

The average rating for each area of the audit is in the table below. Generally, the Long Branch neighbourhood was seen as average in terms of safety, however, there were several areas in need of improvement. The main concerns were isolation at nighttime, lack of lighting on walking paths, lack of signage for emergencies, limited accessibility, minimal security features and no security guards, and possible entrapment sites.

1. Poor	2. Substandard	3. Ok	4. Good	5. Very good
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Safety Audit Report Card	Scale			
OVERVIEW – overall sense of safety in the area.			3.5	
LIGHTING – the ability to see and be seen clearly.			3.2	
SIGNS AND MAPS - knowing where you are reduces fear of being attacked or getting lost.			3.0	
ISOLATION - people tend to feel safer when others are around.		2.7		
SIGHTLINES - clear views ahead and all around, not blocked by bushes, walls or fences.			3.8	
MAINTENANCE - dirty and untidy areas make people feel no one cares and no one will come if they need help.			3.3	
ACCESSIBILITY - it is easy to move around the area.		2.9		
SECURITY – there are security systems in place that work and security staff treat everyone the same way.	1.9			

There were several areas for safety enhancements with regards to physical features, which are:

LIGHTING

Numerous locations with insufficient lighting:

- Parks (Legion Park)
- School playgrounds (James S. Bell)
- Roads (every other light pole)
- Alleys
- Go Station
- Pathway at Go Station to loop
- Edgeway Dr. to Browns Line
- TTC stops
- Phone booths
- Houses

GRAFFITI

- Schools
- Businesses
- Edgeway Dr. (under bridge)

PHONE BOOTHS

- Location at Go Station is secluded

TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Lakeshore Blvd.: projectile ramps cause cars to roll over, pedestrians and drivers get confused (need barrels, not concrete barriers)
- Loop at Go Station: pedestrian safety compromised at end of pathway and at Lakeshore corner (street car tracks not highlighted by lights or signage)
- Browns Line bridge: pedestrian safety compromised – cars travel fast around corner (guard rail?)
- Edgeway Dr.: holes in fence allows pedestrian access to railway
- Confusing situation for pedestrians and drivers at streetcar islands (across from Pendragon Comic Store) – no lights or crosswalk (sign says “Wait for gap to cross”)

OTHER SAFETY CONCERNS

- Lack of open bike racks with lights/signs
- Lack of maintenance in the shelter. Stinks and unpleasant to stay in
- No cameras by co-op park

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for enhancing the physical safety features of the Long Branch neighbourhood based on the safety audit results include the top 4 priority concerns expressed by the participants:

TOP SAFETY CONCERNS	IDEAS FOR CHANGE/ACTION	FOLLOW-UP
Priority 1: Birchlea Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Safety Policing (drugs, prostitution)¹² - By-law enforcement - Health & Building Code violations: rooming houses with inadequate water and toilets; landlords know how to avoid by-law enforcement - Parking violations 	Contact Councillor Grimes and MPP Broten's offices to discuss by-law violations and enhanced community safety measures.
Priority 2: Revitalization of businesses along Lakeshore Blvd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incentives to rent empty stores - Graffiti controls - Crime management - Create artists' haven - Reward businesses that encourage community cohesion 	Contact the Long Branch Business Improvement Area and Councillor/MPP offices for possible resources to implement these ideas. To clean up graffiti, contact the city at 416-39-CLEAN
Priority 3: Community Safety ¹² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prostitution - drugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced policing - Enhanced lighting 	Contact Councillor/MPP offices & police to discuss community safety issues. <i>METRAC recommends conducting an audit with all members of the area.</i>
Priority 4: Traffic Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate projectile ramps - Install cross-walks and signs - Pedestrian barriers on Brown's Line - Fix fence near railway 	Contact Councillor Grimes and MPP Broten's offices to discuss traffic safety concerns.

¹ While substance abuse is a serious issue, criminalization of people with addictions is neither a helpful nor a lasting solution. Additionally, policies and practices that penalize or push out those who use substances in public spaces often ends up discriminating against already marginalized people who live and work on the street and does not address any of the safety or community problems that the drug trade itself creates. For these reasons, public substance abuse must be carefully reacted to, thought about, and dealt with from a harm-reduction approach.

² Assuming who and why people are in a public area is not recommended. People often make judgments about why other people are in a space when attempting to evaluate their own feelings of safety. Although it may be natural to do so, it is important to recognize that such assumptions can be based on stereotypes about race, class, gender, sexual orientation, etc., and they must all be critically examined.

In public spaces, the safety needs of different groups sometimes overlap and can seem to conflict. For example, youth using a park next to a community centre see it as a safe place to hang out. But homeowners may think the park is unsafe because the youth go there. Dog owners may see the park as a safe area where their pets can run free and get exercise. Parents with young children might not want to go to the park because of potential dog poop and the fear that their kids might get bitten.

But it is important to examine these different safety concerns and see where they are coming from. It's important to remember that all the groups using the park are a part of the neighbourhood and should feel free and safe to use the space. The Safety Audit is a tool that can help people communicate amongst their differences to come to a common place of understanding where everybody's voices are heard and everybody feels safe. A space should not be made 'safer' for some at the expense of others, and safety for the most vulnerable, marginalized people is just as important as safety for the more powerful people.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Appendix A lists other contact information for city repairs.

Councillor Mark Grimes

Ward 6 Etobicoke-Lakeshore
100 Queen Street West, Suite C48
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Phone: 416-397-9273
Fax: 416-397-9279
Email: councillor_grimes@toronto.ca

Honourable Laurel Broten, MPP

2731 Lakeshore Boulevard West
Toronto, ON M8V 1G9
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Long Branch Business Improvement Area

3262 Lakeshore Blvd. West
Toronto, Ontario M8V 1M4
Tel: (416) 252-4858
Fax: (416) 251-8196
Email: bia@longbranchvillage.com

Toronto Police Services, 22 Division

3699 Bloor St. W., Toronto, ON , M9A 1A2
Phone: 416-808-2200
Fax: 416-808-2202
Email: 22division@torontopolice.on.ca
Community Relations Officer: Constable Kevin McAleer, (416) 808-2251

C. STRATEGIES FOR FOLLOWING UP ON RESULTS

Here is a list of possible follow-up actions in response to the Safety Audit results:

- **Local Politician** – Because the audit was done on public property, following up with the local City Councillor should be done. A copy of this report card will be sent to Councillor Grime’s office but it may be a good idea to hold a meeting and invite them to discuss the results. Let them know what needs to be done to make the area safe for everyone.
- **Municipal Services** – If your group has identified things that need fixing in your neighbourhood, try contacting your municipal office.
 - Lights and litter in park: contact Parks, Forestry and Recreation at 416 392-1111.
 - For streetlights, contact Toronto Hydro at 416-542-3195.
 - Contact your local City Councillor to advocate on your behalf.
 - Toronto Municipal office: 416-338-0338
 - If your complaints go unheard, then you can consider contacting the Toronto Star’s The Fixer Column. They are interested in hearing about what’s broken and damaged in your neighbourhood. Go to www.thestar.com/thefixer, and click on the *Submit a Problem* link. Or call them at 416-869-4823.
- **Other strategies** – if the safety issues are important enough, then the community group may have to take matters into their own hands. The group may have to do whatever it takes to make sure that their safety issues are heard. Here are some possible actions:
 - Starting a safety committee in your area
 - Contacting the media
 - Making presentations at governments-initiated consultations
 - Holding community forums
 - Organizing workshops in the community
 - Holding community events
 - Surveys and opinion polls

APPENDIX A: City of Toronto Contact Information for Community Repairs

http://www.toronto.ca/services/pdf/whose_job_is_it.pdf

Whose Job Is It?

To report:

- Litter and debris
- A-frame signs and portable signs
- Abandoned appliances
- Property in general disrepair or hazardous condition

→ **call the local Municipal Licensing and Standards (ML&S) Office:**

- North York District: 416-395-7011
- Toronto and East York District: 416-338-0338
- Scarborough District: 416-396-7071
- Etobicoke District: 416-394-2535

- Traffic signals broken: 416-397-8723
- Broken or missing traffic signs: 416-338-9999
- Street lights out: 416-542-3195
- Decorative lighting: Contact Local BIA*
- Broken Phone booth: 6-1-1
- Hanging baskets: Contact Local BIA*
- Damage to bus shelter: 416-338-9999
- Remove A-frame and portable signs: See ML&S box
- Sidewalk Repairs: 416-338-9999
- Leaking fire hydrant: 416-338-8888
- Graffiti: 416-39-CLEAN (416-392-5326)
- Broken/damaged streetlight: 416-542-3195
- Street banner: Contact Local BIA*
- Broken/damaged mail box: 1-800-267-1177
- Broken parking meter: 416-393-7275
- Broken/damaged newspaper boxes: 416-338-9999
- Litter on street/sidewalk or overflowing garbage bin: 416-39-CLEAN (416-392-5326)
- Request new bike posts, report damaged posts or abandoned bikes: 416-392-9253
- Damaged Eco-Media: 416-259-3200
- Water main breaks: 416-338-8888

***For the Business Improvement Area (BIA) in your community, visit www.toronto-bia.com**