

# Walkability Audit Report

## University of Illinois Wellness Center

### Capstone Presentation

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# Overview

- Public Health importance
- Background information
- Goal/purpose of project
- Design of Project
- Results
- Themes Emerged
- Future Recommendations

# Public Health Importance

- Increased walkability has many public health benefits:
  - Increased social interaction
  - Increased physical activity
  - Increased safety
- Important to address walkability issues on UIUC Campus:
  - Reduce pedestrian/bicycle conflict
  - Increase safety of pedestrians
  - Increase physical activity



Making choices to move more in everyday life

# Background

- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign aims to increase physical activity and promote healthy lifestyles
- Walking is a major mode of transportation on UIUC campus
- UIUC Wellness Center conducted the first phase of a campus-wide walkability audit

# Main Goals/Purpose

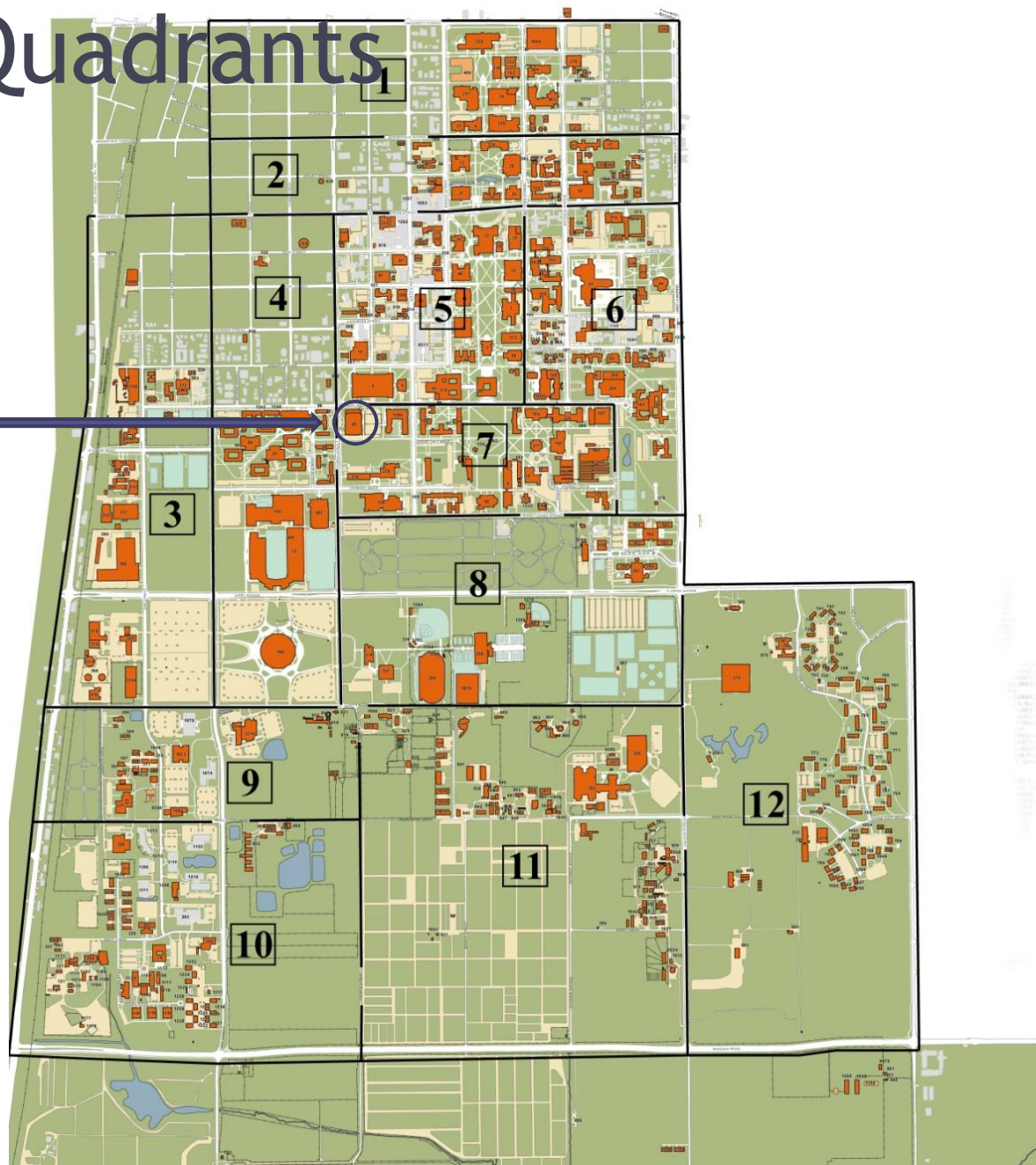
- Identify good places to walk on the campus
- Identify areas where walkability can be enhanced
- Walkability audit hoped to be a launch pad for other campus-wide walking initiatives

# Walkability Audit

- Used the walkability audit created by the Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- Augmented by the Wellness Center
  - To gain more specific information related to our campus setting
- A map was created which divided the UIUC campus into 12 separate quadrants
- Three separate entities responsible for streets
  - UIUC, City of Champaign, City of Urbana

# Map of Quadrants

You Are Here



LEGEND  
BUILDING  
ROAD  
GREEN SPACE  
WATER

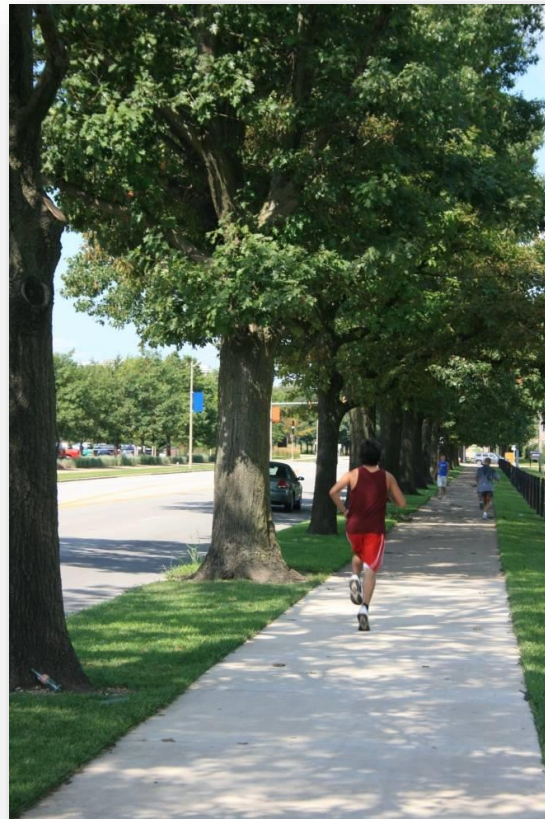


# Walkability Audit

- Trained auditors conducted walkability audits around campus
- Audit contained both ranking 1 to 5 and observational questions
- Each walk audit included several components

# Category 1

## Pedestrian Walking Surface



# Category 2

## Pedestrian Conflicts



# Category 3

## Crosswalks



# Category 4

## Maintenance



# Category 5

## Path Size



# Category 6

## Buffers



# Category 7

## Universal Accessibility





# Category 8

## Aesthetics



# Category 9

## Shade



# Additional Observations

- Observer noted other areas where they saw need for change or improvements
- Examples:
  - Level of safety
  - Re-design ideas
  - Exercise, entertainment, recreation, amenities

# How the Scores Were Determined

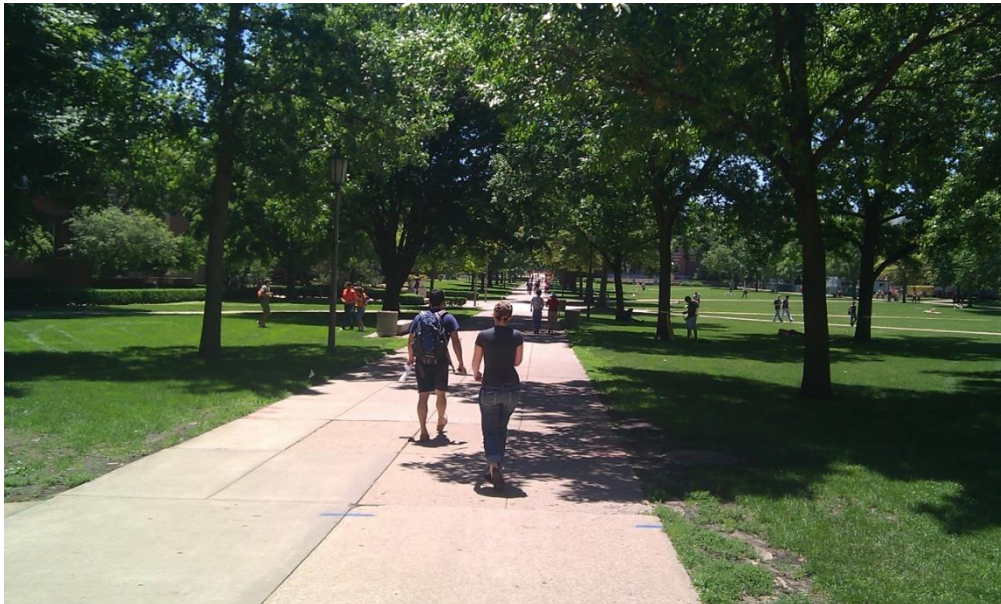
- Ranking score divided into high, medium, low importance categories
- Score weighted in terms of importance
- All three sub categories were added together to get total walkability score for each audit

# How The Scores Were Determined

- Ranked from **1- poor/major issues** to **5- excellent**
  - High importance categories: (x3)
    - Walking surface, pedestrian conflicts, crosswalks
  - Medium importance categories: (x2)
    - Maintenance, path size, buffers, accessibility, aesthetics
  - Low importance categories: (x1)
    - Shade
  - Lighting and amenities were also considered

# What We Found

- The UIUC Campus was found to be moderately walkable
  - Overall score of 72.3/100



# What We Found

- Quadrant 2 had the highest average score
  - 83/100
  - Good walking conditions
- Quadrant 2:
  - Springfield Ave-Lincoln Ave-Green St.-First St.



# Quadrant 2

- Path Size = 5/5
- Accessibility = 4.7/5
- Walking Surface = 4.3/5
- Aesthetics = 4.3/5





# What We Found

- Quadrant 9 & 10 low average scores
  - 46/100 & 52/100
  - Less than favorable walking conditions
- Quadrant 9:
  - St. Mary's Rd.-Fourth St.-Hazelwood Dr.-Neil St.
- Quadrant 10:
  - Hazelwood Dr.-Fourth St.-Windsor Rd.-Neil St.



## Quadrant 9

- Walking Surface = 1/5
- Buffers = 1.5/5
- Accessibility = 1.5/5
- Shade = 2/5
- Crosswalk = 2.5/5
- Path Size = 2.5/5

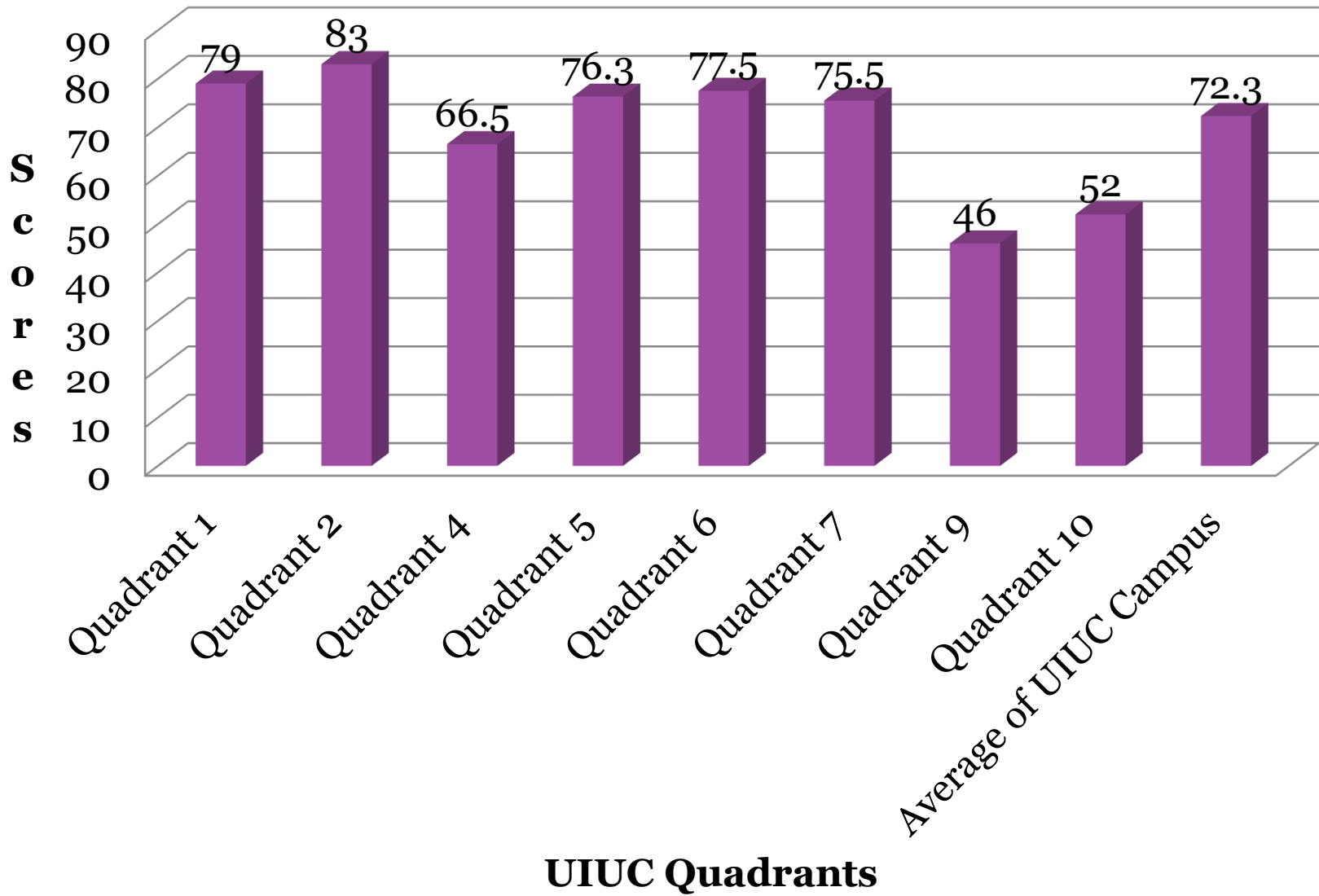


## Quadrant 10

- Buffers = 2/5
- Crosswalk = 2.25/5
- Shade = 2.25
- Walking Surface = 2.5/5
- Accessibility = 2.5/5



## Average Quadrant Scores



# What We Found

- UIUC is doing a good job with:

- Accessibility
- Aesthetics
- Maintenance
- Path size



- UIUC needs to improve in the areas of:

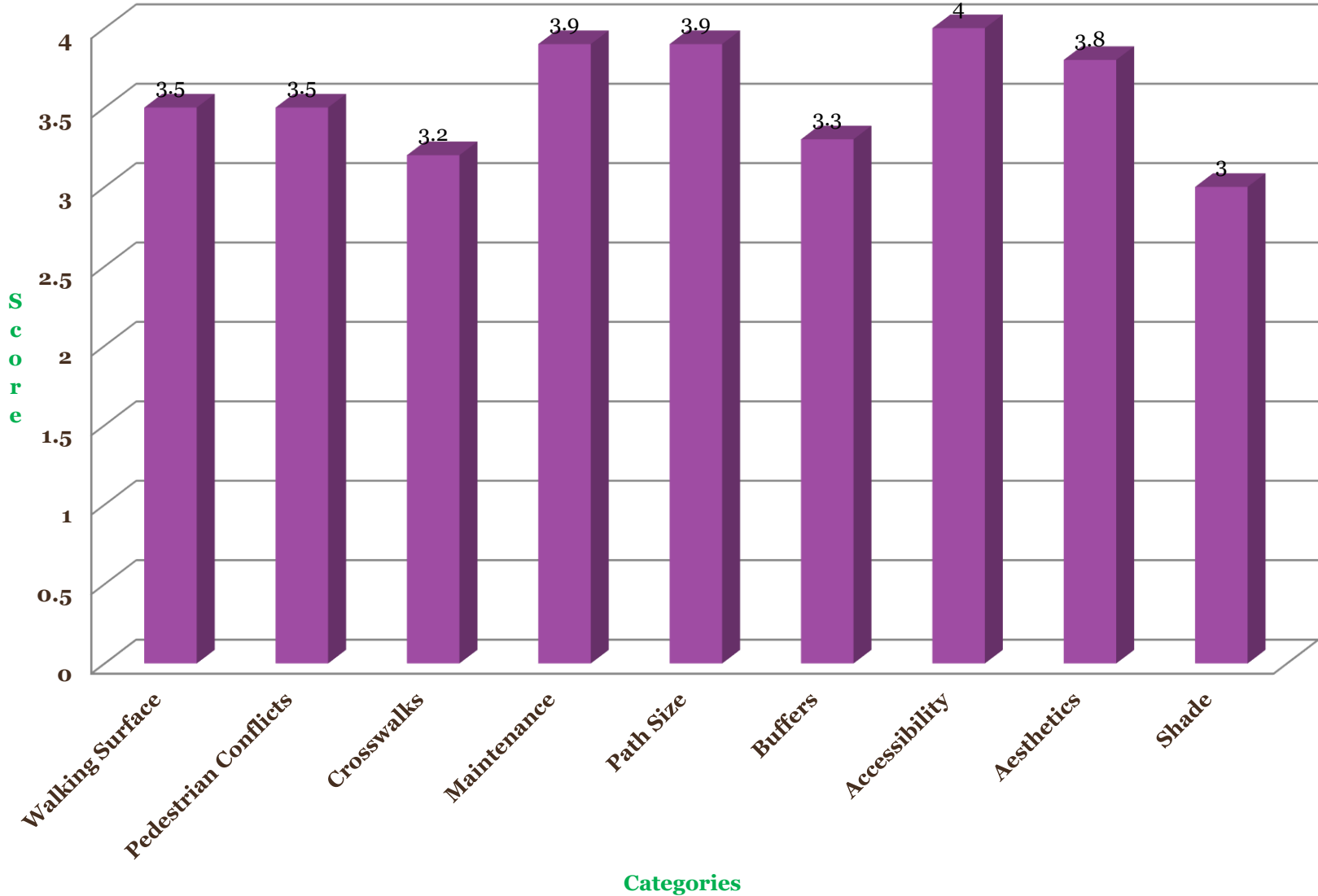
- Walking surface
- Pedestrian conflict
- Crosswalks
- Buffers
- Shade



- Most of the categories with the lowest overall scores were the ones that were most heavily weighted

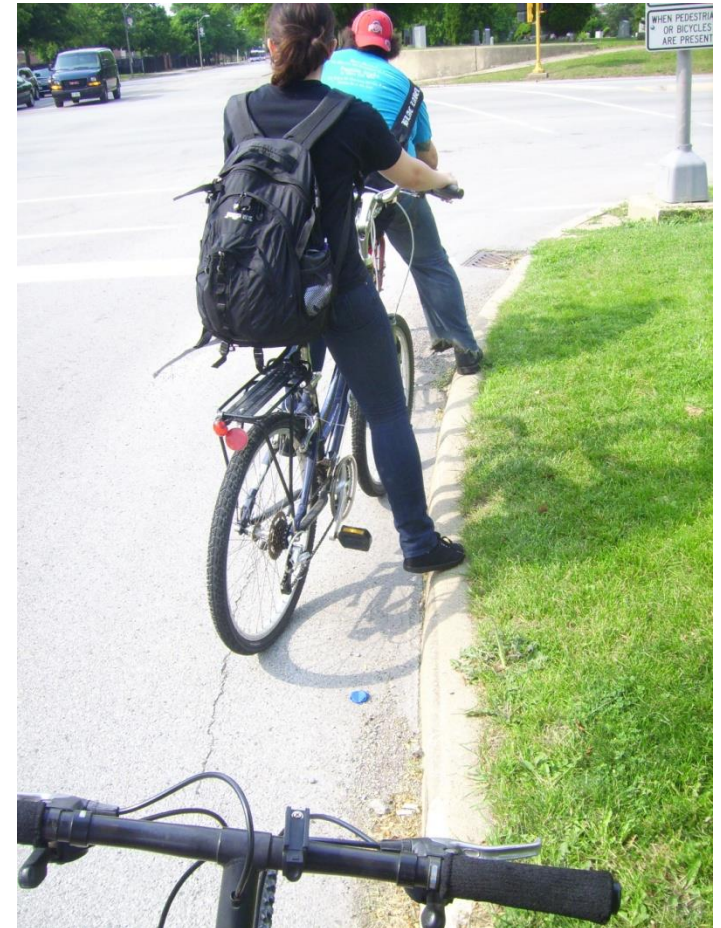
- Highest impact on walkability
- Need to be addressed to improve walkability of UIUC campus

# Category Average Scores



# Themes that Emerged From Observations

- Most Prevalent:
  - Buffers
  - Sidewalks/Curbs
  - Crosswalks
  - Traffic & Bike Conflict



# Recommendations

- Short-term:
  - Paint crosswalks
  - Signage
  - Lighting
- Long-term:
  - Improve sidewalk conditions
  - Dedicated bike paths
  - Improve curbs/buffers
  - Education
  - Improve pedestrian & traffic conflict



# Recommendations

- Immediate Action:
  - Dangerous curbs on Springfield and Mathews
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and Springfield
  - No sidewalk
  - 6<sup>th</sup> and John
  - No crosswalk at Gerty and 1<sup>st</sup>





# Barriers to Implementation

- Collaboration among entities
- Time and Cost of implementing changes
- Increase awareness of students, faculty, and staff on the existence of the UI Wellness Center and its goals to increase walkability

# Next Steps of Walkability Project

- Give Walkability Report to UIUC, City of Champaign, and City of Urbana
- Create online toolkit for walking on campus
  - Best walking routes
- Encourage walkability of campus to be improved
- Promote walking on campus through information, programs, etc.
- Plan and implement a second phase of the audit

# Thank You!

## Questions?

