

Open Space Committee Trails Assessment

May 30, 2013

Burke Centre Trail Safety and Convenience Study.

Burke Centre includes more than 30 miles of trails for walking, jogging and careful bicycling. Trails are generally paved and four foot wide. This study suggests trail segments and modification to increase safety and improve convenience to residents. It also suggests crosswalks to connect trails across Burke Centre Parkway and Roberts Road.



A high resolution trail map is available at:

<http://www.burkecentre.org/Committees/trail%20map%20for%20web.pdf>

Reston trails also provides detailed trail maps at:

<http://www.restonpaths.com/BurkeCentre/index.htm>

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Open Space Committee Trails Advisory Group

The Open Space Committee in January 2013 established a Burke Centre Trails Advisory Group in response to a trail improvement proposal originated in the Woods Community. After posting a notice in the Conservator asking for community input at the request of the Board of Trustees, the Trails Advisory Group met in March to rank proposed trail segments input. This study could also be considered an implementation of Strategic Planning Committee 2010 Recommendation TD-1: "Establish a task force to review current Burke Centre Community Trails."

The group ranked trails proposals for safety, function and use. Ratings range from A for more importance to C for less importance. Safety determination was changed from ranking to yes or none, with a couple proposals having minor safety concerns. Function is an evaluation of utility of the proposal, and use is an evaluation of amount of traffic existing or expected.

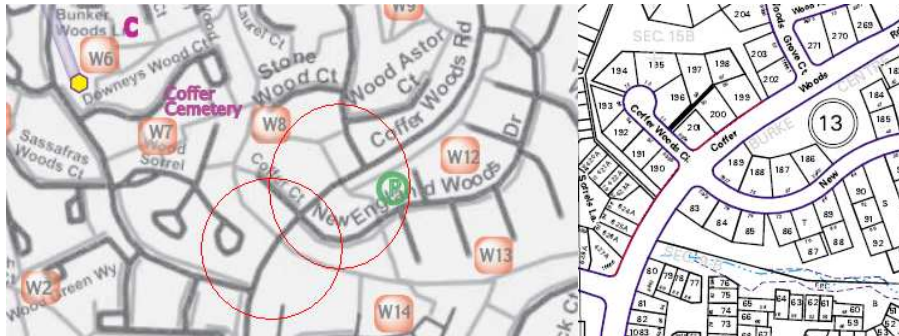
Trail Segment Summary

	Description	Community	Safety	Function	Use
W1	Coffer Woods Road at Wards Grove Circle	Woods	Yes	A	A
W2	Coffer Woods Road and New England Woods Road	Woods	Yes	B	B
W3	Walnut Woods to VRE	Woods	None	A	A
C1	Burke Commons Road	Commons	None	A	A
C2	Faire Commons Lane	Commons	Minor	B	B
O1	Burke Centre VRE: Oak Bluff Ct to Premier Ct	Oaks	Yes	A	A
O2	Edgewater Oak Court to Oak Leather Drive	Oaks	None	C	B
O3	Lake Barton to Edgewater Oak Ct	Oaks	None	C	B
O4	Summer Oaks access to Kohl's Shopping Center	Oaks	None	A	B
O5	Pedestrian Bridge Relocation	Oaks	None	A	A
L1	First Landing and Burke Centre Parkway	Landings	None	C	B
L2	Landings Pool Access	Landings	None	B	C
L3	Landings Easement Road	Landings	Yes	A	A
L4	Powell's Landing Bus Stop	Landings	None	A	A
L5	Toddman Landing Bus Access	Landings	None	B	B
L6	Walmart at Roberts Road	Landings	Minor	A	A
P1	Quiet Pond Court to Roberts Road	Ponds	None	A	A
P2	Haron Pond Terrace	Ponds	None	B	B
P3	Pond Spice Terrace	Ponds	None	A	A
P4	Ponds Community Centre Bus Stop	Ponds	Minor	A	A
P5	Terra Centre to Marshall Pond	Ponds	Minor	A	A

Woods Community

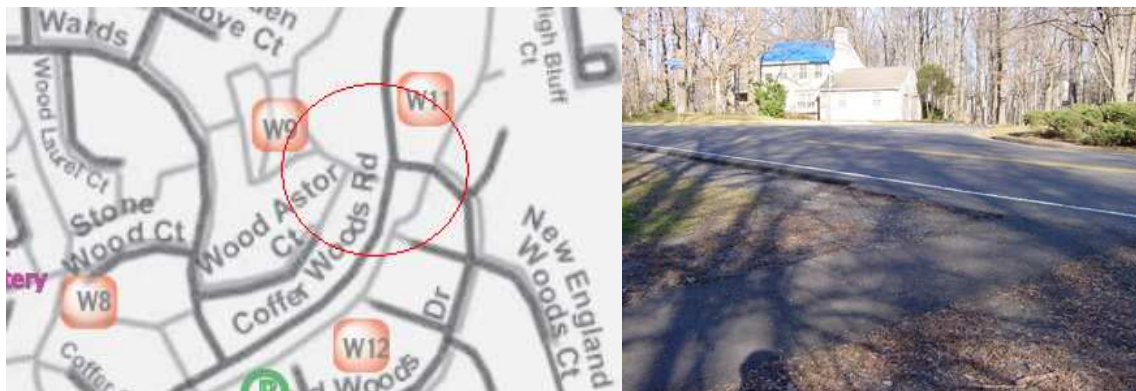
W1: Coffey Woods Road at Wards Grove Circle

A heavily travelled section between existing trail and Wards Grove Circle would connect trails for safe access. Trail improvements would be a paved sidewalk at the location of a worn foot trail alongside Coffey Woods Road. Trail improvements could be performed in sections, starting between the existing trail and the south intersection of Coffey Woods Road and Wards Grove Circle.



W2: Coffey Woods Road and New England Woods Road.

The Burke Centre trail intersects Coffey Woods Road where there is no safe crossing. The existing trail ends across from a house and does not lead to a convenient crossing.



Safety: the trail ends with no connector to high traffic street. The trail coming up the hill from the woods to the east terminates at Coffey Woods Road too far from the only sidewalk on New England Woods Road. The trail should be moved to the left, so that the county could be encouraged to complete a crosswalk.



W3: Walnut Wood to VRE

Burke Centre has two well-used unpaved connecting segments between paved county VRE access trails and paved BC Trails, one on each side of Walnut Woods Ct. . This impacts Bicycles, particularly VRE commuters and baby strollers to Farmers Market, Baseball Field. The western existing gravel trail is about 225 feet long, the eastern section 150 feet long.



Commons Community

C1: Burke Commons Road

Well used dirt trail travelling north from the Kaiser Permanente building should be paved or covered with gravel. The alternate trail requires crossing Burke Commons or another empties into a parking lot. The trail is well used, even including a trash can at the top of the existing dirt path.



The proposed trail segment will provide a continuous trail along Burke Commons Road with a new section closer to Robert's Parkway. Fairfax County is planning to complete the dead end trail to Roberts Road. The combination of these two segments will provide a continuous trail from Giant Shopping Centre to Roberts Parkway.



C2: Faire Commons Court

A well used path exists between Fair Commons Court and The Walmart parking lot. One parking space would likely have to be repainted for pedestrians, but a logical trail is suggested.



Oaks Community

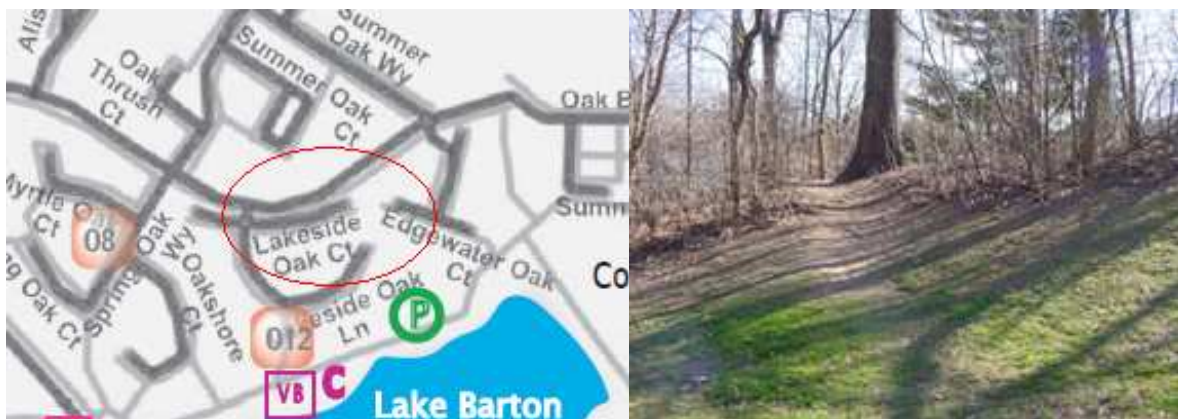
01: Burke Centre VRE: Oak Bluff Ct to Premier Ct

A well-worn trail presents a safety hazard for many walkers from Oak Leather Drive to the Burke Centre VRE. A stair may be possible if discussed with Fairfax County Housing Authority. There is significant pedestrian traffic to the VRE down a hill beyond the Oak Summit community. A stair is most practical due to safety concerns with the hill



02: Edgewater Oak Court to Oak Leather Drive

A worn path to cars from an adjacent neighborhood. The path provides access to parking on Oak Leather drive for townhome residents. The path is a cut through by residents for parking, but does not have an obvious entry point on Edgewater Oak Court.



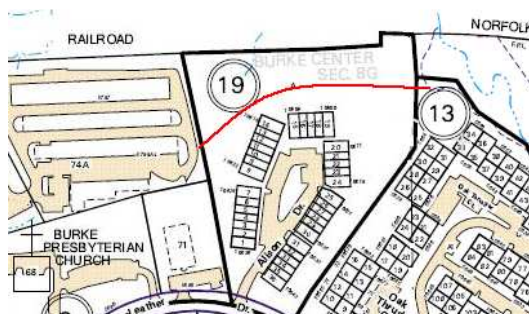
03: Lake Barton to Edgewater Oak Ct

Residents have created a direct path from the top of the Lake Barton Dam to Edgewater Ct. The trail appears to have some use but there is a nearby paved trail.



04: Summer Oaks access to Kohl's Shopping Center

A little more work, but provides access directly to shopping for Summer Oaks. This connection will involve considerable effort collaborating with the business district behind Kohl's and possibly negotiating a path in a RPA.



This trail segment was proposed as part of a system of trails that would connect Oak Leather Drive to Premier Court and then provide Summer Oaks with walking trails where none exist. Trail would go from Oaks Tot Lot 9, up a trail to a wooden barrier, over the hill, through the drainage area from a Fairfax County storm water facility, and through chain link fence. The fence marks the edge of the industrial park behind Kohl's. Several pictures show paths are not difficult and include open areas.



O5: Burke Center Parkway Bridge Relocation

The pedestrian bridge crossing from the Oaks to Lake Barton does not directly cross at the trail end. Pedestrians crossing BCP have to shift right in traffic. Direct crossing to Lake Barton involves moving the bridge closer to the light pole at trail end.



Landing Community

L1: First Landing and Burke Centre Parkway

Safety: Trail dips deep and direct access to bicycles presents hazard. Braddock District has received request to continue the trail along Burke Centre Parkway but there may be some property rights issues. There is an existing trail that dives down but is not convenient to bicycles and pedestrians.



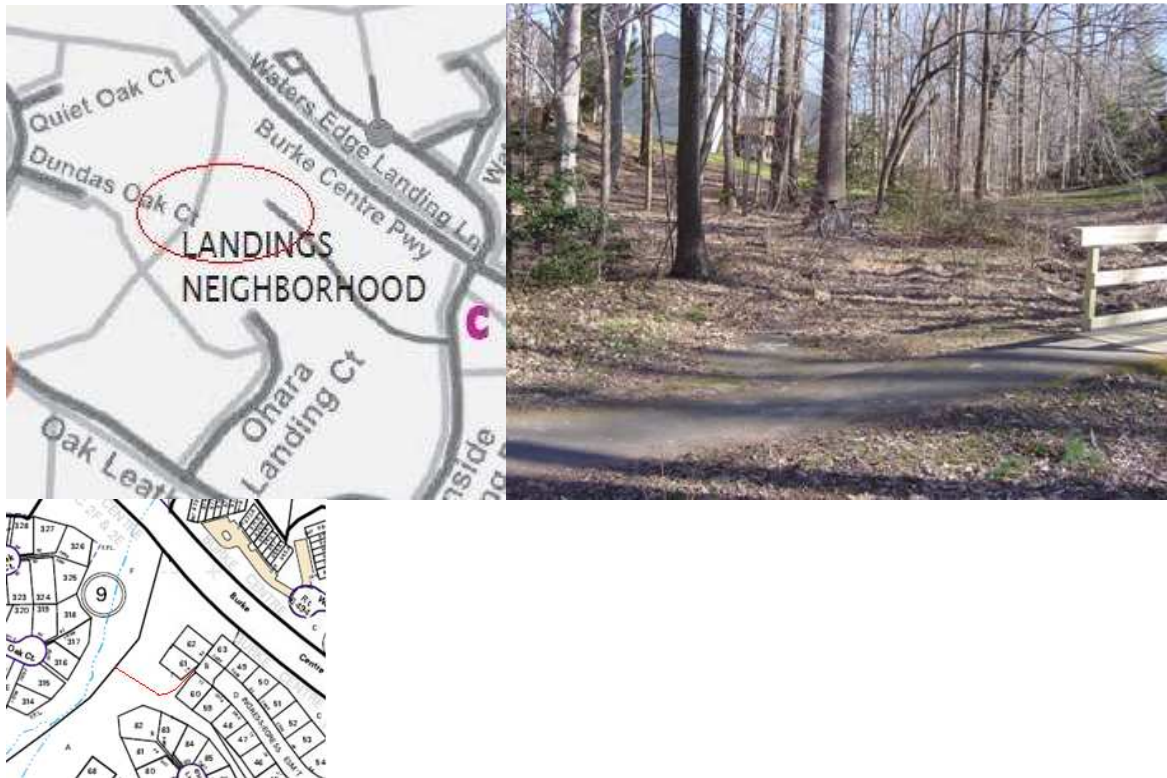
L2: Landings Pool Access

Needed is a sidewalk to the Landings pool/parking area from Burke Centre Parkway. She says children who are walking up to the pool from Burke Centre Parkway, have no place to walk other than on the street to get to the pool.



L3: Landings Easement Road

The trail in the woods between Oaks and Landings neighborhood has a missing link to the private road easement. A dead end trail stub has not been maintained for some time. Access to the private road has an existing easement that has some evidence of use and will likely require at least one bridge or crossing.



L4: Powell's Landing Bus Stop

A new sidewalk is installed to access the bus stop just off Powell's Landing Road, but it does not yet connect with the trail further down Burke Centre Parkway. It seems like something got forgotten.



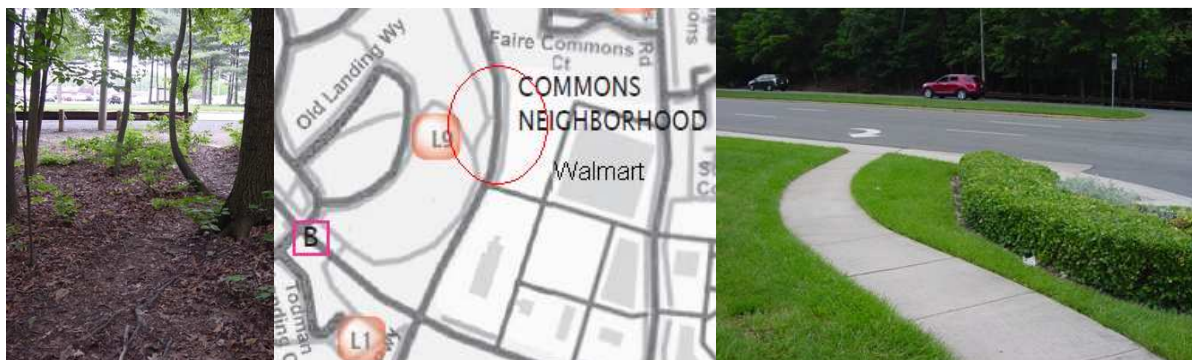
L5: Toddman Landing Bus Access

Trail access to the bus stop leading to Toddman Landing is currently circuitous. Options include a stair to townhomes or connecting to Martin's Landing along Burke Centre Parkway. There is also a worn trail from the end of Toddman Landing Court that could be an additional trail segment



L6: Walmart at Roberts Road

The existing trail alongside Roberts Parkway has a trail segment extending to the street. Unfortunately, the trail does not connect to the entrance to Walmart. A new trail segment may motivate a pedestrian crossing at Roberts Road



Ponds Community

P1: Quiet Pond Court to Roberts Road

Quiet Pond Ct access to Roberts Parkway is well worn although the existing trail turns left. There should be room between the town homes on open space land.



P2: Heron Pond Terrace

A worn trail exists between an existing trail and Heron Pond Terrace. Access is narrow between blocks of town homes.



P3: Pond Spice Terrace

A worn path exists between existing trails and Pond Spice Terrace. An existing sidewalk could be expanded to the trail. The picture looks down from sidewalk to trail, but a better solution may cross lower to connect parking to the Burke Centre trail.



P4: Ponds Community Centre Bus Stop

The bus stop east of the exit from the Ponds Community Center (Burke Pond Lane) is used by Fairfax Connector and WMATA buses, as well as FCPS buses. Several people have asked that pavement be provided from the concrete sidewalk at the crosswalk to the bus stop sign location.

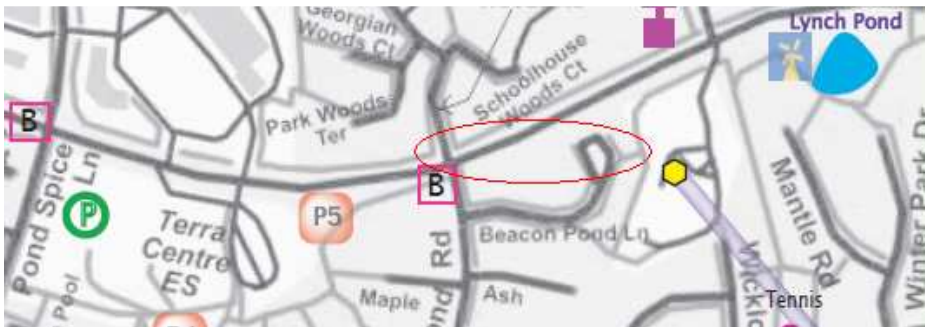


P5: Terra Centre to Marshall Pond

Considering Terra Centre is used for the Burke Centre Festival, there is no real good path from the school to the Conservancy. The proposed path links the access road for the dam just east of Terra Centre to the existing Burke Centre trail.

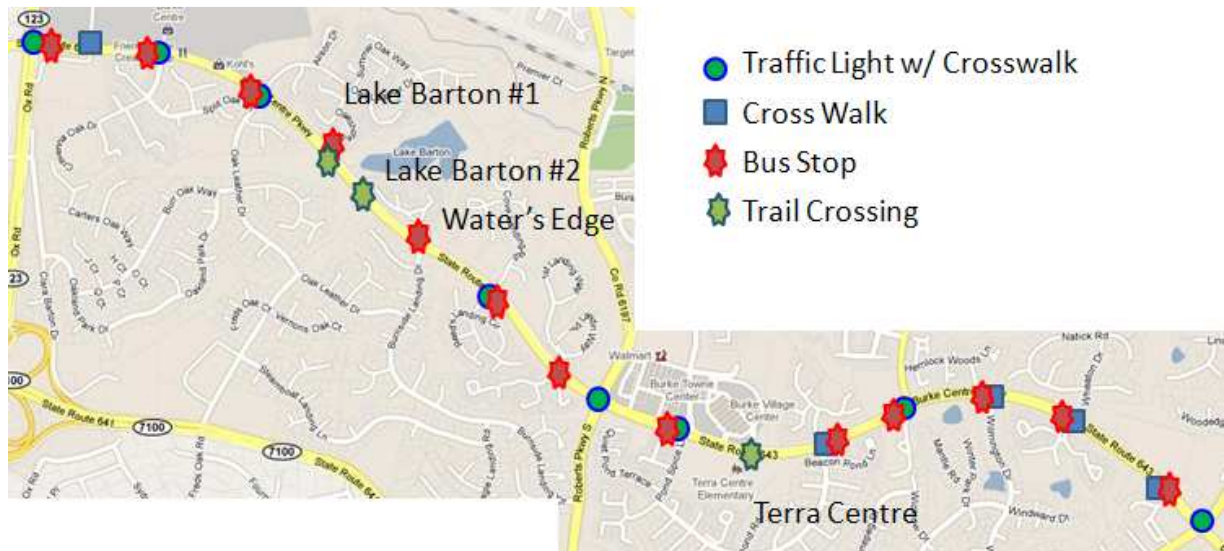


Farther from the school, there is no patch connective Marshall Pond Road to the Conservancy along Burke Centre Parkway



Crosswalk Recommendations

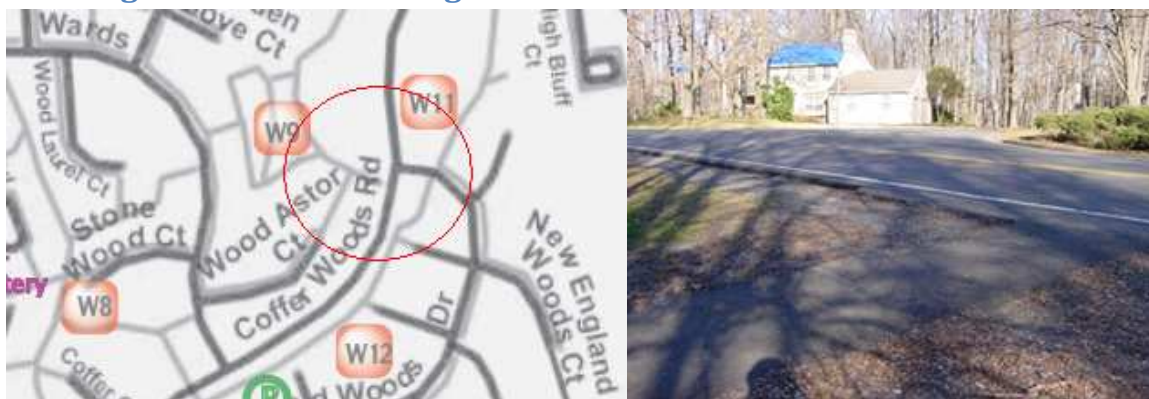
Crosswalks crossing Burke Centre Parkway are needed to extend trails. Crossings are needed at Lake Barton and Water's Edge. Another is needed at Terra Centre and one more across Robert's Road to Walmart. One bridge at Lake Barton should be moved when replaced.



Crosswalk Recommendation Summary

Description	Community	
New England Woods Crossing	Coffer Woods Road	
Lake Barton crossing #1 at Bus Stop	Burke Centre Parkway	
Lake Barton crossing #2 at Bridge	Burke Centre Parkway	
Water's Edge / Burnside Landing	Burke Centre Parkway	
Terra Centre /Giant	Burke Centre Parkway	
Martin's Landing	Burke Centre Parkway	
Robert's Road Walmart Crossing	Roberts Parkway	

New England Woods Crossing.



Lake Barton crossing #1 at Bus Stop

Lake Barton crossing #1 joins the existing trails to the west of Lake Barton, crossing at the existing bus stop.



Lake Barton crossing #2 at Bridge

Lake Barton crossing #2 joins existing trails to the east of Lake Barton. The trail on the lake side may require modification of the guardrail. The bridge on the south side when replaced should be moved to provide direct shot on the existing trail and more direct access to Lake Barton.



Water's Edge / Burnside Landing

Bus stops are not supported by pedestrian crosswalks crossing Burke Centre Parkway between Waters Edge and Burnside Landing Road.



Terra Centre /Giant

The Burke Centre Parkway Pedestrian and Motorist Safety Task Force proposed a pedestrian crossing linking Burke Centre trails linking the Woods Community/Giant shopping center and Marshall Pond/Terra Center with little success. A traffic light was proposed before the School District modification to the Terra Centre park and ride were known. The pedestrian crossing is still desired but likely not to be approved.



Martin's Landing/First Landing

A pedestrian crossing Burke Centre Parkway linking First Landing Road and Martins Landing Road was removed by VDOT. The reason given is the proximity of the Roberts Road traffic light. We believe the pedestrian crossing linking bus stops should be restored.



Roberts Parkway Walmart Crossing

The existing trail alongside Roberts Parkway has a trail segment extending to the street. Unfortunately, the trail does not connect to the entrance to Walmart. While the “trail segment extending to the street” is near the center of the red circle on the map, “the preferred solution” is near the bottom of the red circle—at the south end of the west guiderail and from the sidewalk on the south side of the entry road to Walmart—so the red circle should be moved down (south).



Roberts Parkway Existing Crossing Signage

Two crosswalks exist crossing Roberts Parkway south of Burke Centre Parkway joining Burke Centre trails. Signage warning vehicles of approaching sidewalks is inadequate and should be improved.