

2022 Walk Audit Findings

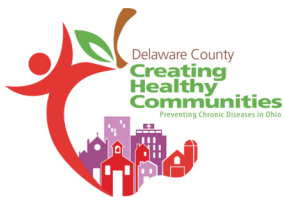
Prepared by Delaware Public Health District & SourcePoint

BACKGROUND

In Fall 2022, the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD), Sourcepoint, and several community partners organized walking audits in the neighborhoods surrounding Woodward Elementary School, the Unity Community Center, and Unity Park in the City of Delaware, Ohio.

A walk audit is a simple process to help assess and provide information on how supportive the street and surrounding environment is for walking. A walk audit surveys a pre-planned route, and documents ways that the environment supports and prohibits walking. Additionally, walk audits can help to understand the environment from an all-ability inclusive perspective. Audit participants included local residents, volunteers, and stakeholders.

This report provides a summary of observations from walk audit participants as well as recommendations for improvements. Recommendations include both short- and long-term solutions to be considered by Delaware City officials and community stakeholders.



CREATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

The CHC program at the Delaware Public Health District (DPHD) works to improve chronic disease in Delaware County by focusing on the policies, systems, and environments that promote healthy eating and active lifestyles.

AGE FRIENDLY DELAWARE COUNTY

SourcePoint leads the AF Initiative in Delaware County by working with community partners to innovate and improve six domains of livability—key areas that influence healthy aging and help ensure an active, safe, and healthy lifestyle for Delaware County residents of all ages



THE AUDIT LOCATION & ROUTES

Red Route:

Ross St, Noble St,
Park Ave, Eaton St.
& S. Liberty St.

Blue Route:

Park Ave, S. Franklin St,
W. Harrison St,
S. Washington St,
S. Liberty St.

Yellow Route:

S. Liberty St, London Rd,
S. Franklin St,
W. Harrison St, &
S. Washington St.

Purple Route:

Ross St, Noble St,
London Rd, S. Liberty,
High Street, Maple St.



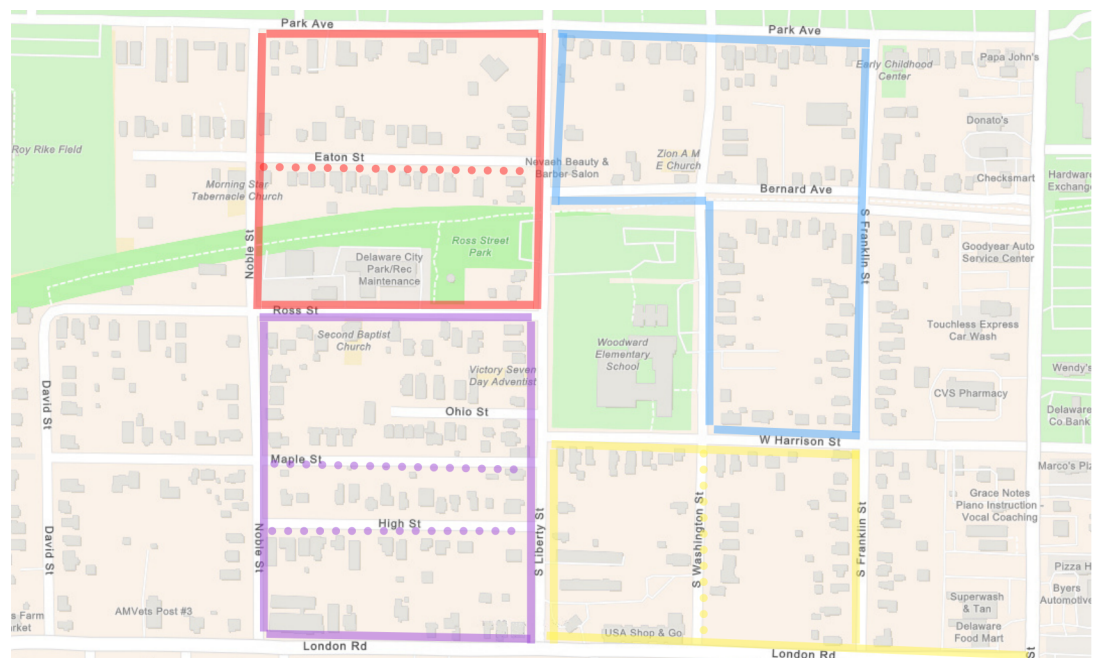
Monday,
October 17,
2022



1:00 PM



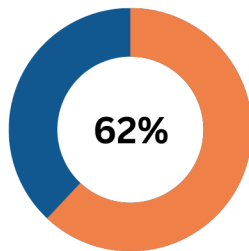
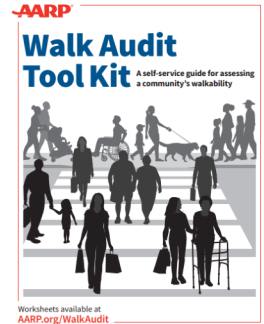
49°F
Cloudy &
Windy



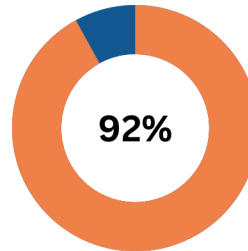
Auditor Summary

Participants, or "Auditors" were provided with two checklist style worksheets, for providing written documentation of their observations.

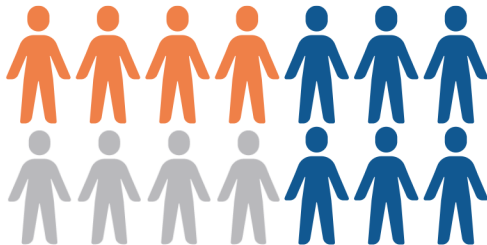
Both worksheets used were resources provided in the AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit. (Pictured, Right) The following is a brief summary of some information provided on the checklists.



Reported sidewalks were not wide enough for two people to walk side-by-side

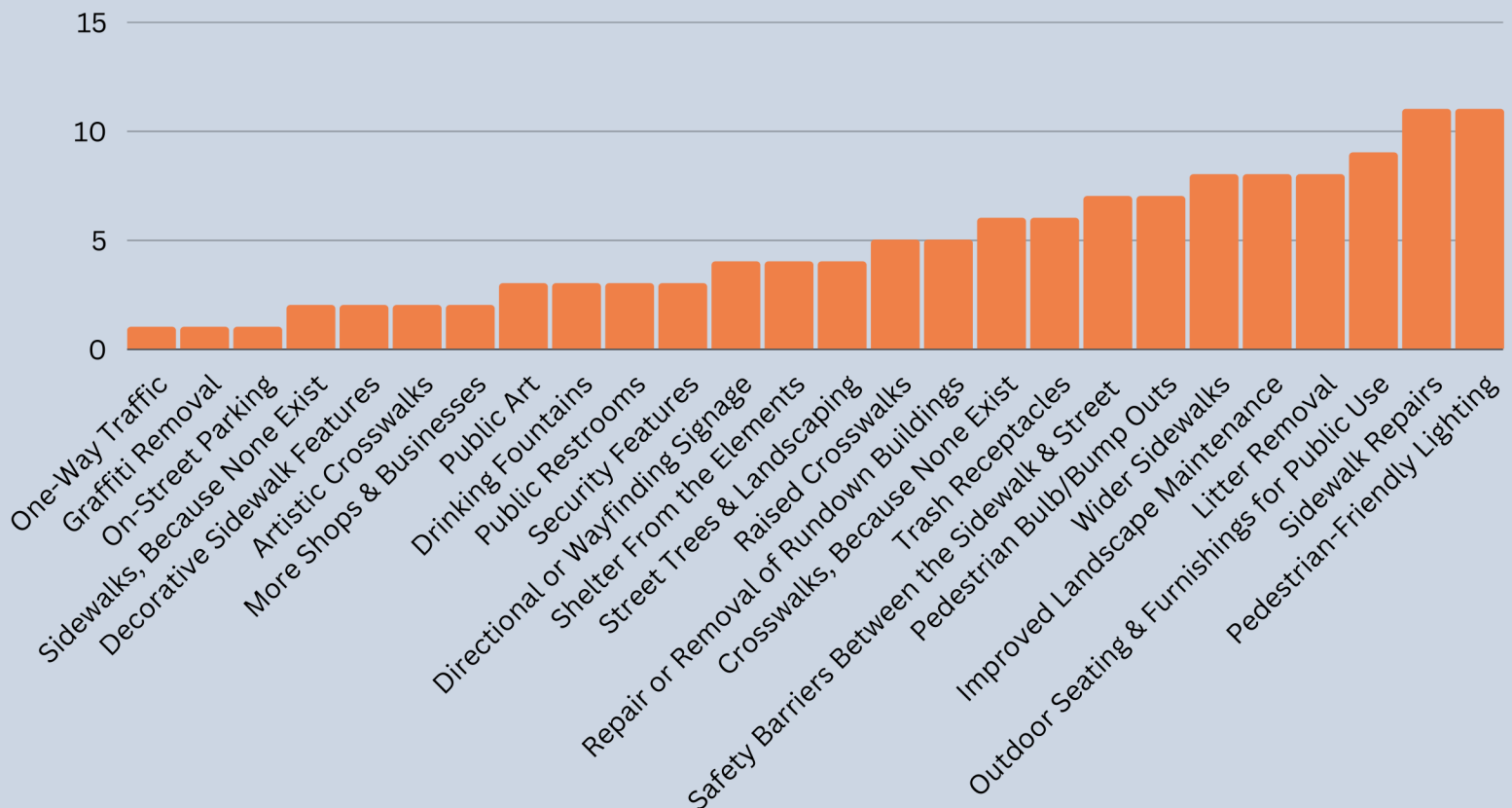


Reported the traffic lights and/or stop signs were clearly visible to drivers & pedestrians



Of the 14 responses, 4 participants reported the sidewalk had tactile surface indicators so pedestrians with vision impairment will know when the path is ending, **6 reported there were no surface indicators**, and another 4 reported "other" potentially referring to indicators needing repaired or no sidewalks existing on that section of the route

Which of the Following Features Would Improve the Safety & Walkability of the Audit Location?



Recommendations

In addition to completion of the worksheets, Participants, or "Auditors" were provided maps of the individual audit routes (See Page 1) and asked to denote the location of observed supports and barriers to safe walkability. Individual observations from each route are identified in the appendix (Pages 4-7).

There were common themes that emerged across all audit routes, the following recommendations stem from these themes:

- Improve Street Lighting to Create Better Visibility of Pedestrians
 - Inform & Promote Among the Community How to Properly Report Streetlights Being Out
- Replace, Repair & Widen Sidewalks
 - Develop Sidewalk Repair Program for Property Owners Who May Not Be Able to Put in New or Maintain Worn Sidewalks
- Repair/Repaint or Replace Tactile Ground Surface Indicators (TGSi)
- Repair/Repaint Crosswalks & Pedestrian Crossings
- Continue to engage the community in identifying supports and barriers to walkability through hosting routine walking audits or pedestrian counts
- Include local community in identification and creation of plans and programs that address street and sidewalk safety for all ages & abilities



Appendix: Specific Observations

RED ROUTE:

- Worn TGSI & crosswalk paint at Ross & Noble Street Intersection (A)
- Sidewalk abruptly ends on Noble Street before the Bike Path crosses Noble St. (C)
- Noble Street looking North of the Ross St. Intersection, no sidewalks on either side of street
- Noble Street and Eaton Street Intersection, no crosswalks North/South or West/East (E)
- No curbs along Eaton Street, homemade curbs from railroad ties in sections, resident concerns over blocked storm drain (D, F)
- Along Eaton Street, sidewalks are narrow, covered with debris, or are buckled (B)
- Broken bollard where bikepath crosses Noble St. creating a safety hazard.
- No wayfinding on bike path, as well as limited amenities such as benches, trash cans and lighting
- Concerns over multiple streetlights along this route not working or needing updated to a brighter light.
- Park Ave has very narrow sidewalks on the southern side of street
- Park Ave has many areas with no tree-lawn and buckled sidewalks on southern part of street (G)
- Park Ave and Noble Street intersection, very worn crosswalk lines
- Park Ave & Liberty Street, Pedestrian Crossing signs have no type of flashing indicator installed, painted crossings are worn and need repainted.



BLUE ROUTE:

- Uneven and buckled sidewalks in several locations along S. Liberty Street
- TGSi at the S. Liberty & Harrison St. Intersection Needs Repainted
- No designated bike lanes, which may be needed & useful in this area
- Park Ave & Liberty Intersection, TGSi needs repainted/repared.
- Cracked, buckled & uneven sidewalks on Park Ave.
- Park Ave and S. Franklin St. intersection, TGSi needs repaired
- S. Franklin St. & Bernard Ave intersection, TGSi needs repaired
- No crosswalk at Franklin & Bernard Ave,
- No curb cut located on the West Side of S. Franklin to cross Bernard Ave.
- W. Harrison St. & S. Washington Street- all TGSi need repaired at this location
- Uneven & Cracked sidewalks located on W. Harrison St.
- TGSi needs repaired at S. Washington & Bike path
- Broken and missing sections of sidewalk on S. Washington at approximately #175 & #121
- Bernard Ave & S. Liberty St, the TGSi & Sidewalk lines need repainted
- Sidewalks all along Bernard Ave. in overall poor condition
- TGSi need painted near Woodward Elementary School Staff Parking Area.

YELLOW ROUTE:

- Crosswalk at S. Liberty & London Road is worn/faded and needs repainted
- Liberty Road crosswalks on the SW Corner of Woodward Elm. are worn, have a long wait & it was noted that at night the area is dark with low visibility.
- TGSIs at W. Harrison St need repaired/repainted
- On S. Franklin Street, there were hanging wires from poles and within trees, additionally there is a missing cover/guard on wire cable that anchors the pole.
- No sidewalk on the North side of London Rd on the block between S. Washington & S. Franklin, sidewalk ends abruptly past corner (A)
- No North/South Crosswalk at London Rd. & S. Franklin St. Intersection there is also a weird curb-cut that makes it seem like there should be a N/S crosswalk.
- Sidewalks with no barrier from street on North side of London Road between S. Sandusky & S. Franklin, curb for alley/driveway behind Food Mart & Dipped Donuts has no curb cut & steep drop off (B)
- London Road ped crossing signal is only 15 seconds which seemed short for individuals who may have mobility issues.
- "Goat trail" or desire lines on S. Liberty St just north of Shell Station between trees
- Only one observed streetlight on W. Harrison on the blocks between S. Liberty Street and S. Franklin, resident volunteer stated the area is very dark at night.
- No curbs on Harrison, Narrow tree lawns or no tree lawns between sidewalk and street.



PURPLE ROUTE:

- More streetlights on Ross Street, especially near park, bike path, and gazebo
- Narrow sidewalks on the South side of Ross Street, narrow or non-existent tree lawns, and no curbs, cars parked on sidewalk (A)
- Crosswalk at Ohio Street and Liberty needs repainted and TGSIs also need repainted
- Many TGSIs in this route need repainted- Noble & Ross St pictured below (F)
- Very few streetlights on Ohio Street
- Sidewalks on S. Liberty between Ross St & London Rd. are narrow, some spots are uneven, cracked or buckled
- Crosswalk at Liberty & London Rd in front of Speedway needs repainted (B)
- Large hornet nest in the tree at the corner of S. Liberty & London Rd in front of Labor Max Staffing Company over sidewalk
- Sidewalks on North side of London Rd are broken, narrow & are hard to pass with a stroller (C, D)
- On Noble Street, no barrier between street and sidewalk, in general sidewalks on Noble Street narrow, debris covered, cracked and uneven in several spots (E)
- TGSIs at Noble St & High Street need repainted
- Narrow sidewalks and few streetlights on High Street
- TGSIs at Noble Street & Maple St need repainted

