UNIVERSITY PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

University Park Elementary School

University Park Elementary School is located off Loftus Road, south of Geist Road. The walk zone encompasses the Geist neighborhood from Tolovana Drive east to Wilcox Avenue, and falls within the College Road Service Area. 473 students were enrolled at the school for the 2010-2011 school year. University Park Elementary is outside the City of Fairbanks.

The walk zone neighborhood is primarily single-family residential, with some multi-family units scattered throughout. There is also some commercial development along Geist Road.

Site Characteristics

- There are crossing guards positioned at:
  - Fairbanks Street & Birch Lane
  - Birch Lane and Loftus Road
  - Loftus Road and York Street
- There are sidewalks along Loftus Road between the school and Geist Road.
- Parent and bus drop-off/pick-up areas are separated.
- Birch Lane serves as primary walking route from the east
  - Wide shoulder on south side, west of Fairbanks Street
  - No streetlights
  - Speed limit posted 20 mph
  - Painted crosswalk at Fairbanks Street
  - Many side streets, no shoulders east of Fairbanks Street
- Loftus Road AADT = 2,439; Fairbanks Street AADT = 4,192

Photo 1 - University Park student drop-off signage

Parent Survey Results

University Park had a 25% response rate to the parent surveys. Parents indicated that distance from school, weather, and the amount of traffic were the top three reasons for not allowing their children to walk or bike to school. The safety of intersections and crossings also ranked high. This sentiment was also expressed in the comments section multiple times, as was the concern about driver behavior/speed throughout the walk zone.

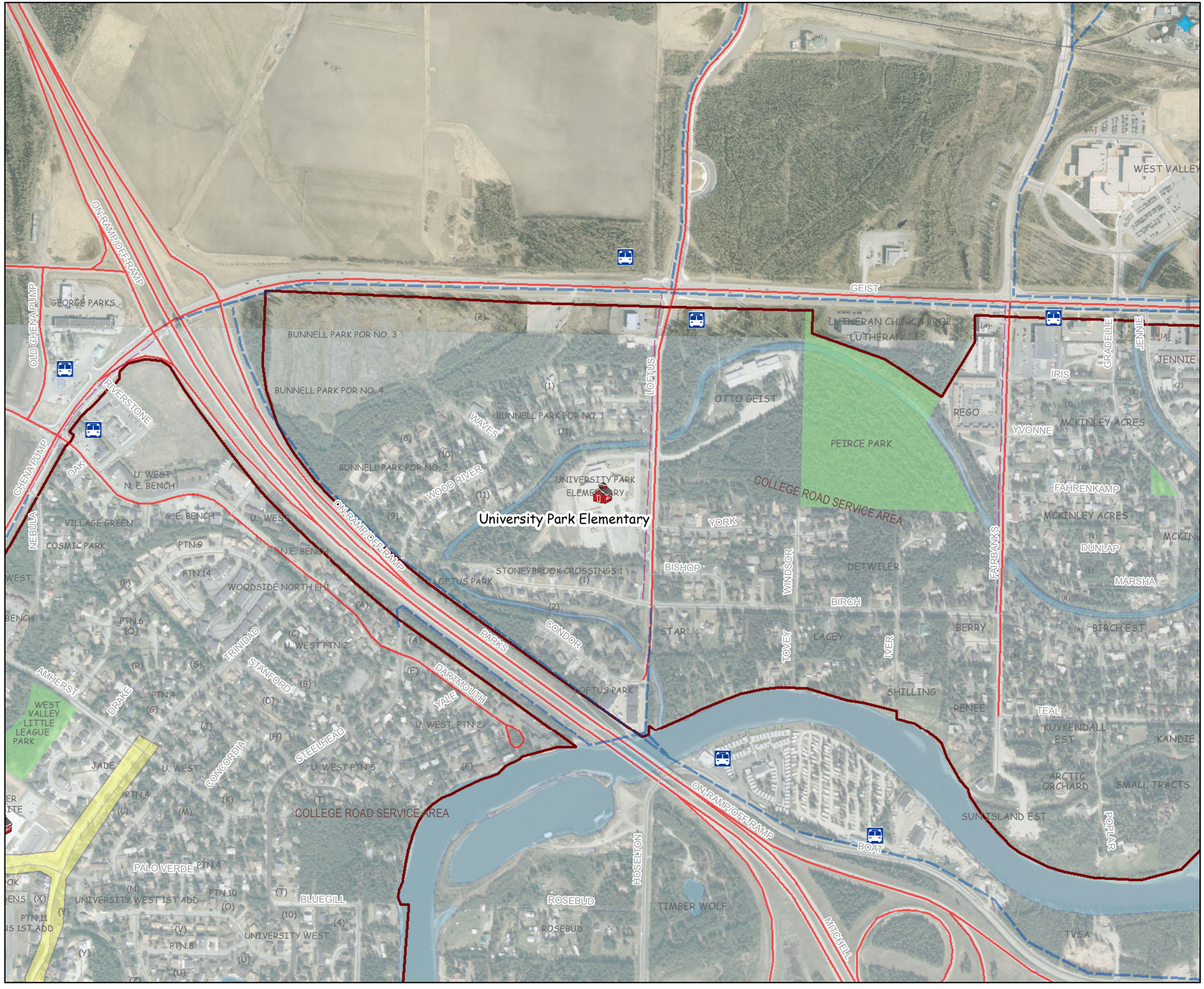
Photo 2 - Primary walking route to University Park Elementary (Birch Lane)

Summary

The University Park walk zone has considerable infrastructure deficiencies, but there are opportunities for improvement. The immediate school zone has acceptable sidewalks, crosswalks and crossing guards. However, the primary walking route from the east (Birch Lane) lacks a complete sidewalk, traffic calming, streetlights, and marked crosswalks. There is an informal dirt path in the utility right-of-way that parallels Birch Lane between Loftus and Fairbanks streets. There is also a bike lane along the south side of the road, but the on-street markings are faded.

Recommendations

- Add ADA-compliant sidewalk along the east side of Fairbanks Street from Geist Road to Birch Lane.
- Install painted crosswalks on Fairbanks Street at the intersections with Iris Lane, Yvonne Avenue, Fahrenkamp Avenue, and Dunlap Avenue.
- Add ADA-compliant sidewalk along the south side of Birch Lane from Fairbanks Street to Loftus Road.
- Install painted crosswalks with signs along Birch Lane at the intersections with Iver Drive, Tovey Drive, and Dark Star Court.
- Install painted crosswalks with signs along Loftus Road at the intersections of Wood River Drive and the three entrances to the school.
- Install crosswalks with pedestrian-activated RRFB across Loftus Road at the intersections of York Avenue and Bishop Circle.
- Install traffic calming devices such as speed humps on the streets that lead into Loftus Road, Birch Lane, and Fairbanks Street.
- Conduct a lighting study to see if additional light is needed.
- Upgrade bike racks.



University Park Elementary

- Schools
- Borough Bus Stops
- Streetlights
- Lighting*
- Road Service Areas
- Sidewalks
- Separated Paths
- Parks

Roads

- Streets with more traffic
- Residential streets
- Railroad
- Trails

*Streetlight data not available outside Fairbanks or North Pole city boundaries; this layer represents those areas with known streetlights

N
W E
S

0 0.25
Miles

SafeRoutes
Alaska Safe Routes to School

FMATS
Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System

Created 28 Jun 2011

University Park Elementary

Existing Infrastructure

- Schools
- Separated Path
- Sidewalk
- Roads
- Railroad
- Street Lights

Infrastructure Recommendations

- Crosswalk & Beacon
- Crosswalk
- Intersection Improvements
- Lighting
- Signage
- Repair Overpass
- Pathway
- Vegetation Clearing
- Easement
- Fencing
- Lighting
- New Sidewalk
- Upgrade Sidewalk
- Traffic Circulation
- Vegetation Clearing
- Lighting
- Traffic Calming

0 0.25
Miles

-All infrastructure recommendations are considered "planning level" and require further engineering analysis, design, or public input before implementation.
-Recommended changes to existing traffic patterns (adding a signal, adding a stop sign, changing lane patterns) will require a study to evaluate the potential impacts
-Right-of-way was not evaluated as part of this project. Recommendations assume that sufficient ROW exists or that a method to gain needed ROW will be identified as the project progresses.
-ADA compliance will need to be evaluated for all recommendations at the time of the design.
-Maintenance needs and responsibility should be addressed during project development.

SafeRoutes
Alaska Safe Routes to School

FMATS
Fairbanks Metropolitan Area Transportation System

Created 28 Jun 2011