

King Park Audit Report

Safe Routes to Parks

Safe Routes to Parks is a project working to make walking, rolling, and biking to parks comfortable, safe, and easy. Working with community residents we hope to understand what prevents them from feeling safe on the way to a park that is within a 10-minute walk from their home. Using walk audits, residents identify problematic infrastructure that hinders accessibility to, and within, the parks. The information is shared with the city and the park district. Over the long term, the program seeks to increase park usage and improve health and wellbeing for all people in the community. In July, the program selected King Park to access three of its connected routes.

Community Engagement

A sign-up booth was set up at Jetty Rhodes day on June 22th to introduce the program and gain interests for the walk audit. Six people signed up for the walk audit and about ten took audit materials. Some residents expressed dissatisfaction with night lighting in the park. We had 11 participants for Safe Routes to Victory Park Walking Audits conducted on July 10 from 5:30pm to 6:00pm.



Figure 1 Community Engagement at Jetty Rhodes Day

King Park

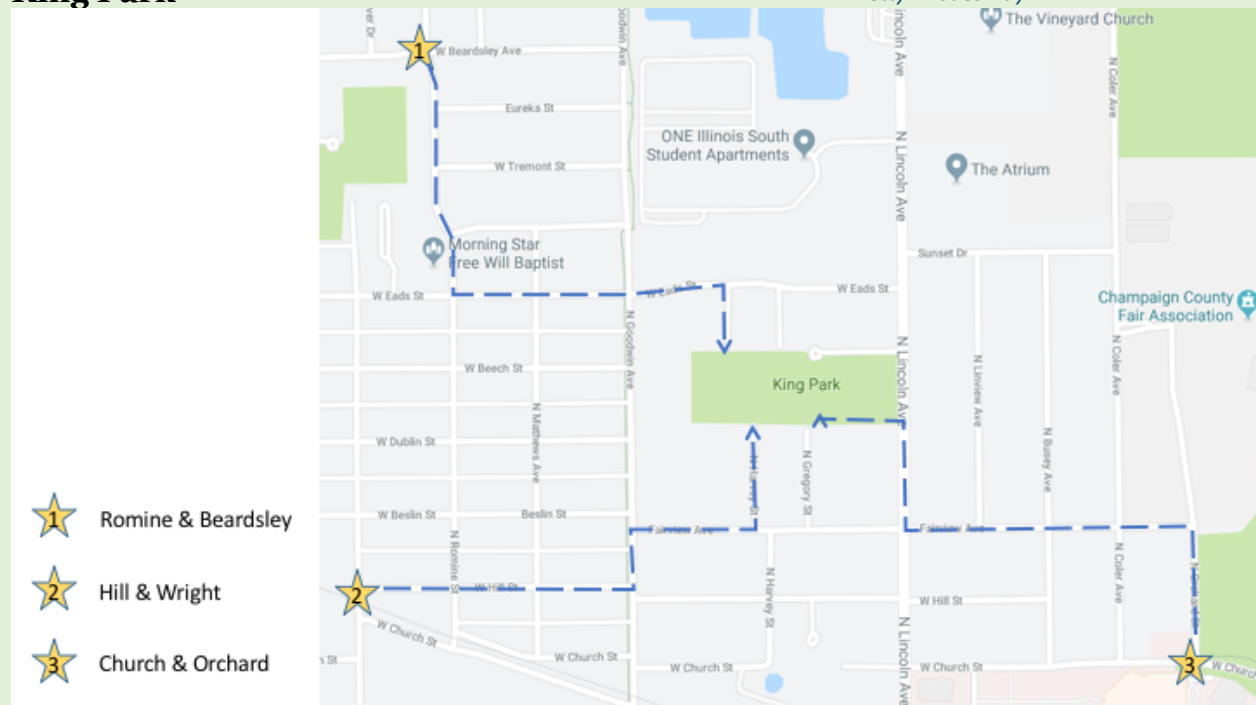


Figure 2 Location Map of King Park

According to Urbana Park District Parks & Facilities Map Chart (07/09/19), King Park is connected to MTD Grey and Illini bus route. It has: Accessible play equipment, flower beds, horseshoes, open fields, path/trails, picnic tables, playground, restroom (apr-oct), sculpture, grills, and tennis courts.

Walk Audit

The audit was conducted by 11 community residents. There were three starting points selected for the audit, which were Romine & Beardsley, Hill & Wright, and Church & Orchard. They were selected by utilizing routes for Safe Routes to School project, integrating community input, and using locations from North, South, East and West as well as review of where people live.

Problems and opinions collected from the audit are further illustrated in this map, where blue line signifies walking directions to the park from four designated starting points and both red crosses and red lines mark location of safety concerns:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1YBuYnIsRWZP6YRvJW3I7kxfn-wwoGSJo&usp=sharing>

Result

While the map acts as a visual aid for identifying safe hazards, the following table lists detailed comments on routes to Victory Park. “X” symbols mark the concerns observed by participants and contents in parenthesis tell the location of concern.

Starts		Romine & Beardsley	Hill & Wright	Church & Orchard
Concerns				
Sidewalks	Blocked by overgrown landscaping, poles, signs, plants, vehicles, etc.	X (Romine & Beardsley; Ellis & Eads)	X (Hill, Goodwin and Harvey)	X (Lincoln and Fairview)
	Others	Curb in sidewalk behind Baptist Church; Eads & Romine ramp; grass and trash at Eads and Goodwin ramp		
Crossings and Intersections	Crossing does not have a pedestrian activated button	X	X	
	No crosswalk or poorly marked	X	X (Goodwin)	
	Intersection does not have curb ramp for carts, wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, etc.	X (Beardsley & Romine)		
Safety	Lack of eyes on the street		X	
Comfort	Vacant lots or rundown buildings		X	X
Park Features		No bike parking	No signs showing directions to park or info about park	

Figure 3 Results from Walk Audit

Suggestions

Recommendation for infrastructure issues:

- Remove blockages from the sidewalk and examine poorly maintained landscaping,
- Add pedestrian activated signals / marked crosswalks / stop signs as needed at suggested locations, and
- Add streetlights where needed.

Advice for Victory Park:

- Put signage for direction to the park,
- Consider adding bike parking or utilizing the school's bike racks.

Suggestions to improve the audit:

- Provide information on where to meet on surveys and sign-up sheets if possible
- Checklist form:
 - Record specific location of problems with street address, building, etc., and marking them on the map is a good idea

Appendix. Photos taken during the audit



Figure 4 Overgrown Landscape



Figure 5 Trash on a Ramp



Figure 6 Dirt on a Ramp



Figure 7 Overgrown Landscape on Hill St



Figure 8 Looking south on Hill St. No Marked Crosswalk to Cross Goodwin



Figure 9 Overgrown Tree Branches on Harvey