boutiques, a restaurant, farmer's markets, even a plant shop all close to where people live.

RESIDENT ELECTRA HUG: I love this print on the black. [SCREEN WIPE] I don't think we need a car as much as we think. Honestly, it's so fun to just be able to walk to a local coffee shop or go to our neighbor's house.

ZEE: It saves money on gas, insurance, car payments, and is, of course, better for the planet.

STEINKAMP: I would say that going car-free for my wife and I have saved us money.

ZEE: For Jacob Steinkamp, using a bike or electric scooter rather than driving offers other benefits.

STEINKAMP: I do the same route every day and you start to recognize familiar faces, and it's a little bit more friendly than a car. If you wage someone in a car, they're like, "what's that guy doing?" But on a bike or walking, it's just more natural.

ZEE: In 2022, transportation was responsible for a whopping 28 percent of greenhouse gas emissions, and a majority of that comes from our cars and trucks. For 26-year-old Electra Hug, there's one more benefit. She's been blind since she was 16, so spending most of her time away from traffic is a real game changer. Tempe has one of the most extreme climates in the country, with temperatures regularly reaching 100-plus degrees. They say this community was designed to keep things cooler.

CEO & CO-FOUNDER RYAN JOHNSON: We have 55 percent landscape space, and it feels 15 degrees cooler than the project across the street, and that's because there's not a drop of asphalt. There's lots of trees and shade, and also the white reflects heat.

ZEE: But communities like Culdesac aren't possible everywhere since, in some areas, they're actually illegal.

JOHNSON: Through zoning and parking minimums and other rules, we've effectively made it so that you're not allowed to build walkable neighborhoods. And as a result, there's fewer than 10 percent of Americans that get to live in a walkable neighborhood.

ROBERTS: Mmmm!

ZEE: Another perk for people who live in Culdesac? They get a free, unlimited light rail and bus pass —

ROBERTS: Okay!

ZEE: — and they live right on a train route, so you don't have to live in Culdesac to have all of

these things. You can consider shopping local today or every day. Whenever possible, walk or bike, just get in the and out of the car —

ROBERTS: Yeah.

ZEE: — whenever you possibly can.

ROBERTS: Yeah.

ZEE: So, that's the lesson.

ROBERTS: Wow.

ZEE: And we hope to see more like Culdesac.

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah.

LARA SPENCER: Yeah, great story.

ZEE: Thank you.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Definitely. Yeah, that's great.

ROBERTS: I'm just surprised that in some places it's not actually legal.

ZEE: Legal.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Yeah.

ZEE: Because of permitting and rules —

ROBERTS: Wow.

ZEE: — that have been set in place for a very long time.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That's gotta change.

ZEE: Maybe the rules should change.

ROBERTS: Yeah, we needed that. Thank you so much.

ZEE: Yeah, thanks [inaudible]

ROBERTS: I wonder what you were doing out there when you were there for — a while ago. Now we know, now we know.