

# Campus Safe Walk Report 2024

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**University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Student Government  
Association**



# Table of Contents

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Abstract                    | 3  |
| Preparation and Strategy    | 4  |
| Teams and Route Description | 5  |
| Team Reports                | 7  |
| Findings                    | 12 |
| Conclusion                  | 16 |
| Appendix                    | 18 |

# Abstract

The University of Missouri- St. Louis (UMSL) annual Campus Safe Walk Program was held on the evening of Monday, October 21st, 2024. In 2010, students from Residential Life and Housing and Student Government Association first created the Campus Safe Walk in response to a sexual assault that occurred on south campus. They believed then – as we do now – that through the collaboration of students, faculty, and staff, UMSL could be made a safer place for our campus community to learn and live.

This year the program was planned and organized by the Student Government Association and received support in those areas from the UMSL Branch of the Associated Students of the University of Missouri and UMSL Residential Life and Housing. Both the UMSL Police Department and the Facilities Department participated during the walk.

The 2024 Campus Safe Walk marked the eleventh iteration of the event, returning after a five-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. There were approximately sixty students, faculty and staff who participated in the program and gathered the data to help make this report possible. The report reflects the data that was collected for the current year. In the past the data would be compared to the previous year's data, however, since it has been 5 years since the last Campus Safe Walk, we have decided to forgo the comparison this year.

The goal of this report is to see which safety concerns are addressing the Campus/School and what concerns SGA sees as the top priorities. The report will also address other concerns such as dim lighting, overgrown brush and new pavement suggestions.

In conclusion, the report suggests what concerns and campus changes need to be addressed to improve the overall safety of the students, faculty and staff at the University of Missouri- St. Louis.

## **Preparation and Strategy**

Preparation for the 2024 Campus Safe Walk began early during the Fall 2024 Semester. The SGA Executive Board worked to plan and execute this program. SGA and Residential Life and Housing together decided when the annual Campus Safe Walk should happen and then invited other campus groups and leaders to participate.

In addition to Departments and Staff, Posters and flyers were distributed and displayed throughout campus and on Triton Connect in preparation of the event.

Revisions were made to the previous Campus Safe Walk routes, as some parts of Campus are no longer in use. Therefore, we had 7 different routes for the Campus Safe Walk (See Appendix A) in 2024.

7 Teams were created, each team covering one route. Each Team consisted of at least the following: a member of Student Government (Team Lead), 2 RA's, a UMSL Staff member, a UMSL PD Officer and a member of the UMSL Facilities Team.

The student leaders completed a short training and informational session. They were told which things to look specifically for, how to assist their team in collecting data and were briefed on their route and its location. The leaders were responsible for recording all suggestions and concerns brought up by participants, no matter the situation. This instruction was to eliminate any bias of the team leader or officer assigned to each route.

The 2024 Campus Safe Walk Program began at 7 pm in the Century Rooms. They were greeted with light refreshments, met their team, and got prepped by the SGA leader. At 7:00pm, after a welcome and brief instructions, the teams went to survey their routes.

## Teams and Route Description

| Route                   | Description  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Team #1<br>North Campus | - JC Penney Building and grass area in front of Libraries and Alumni Circle.<br>- The Quad, around each of the buildings: Lucas Hall, Clark Hall, SSB, Express Scripts Hall, and AB Business Building. |
| Team #2<br>North Campus | -Walkways around the entire Science Complex.<br>-Walkways to parking garage & Bugg Lake.<br>-Walk-through of West Garage (all floors and stairwells)   |
| Team #3<br>North Campus | -MSC, REC along Arnold B Grobman Dr<br>-Parking Lot E and F<br>-Touhill Circle   |
| Team #4<br>North Campus | -Walkthrough of Parking Lot K and West Dr.<br>-Walkthrough of Mark Twain building and exterior and paths by fields.<br>-Walk around the Arts Administration Building                                   |
| Team #5<br>North Campus | -Walkway/Bridge over Florissant Road.<br>-Fine Arts Building & Soft Ball Field/Fine Arts Complex on Florissant Rd.<br>-Millennium Student Center Garage South + North                                  |
| Team #6<br>South Campus | -Provincial House, Seton and around the Residential Halls along South Drive<br>-East Drive and the South Campus Parking Garage.<br>-Walkway past Ed Collabiat  |
| Team #7                 | -Walk around the baseball field<br>-Parking lot areas (Marillac and Optometry)   |

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| South Campus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Walk around the Music Building, SAS, ELS, and Optometry buildings and parking lots.</li> <li>-Natural Bridge, West Dr., East Dr. and Marillac Drive</li> </ul> |
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# Team Reports

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| <b>Building:</b> JC Penny Building   |
| <b>Lights:</b> C2, C37, C40, C41<br>B1 JCP, B2 JCP, JC2, GD1, GD2, UD13, UD14, UD15, UD16, SD1<br>All Lights out between Alumni Circle and Garage<br>All Lights out in front of the Library and staircase Nort East Parking Garage |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> By Light MSC 29 big cracks in concrete needs to be filled,   |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> By Alumni Circle that Needs a blank cover  |

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| <b>Building:</b> Library  |
| <b>Lights:</b> All overhead Lights on the Library Building<br>All Lights out in front of Library (Alumni Circle side) |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b>   |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Walkway past JC Penny towards library is very dark                              |

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|---|
| <b>Building:</b> SSB  |
| <b>Lights:</b> Entry Light by Door 6, 7, N2/N4, WB 35,<br>All Lights out in front of Library (Alumni Circle side)                                     |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b>   |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Dock Area has many cement cracks that need to be filled, triangle crack by shuttle stop sign needs to be filled |

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|---|
| <b>Building:</b> ABH  |
| <b>Lights:</b> Small Ground lights outside of ABH (towards other classroom buildings), Solar panel lights between ABH and Touhill |

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| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b>   |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Stairs outside of ABH have cracks at the bottom of multiple steps |

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| <b>Building:</b> Lucas Hall   |
| <b>Lights:</b> All Lights are out, two lights out on deck area by MSC Bridge entrance, walkway (not bridge) between MSC and Lucas Hall, no Lights on Stairs leading to Quad |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Backside staircase is crumbling in spots and also very dark   |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Stairs outside of ABH have cracks at the bottom of multiple steps, Road from Lucas Dock to Clark Hall has multiple cracks             |

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| <b>Building:</b> Clark Hall  |
| <b>Lights:</b> Dark around Clark (all sides), overhead lights are out, Lights missing in the under area by veterans center sign, stairway (library side) is dark, seating area/backside of Clark facing quad is dark |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Backside staircase is crumbling in spots and also very dark  |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Stairs outside of ABH have cracks at the bottom of multiple steps, Road from Lucas Dock to Clark Hall has multiple cracks  |

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| <b>Building:</b> Bug Lake  |
| <b>Lights:</b> Multiple Lights out, some areas with no lights                                      |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Overgrown Bushes near garages and Lake, No lights in staircase of garage |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Sidewalks have different heights                             |

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| <b>Building:</b> Around RWC   |
| <b>Lights:</b> MSC 12, 16, 17, 21-29, 31, 32<br>WC 12, 17, 29, 33, 37, 41, 47 |



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|---|
| <p>RW 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, 33, 44, 52, 54, 61, 63, 64</p> <p>GD 14, 15, 18</p> <p>E27</p> <p>Light pole (3rd Touhill circle)</p> <p>Lights in Lot V closet to Road</p> <p>Every Light by MSC Pond Area</p> <p>All Lights on hill to Touhill (solar powered ones)</p> <p>Can lights out at Touhill circle</p> <p>Lights out from Touhill to MSC</p> |
| <p><b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Sidewalk North Side of RWC – concrete is breaking up</p> <p>Cracked concrete by Wayne Goode Statue area</p> <p>Leaning Trashcans by bottom of Touhill</p>  |
| <p><b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Parking Lot F poorly lit</p> <p>Sinkhole by Wayne Goode Statue</p> <p>Raised concrete bump on sidewalk under bridge between back of Lucas Hall and MSC</p>   |

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| <b>Building: Mark Twain</b>   |
| <p><b>Lights:</b> MT25</p> <p>Needs Lights between Loading Dock and Mark Twain Corner (near Stop sign) pathway behind soccer field needs lighting, need lights by the staircase by Touhill entrance</p> <p>Light on 8225 Florissant Road needs to be replaced</p> |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b>   |
| <p><b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> There is no lighting in the parking lot area or the trail area around the soccer field</p>   |

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| <b>Building:</b> Lot K                     |
| <b>Lights:</b>                             |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Several potholes |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b>      |

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| <b>Building:</b> Millennium Student Center Garages  |
| <p><b>Lights:</b> A whole row of lights does not work along the walkway behind the parking garages, Grove Men Drive entrance should be lit more</p> <p>Both Garages have lights that are not working properly</p> |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> On the path to the fine arts building there is a very damaged concert patch. It's not blocking the whole path, but it could be a tripping hazard  |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b>   |

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| <b>Building:</b> Fine Arts Building  |
| <p><b>Lights:</b> The lighting in the parking lot is very spotty, some areas even completely dark</p> <p>The Bus shuttle stop area also has no lights</p>                  |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> On the path to the fine arts building there is a very damaged concert patch. It's not blocking the whole path, but it could be a tripping hazard |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b>  |

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| <b>Building:</b> MH   |
| <b>Lights:</b>  |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Several potholes  |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> ADA Ramp between ED Coll. And MH has only 1 light |

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| <b>Building:</b> South Campus from Natural Bridge Rd to Marillac Dr                                     |
| <b>Lights:</b> Multiple Light failures, or no light at all, if there is light it comes from a generator |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Several potholes, exposed wires   |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b>   |

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| <b>Building:</b> Laclede Lane/South Dr   |
| <b>Lights:</b> Multiple Light failures, or no light at all   |
| <b>Brush and Grounds:</b> Several potholes, A piece of the Road has been “under construction” for at least 15 months |
| <b>Misc. Safety Concerns Spotted:</b> Potholes around Villa/Villa North  |

# Findings

The most recurring theme throughout Campus Safe Walk has been insufficient lighting. This includes both a lack of lighting in certain areas and numerous light outages across campus. During the most recent walk, teams identified over 100 non-functional lights on their routes, limited to those with identifiable labels or clear descriptions in the teams' notes. This persistent issue is a significant concern for the Student Government Association, as improving lighting could address many nighttime safety concerns.

To reduce this issue and ensure it does not persist, SGA proposes the following solutions:

## **1. Establish a Quarterly Lighting Monitoring Program**

The lack of a formal program to routinely monitor campus lighting has become evident. Conducting lighting evaluations only once a year during Campus Safe Walks is insufficient to keep campus lighting functional and up-to-date. Implementing a quarterly monitoring program would allow for routine checks, ensuring timely maintenance. We recommend that findings from these evaluations be shared during Staff Association and SGA Assembly meetings to maintain transparency and accountability.

## **2. Upgrade to LED Lighting**

Replacing burned-out lights with energy-efficient LED lighting would provide numerous benefits. LEDs have a longer lifespan, reduce energy consumption, and lower maintenance costs over time. Additionally, transitioning to LED lighting aligns with the campus's commitment to sustainability, contributing to a healthier and more environmentally friendly campus environment.

## **3. Increase Lighting Across Campus**

Many teams suggested additional lighting in specific areas to improve visibility and enhance perceptions of safety. Well-lit pathways and open spaces are critical for promoting safety and fostering a sense of security for all campus users. Expanding lighting coverage should be viewed as an investment in campus infrastructure and community well-being rather than merely an expense.

By addressing these lighting concerns proactively and strategically, the campus can create a safer and more welcoming environment for everyone.

To demonstrate how important these concerns are we have completed a full list of all non-functional lights identified during the Campus Safe Walk.

### **JC Penny Building**

- **C2, C37, C40, C41**
- **B1 JCP, B2 JCP, JC2, GD1, GD2, UD13, UD14, UD15, UD16, SD1**

- All lights between Alumni Circle and Garage.
- All lights in front of the Library and staircase near the Northeast Parking Garage.

### **Library**

- All overhead lights on the Library building.
- All lights in front of the Library (Alumni Circle side).

### **SSB**

- **Entry lights by Door 6, 7, N2/N4, WB 35.**
- All lights in front of the Library (Alumni Circle side).

### **ABH**

- Small ground lights outside ABH (towards other classroom buildings).
- Solar panel lights between ABH and Touhill.

### **Lucas Hall**

- All lights in Lucas Hall.
- Two lights out on the deck area by the MSC Bridge entrance.
- Walkway (not bridge) between MSC and Lucas Hall.
- No lights on stairs leading to the Quad.

### **Clark Hall**

- All sides around Clark are dark.
- Overhead lights are out.
- Lights missing in the under-area by the Veterans Center sign.
- No lights on the stairway (Library side).
- Dark seating area/backside of Clark facing the Quad.

### **Bug Lake**

- Multiple lights out in some areas, and no lights in others.

### **Around RWC**

- **MSC 12, 16, 17, 21-29, 31, 32.**
- **WC 12, 17, 29, 33, 37, 41, 47.**

- **RW 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, 33, 44, 52, 54, 61, 63, 64.**
- **GD 14, 15, 18, E27.**
- Light pole (3rd Touhill circle).
- Lights in Lot V close to the road.
- Every light by MSC Pond area.
- All solar-powered lights on the hill to Touhill.
- Can lights out at Touhill circle.
- Lights out from Touhill to MSC.

#### **Mark Twain**

- **MT25.**
- No lights between the Loading Dock and Mark Twain Corner (near Stop sign).
- Pathway behind the soccer field lacks lighting.
- Staircase by Touhill entrance has no lights.
- Light on 8225 Florissant Road needs replacement.

#### **Lot K**

- Several potholes noted but no specific mention of light issues.

#### **Millennium Student Center Garages**

- A whole row of lights does not work along the walkway behind the parking garages.
- Grove Men Drive entrance lacks sufficient lighting.
- Both garages have lights that are not functioning properly.

#### **Fine Arts Building**

- Parking lot lighting is very spotty, with some areas completely dark.
- No lights at the bus shuttle stop area.

#### **MH**

- ADA Ramp between ED Coll. and MH has only one functioning light.

#### **South Campus (Natural Bridge Rd to Marillac Dr)**

- Multiple light failures or complete lack of lighting, except for generator-powered lights.

## **Laclede Lane/South Dr**

- Multiple light failures or complete lack of lighting.

## **Infrastructure and Signage Challenges**

There are also many infrastructure concerns across campus. Some roads were found to have potholes, creating potential hazards for drivers and cyclists. Additionally, several walkways are beginning to deteriorate, with visible cracks and uneven surfaces posing safety risks for pedestrians. Some staircase steps were even noted to be missing pieces, further emphasizing the need for prompt repairs to maintain a safe and accessible environment for all campus users

The Teams also observed that many campus signs are outdated, with several displaying faded images or text that is difficult to read. These worn-out signs not only detract from the campus's overall appearance but may also hinder navigation and communication.

# Conclusion

The Campus Safe Walk identified numerous safety and infrastructure concerns across campus. Key findings include widespread lighting issues, significant maintenance needs for roads and walkways and various safety hazards requiring immediate attention.

## Lighting

Lighting was a major concern in nearly all areas assessed. Several buildings, walkways, parking lots and staircases were poorly lit or entirely dark. Notable areas include the Library, Lucas Hall, Clark Hall, Millennium Student Center garages and pathways such as the Alumni Circle, Touhill to MSC and the trail behind the soccer field. Solar-powered and overhead lights are either not functioning or absent, posing risks for both safety and security.

## Brush and Grounds

Cracks, uneven concrete, and potholes were reported across campus walkways and roads, including areas near the JC Penny Building, Wayne Goode Statue, and Natural Bridge Road. Overgrown bushes near garages and Bug Lake were also noted, obstructing pathways and reducing visibility. Damaged patches of concrete and leaning trashcans further detract from the campus environment and could pose tripping hazards.

## Miscellaneous Safety Concerns

Additional hazards included exposed wires, deteriorating ADA ramps, crumbling staircases, and poorly lit parking lots, particularly near the Fine Arts Building and Lot K. Sidewalks with raised concrete, sinkholes and a lack of adequate lighting in high-traffic areas, such as shuttle stops and the parking garages, were also significant concerns. Long-standing construction zones, such as the roadwork on South Dr, increase these issues and highlight the need for more efficient repairs.

The success of the 2024 Campus Safe Walk at the University of Missouri–St. Louis would not have been possible without the dedication of the many students, faculty and staff who volunteered their time to support the shared vision of a safer campus. Their contributions made this event impactful, gathering valuable information that highlights areas for improvement.

SGA urges the campus community and administration to treat this report with the seriousness it deserves, as safety is a priority for all members of the UMSL community. While we fully understand the budget constraints faced by UMSL, especially during this period, we strongly believe that the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors must remain a top priority. As financial decisions are being made in the coming months, we ask that the findings and data from this report be taken into careful consideration.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every member of the Student Government Association, the Office of Residential Life and Housing and the UMSL Police Department for their hard work and commitment to collaboration. Their efforts have been instrumental in advancing campus

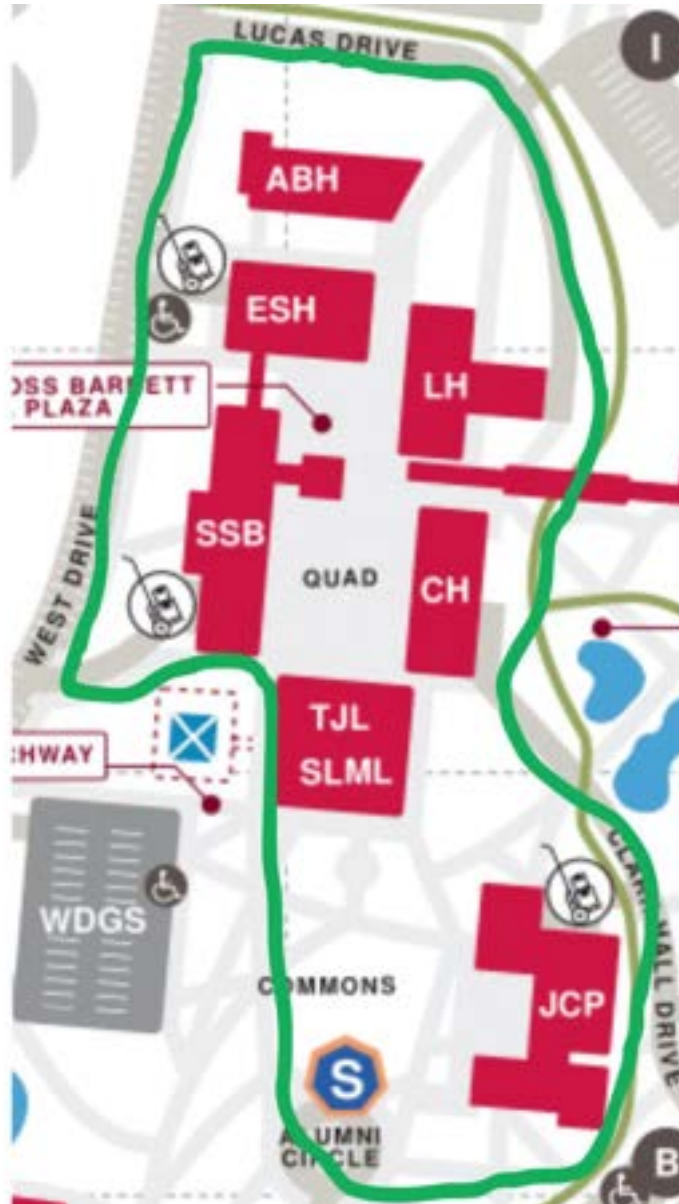


safety and security for everyone. We would also like to thank Tanika Busch and her Facility Team that showed up for the Campus Safe Walk.

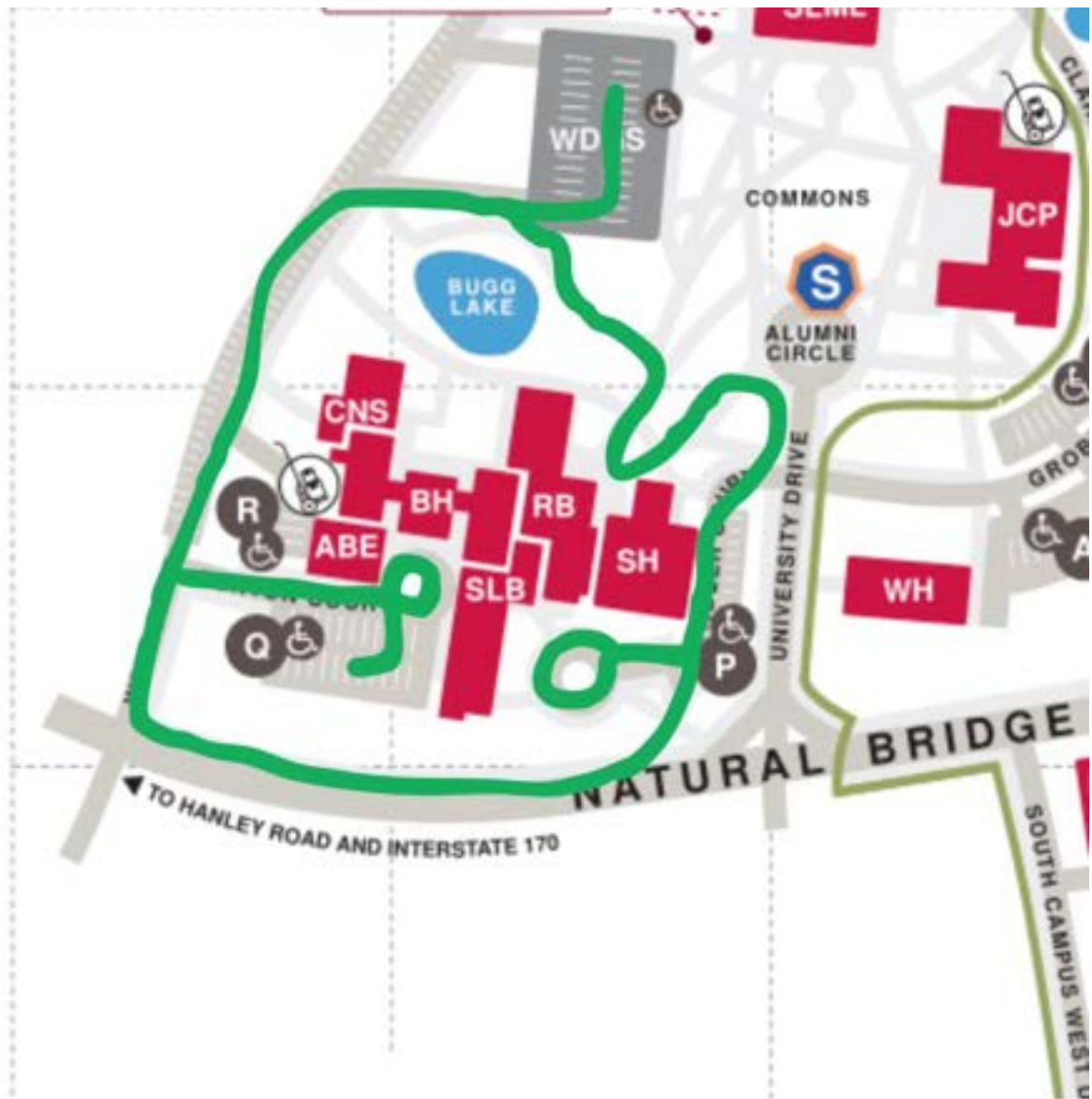
The data collected through the Campus Safe Walk Program serves as a valuable resource to guide meaningful improvements. Should any questions arise regarding the program, please do not hesitate to contact the UMSL Student Government Association President, Alexander Orywall, at **ao64n@umsl.edu**.

# Appendix

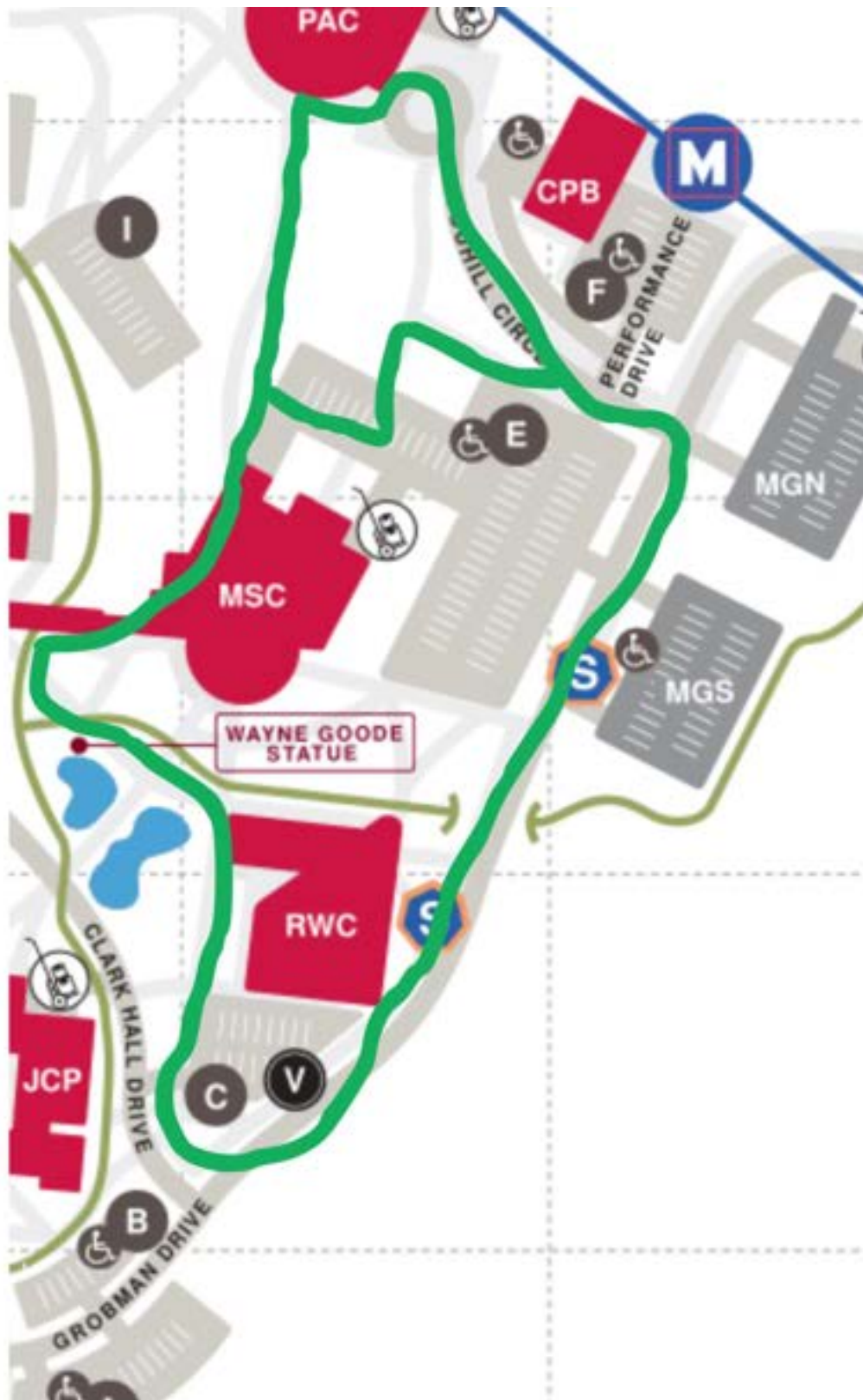
## Route 1



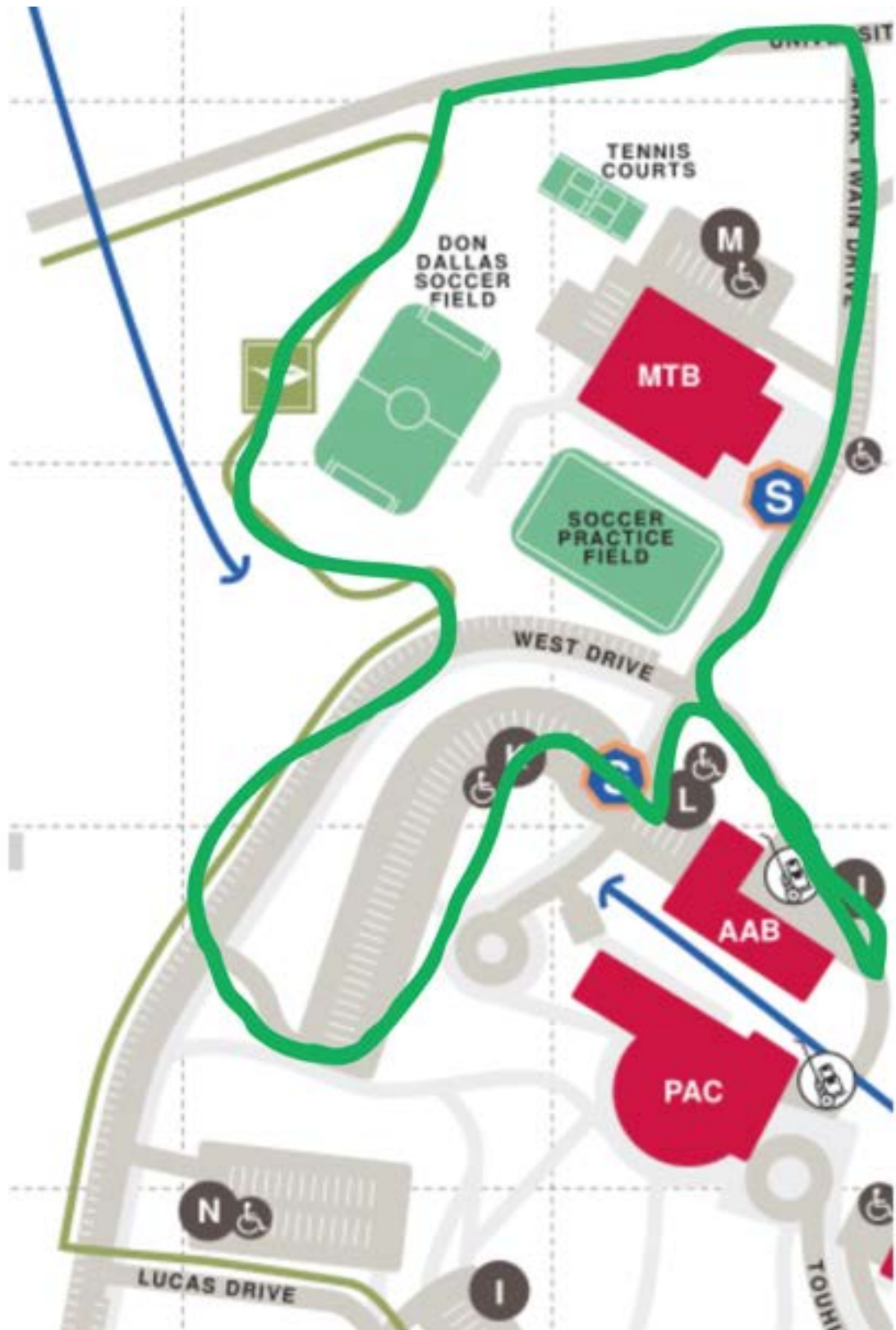
## Route 2



## Route 3



## Route 4





## Route 5



## Route 6



## Route 7

