

Clarkson Walkability Audit: Results and Recommendations Summary

The following document was prepared by the Region of Peel and includes a summary of comments made by participants during our breakout discussion as well as verbatim comments taken from the Map Exercise.

Section	Average Score	Comments & Recommendations
Overall	69.28% (119.17/172)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This neighbourhood is walkable, but some improvements could be made to increase walkability

Section	Average Score	Comments & Recommendations
Destinations	71.35% (~22.83/32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transit is available and the GO station is close There is a private elementary school, but there is no walkable library Some trails are poorly marked Bradley Museum and Clarkson Village signage are not very visible and need to be larger and brighter

- Recommendations**
- Extend and connect existing trails and develop more trails near Sheridan Creek that lead to the GO station
 - Put up proper signage for trails and other destinations
 - Standardize signs to make them look consistent (potential BIA involvement)
 - Incorporate pop-up parks to entice residents to walk more
 - Extend food bank hours to run past 10pm

Section	Average Score	Comments & Recommendations
Mix of Destinations	63.89% (23/36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a variety of stores, plenty of well-spaced trash bins, medical centres, mixed types of residencies, post boxes and post offices, motels, banks, restaurants, dental care, walk-in clinics, gas stations, car services, churches, hardware stores, pharmacy, dollar store, and an Ontario Early Years Centre. There is a good overall mix of services within walking distance

- Recommendations**
- More parks, libraries, and community centres are needed

for the community

- Create better ambiance and more walkable places to go

Section	Average Score	Comments & Recommendations
Street Layout	82.5% (16.5/20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a lot of asphalt, small trees, noisy traffic, and wide laneways• There are two close traffic lights at Lakeshore Road/Clarkson Road N and Lakeshore Road/Clarkson Road S• There are cyclists on the sidewalks due to no designated bike lanes• Crosswalks are auto-activated instead of user-activated• There is ample parking available on streets and behind stores• There are benches facing traffic and they are positioned too close to the road• There are no alternative walking routes• Overall, this area is not a welcome pedestrian way

- Recommendations**
- Create designated bike lanes on roads to keep cyclists safe and off the sidewalks
 - Add bicycle parking near important destinations
 - Reduce street noise by adding more greenery for street separation, or by adding a “green boulevard”
 - Remove boxes with free real estate

Section	Average Score	Comments & Recommendations
Walking experience	66.32% (~31.83/48)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The sidewalks are wide but there are uneven parts, cracks, and barriers along the route• Streets and bike park areas are accessible• Crosswalk button needs to be pushed at Clarkson Road N, otherwise the pedestrian signal does not turn on• There is a long walk from the sidewalk to the stores on Lakeshore Road• The strip malls are very unattractive and bland, and require beautification• Traffic speed is high and traffic noise is excessive• The park at Lakeshore Road and Southdown Road is poorly maintained and needs better lighting• There are no real street separations

- Recommendations**
- Extend and connect trails throughout (especially to the GO station), with proper wayfinding signage
 - Traffic lights require an extended crossing time at Clarkson Road and Lakeshore Road
 - Street noise level can potentially be reduced through adding a “green boulevard” or green spaces between Lakeshore Road and sidewalks
 - Existing large parking spaces require green relief
 - Rather than having benches facing Lakeshore Road, have them either face a green space or each other for conversation
 - Decorative arbor or public art can add beauty and character
 - Paint garbage cans and utility boxes

Section	Average Score	Comments & Recommendations
Sidewalks	71.67% (~14.33/20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is fencing at the railway • Sidewalks are separated by grass and tree medians • There are sidewalks on both sides of the street • There are sidewalk paths and green spaces throughout parks • There are some grassed areas separating sidewalks but the sidewalks are too close to the road • Sidewalk benches are placed at the streets facing the road

- Recommendations**
- The sidewalks directly along the road require a green space for the safety of children
 - Position benches in safer locations and angles
 - Strip malls should be built along the sidewalk with parking available behind

Section	Average Score	Comments & Recommendations
Nature	66.67% (~10.67/16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is weed overgrowth and dead trees at the bridge near Southdown Road and Sheridan Creek • Sheridan Creek is clogged and has abandoned shopping carts that need cleaning up • There is some greenery on road dividers, but more is

required

- There are cracked planters
- Twin Spruce Park is undeveloped
- Signage is rusty and not very visible
- Property upkeep by businesses must be enforced
- There is no enclosure or greenspace on the park to separate it from traffic
- Green spaces lack children's playgrounds, and some require lights installed for walking from the GO station to Lakeshore Road

Recommendations

- Sheridan Creek is a perfect spot for a woodland trail
- Connect walking trails together
- Improve maintenance of the creek
- Integrate nature into the community by adding a "green boulevard" and greenery for street separation
- Parks need more lighting, flowers, picnic tables, playgrounds, separation from the street (with fencing or greenery), bench alignment, patios, green space, and public gathering spaces
- Reduce street noise level by adding greenery

Notes from Map Exercise

Lakeshore Rd and Southdown Rd

- The GO Station on Southdown Road is very convenient.
- Twin Spruce Park has bad signage and the benches face traffic. There are dead trees and poor lighting.
- The crossing signals at Southdown Road and Lakeshore Road should be automatic with the traffic light and with beeps for the visually impaired.
- Park planting could reduce road noise for pedestrians at Lakeshore Road and Southdown Road.
- Add lights and a playground at the Northeast corner.

Lakeshore sidewalks

- Benches on Lakeshore sidewalk are too close to the road.
- North side of Lakeshore sidewalk is too narrow. The right turn lane cuts into it.
- South side of Lakeshore sidewalk is too narrow. The storm drain cuts into it.
- There is no safe bike lane so bikers use sidewalks on Lakeshore Road.
- Bike lanes with raised separation from cars are needed on Lakeshore.

Sheridan Creek

- A trail along Sheridan Creek would be awesome.
- Clean up the plant growth and shopping carts on Sheridan Creek.
- There is poor parking for the pool and soccer fields.

Petro Canada Railway and Vicinity

- Petro Canada railway needs weed growth cleanup on both sides of the street behind their fencing.
- There are several parks available.

Clarkson Village Shopping Centre and Vicinity

- There is a long walk across the parking lot, it is unsafe between cars, and it is hot in the summers and not a place of respite.
- Add a shaded walkway with trees through the centre of the parking lot from the sidewalk.
- There is a variety of shops, banks, gas stations, and restaurants.
- There are cracked planters, raised pavers, and elevated sidewalk concrete.
- The realignment of the corner at Lakeshore and Clarkson Rd N would improve safety.
- The pedestrian light on Lakeshore at Clarkson Rd N only turns on if the button is pushed.

- An extended crossing time is required for seniors.
- It is tricky driving between the two traffic lights on Lakeshore between Clarkson Rd N and Clarkson Rd S.

Plaza at Lakeshore Rd and Clarkson Rd S

- There are commercial ads in the residential area above businesses.
- Businesses need to maintain their landscaping.

Turtle Glen Creek

- Turtle Glen Creek needs cleanup and improved signage for the park.
- Pedestrian crossing needs improvement on Clarkson Rd N.

Signage

- The “Welcome to Clarkson” and the “Bradley Museum” signage require refurbishment to be brighter and larger.
- There is no trail signage in Clarkson for the trail near Turtle Creek.