

# Park Point Walking Audit - Spring 2025

## Walking Audit Summary

Date: April 26, 2025 at 12pm, sunny spring day in the 50's

Location: From Franklin Park to Lift Bridge

Participants: 16 including Mayor and 2 City Councillors.

City Staff: James Gittemeier and Elinor Rosenberg

The Park Point Walking Audit on Saturday, April 26, 2025 provided updated and concrete information about experiences of walking along Park Point. This walking audit and the discussion directly following the walking audit, along with previous studies and reports from the Park Point Community Club.

This document contains information about the walking audit, a summary of the walking audit sheets collected, notes from the conversation with community members directly following the walking audit, photos from the walking audit, and summaries of previous relevant reports and studies from the Park Point Community Club.

Issues and challenges described in the 2004 Quality of Life Report and 2021 Park Point Traffic Safety Community Survey are still relevant in 2025.

The Park Point Community Club is “starving for action” and willing to support any next steps. Below is a summary of the key areas of concern:

There are five key areas of concern, with recommendations

### 1) Signage

- a) Signage was an overarching challenge on Park Point with missing or confusing signage, and signage in need of updates. This is especially true for signage regarding parking and the recreation lane. Residents feel that parking is unevenly enforced and people do not know the rules, especially with regards to the recreation lane. Furthermore, better signage regarding beach access is needed.

- b) To summarize: specific signage about the recreation lane, parking, and beach access needs to be updated. At a more general level, many traffic signs and bus stop signs are faded.

## 2) Recreation lane; confusion and signage

- a) The recreation lane is a key transportation and recreation feature of Park Point. The walking audit and subsequent discussion cemented some key challenges. Specifically, there is confusion regarding the dates that the recreation lane is open, who is permitted in the recreation lane, and the direction of travel within the recreation lane. Issues of safety within the recreation lane were also identified, with many respondents requesting physical separation between the recreation lane and motorist lanes.
- b) Short term solution: improving signage about the recreation, painting the recreation lane, including with a stripe in the middle to show different directions (like the Lakewalk)
- c) Longer term solution: physical separation between the recreation lane and motorist lanes

## 3) Speeding and Traffic Calming

- a) Speeding was identified as a key issue throughout Park Point, especially along the S-curve and the straightaway. In addition to a need for enforcement during events and in the summer, traffic calming devices were requested as a key priority. Community members also identified challenges crossing Park Point since there are no crosswalks.
- b) Short term solution: Cones along the S-curve, more consistent enforcement
- c) Longer term solutions: Speedbumps; Roundabouts; Narrower traffic lanes and wider recreation lane.

## 4) Sidewalks

- a) Community members identified the condition of sidewalks in many places along the study area as a challenge, with many uneven sidewalks that collect ice and sand. Additionally, sand often gets onto sidewalks, making getting around extra challenging for those using mobility devices. Many intersections also need curb ramps. A longer term challenge is the narrowness of the sidewalk and the need for a wider sidewalk when the street is redone.

## 5) Amenities and service

- a) Community members identified a need for porta-potties, garbage and recycling cans, shade trees, and bicycle parking along Park Point, which is especially important considering how many visitors to Park Point are visitors to Duluth or visitors from other parts of Duluth.
  
- b) Since Park Point is a key tourist destination, residents requested whether tourism tax dollars could be used to support this.