



## Conducting Walk Audits

A walk audit is a simple exercise that identifies and records sidewalk conditions, barriers and assets to walking, and the perceptions of people walking. It is used to improve walking conditions on a pre-planned route. Additionally, walk audits can help to understand the environment from an all-ability inclusive perspective. Walk audits can be used to build awareness of the importance of walkable design, identify specific pedestrian safety issues, advance policy and community development goals, inform planning decisions, and improve health and quality of life for residents.

To suggest a walk audit route in the Spokane region, please email Samantha Hennessy at [shennessy@srhd.org](mailto:shennessy@srhd.org).

## Walk Audit Details

**Date and time:** December 12, 2024, 2:30-3:45 p.m.

**Route:** North Haven Street Hillyard Neighborhood Loop

**Hosts:** staff from Spokane Regional Health District

**Weather:** partly cloudy, temperature 33 °F

## Nearby Destinations

Nearby destinations include Red Dragon Northside Restaurant and Appliance Warehouse.

# Observations

## Sidewalks

- One section of the route had newly-paved sidewalks and the corners were all newly paved and had tactile navigation strips. The remaining sidewalks had many large cracks that raised the surface by two inches. Many of the sidewalks were narrowed by overgrown landscaping and had grass growing in the cracks.
- Auditors noted that vehicles seemed to be traveling above the speed limit and did not stop at the marked crosswalk for pedestrians.
- There was litter throughout the route, even at the bus stop that had a trash receptacle. Litter consisted primarily of empty alcoholic beverage containers and dog waste.
- There was one Spokane Transit Authority bus stop on the corner of North Haven Street and East Diamond Avenue.
  - The transit stop does not protect waiting passengers.
  - The auditors would not feel safe waiting in this location.



1. Sidewalk on North Haven near Red Dragon Northside
2. Sidewalk on North Haven at the start of the route with grass that is growing over the seams and edges
3. Sidewalk near the bus stop on the corner of North Haven with several large cracks
4. Tactile navigation strip at the end of the route with debris
5. Alley crossing on North Haven with rocks and debris
6. Crosswalk on North Haven at the end of the route where traffic was not stopping for pedestrians
7. Bus stop on the corner of North Haven Street and East Diamond Avenue
8. Close up of litter found on the route

\*The pictures provided in this section were taken after the walk audit.

## Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggestions to improve pedestrian access in the Hillyard neighborhood.

Recommendations were identified through auditor forms and notes, auditor discussion, and the AARP Build a Better Neighborhood tool.

### Top Auditor Recommendations

- Repair sidewalks. Bus stop sidewalk repairs will increase accessibility and safety for bus riders.
- Improve landscape maintenance to widen sidewalks.
- Introduce data-driven interventions to reduce litter and discourage littering. For example, add ballot bins, trash receptacles at specific locations, and neighborhood dog waste disposal stations.

### Other Recommendations

- Add pedestrian “bulb-outs” at crossings to increase visibility of pedestrians preparing to cross and reduce vehicle speed.
- Add pedestrian-friendly lighting to pedestrian walkways.

## Walk Audit Participants

This audit was completed by SRHD staff and interns as a portion of a longer route requested by a community member.

