

Sidewalk and Trail Inspection and Maintenance Policy

Adopted 09/19

Introduction

- The City of Le Sueur, Minnesota has an estimated 62,228 ft. of public sidewalks and trails (see map, below).
- Public sidewalks and trails vary in age and in quality of their condition.
- Not every mere inequality or irregularity in the surface of the sidewalk rises to the level of a defect.
- The City recognizes that some sidewalk and trail conditions create unreasonable hazards for pedestrians and other sidewalk users.
- Potential Hazard Images:



- The City does not have unlimited staff and financial resources and cannot reasonably replace all sidewalks or trails needing replacement or repair in the same year the sidewalk or trail is identified as needing replacement and repair.
- Sidewalk and trail replacement and repair can be costly.
- Comprehensive sidewalk and trail surveys are expensive and require the use of limited City personnel and other resources.
- Under appropriate circumstances, some or all the cost of sidewalk or trail replacement may be passed to the adjacent property owner.
- Accordingly, the City and its Public Services Department must exercise both discretion and professional judgment in determining whether and when sidewalks and trails need to be replaced or repaired.
- The City expects that its agents, employees, and City officials will exercise discretion in identifying conditions requiring replacement and repair, in the scheduling of replacement and repair and in establishing priorities for replacement and repair.

Sidewalk and Trail Inspection Procedures

- The Street & Parks Manager or City Appointee shall establish procedures for regular sidewalk inspection. Those procedures will include:
 - An initial City-wide sidewalk and trail survey to be completed by June 30, 2020
 - A schedule for routine sidewalk and trail inspections on a regular basis.
 - Criteria for determining whether a sidewalk or trail condition needs replacement or repair.

Sidewalk and Trail Replacement and Repair

- Upon completion of the initial sidewalk and trail survey, the Street & Parks Manager shall establish a replacement and repair schedule.
- This schedule is subject to modification based both on sidewalk and trail conditions and the availability of resources for sidewalk and trail replacement and repair.
- The City of Le Sueur sidewalks and trails shall be divided in four inspection districts split into quadrants by Ferry Street (running east to west) and Highway 112 (running north to south).
- The Street & Parks Department shall inspect one of the four sidewalks and trails quadrants each year beginning in 2021 with the NE quadrant and working clockwise along the quadrants so that every sidewalk or trail in Le Sueur will be inspected at least once every four years.
- The sidewalk and trail replacement and repair schedule will take into consideration and weigh the following factors:
 - Sidewalk or trail location and amount of pedestrian traffic.
 - Proximity of sidewalk or trail identified as needing replacement or repair to other sidewalks also needing replacement or repair.
 - The nature and severity of the condition needing replacement or repair.
 - The City's budget for replacement or repair of sidewalks or trails.
 - Availability of employees, equipment, and other resources for sidewalk or trail replacement or repair.
 - Public safety.
 - History of prior accidents or complaints.
 - Schedules of independent contractors and work necessary to prepare bids and bid specifications if work is to be performed by independent contractors

Sidewalk and Trail Maintenance

- City employees will be responsible for removing snow from sidewalks in front of or adjacent to City-owned buildings or parking lots and all trails.
- The owners and occupants of lots shall keep the sidewalks in front of or adjacent to their respective lots free and clear from snow, ice, and other obstructions (see City Code § 92.015).
- The City will remove ice and snow from sidewalks that are adjacent to City trails.
- The City will remove ice and snow from City trails.
- The City may, as a public service and for reasons of public safety, remove snow and ice from sidewalks and trails. The Street & Parks Manager will identify sidewalks and trails from which the City will remove ice and snow.

Modification and Review of Policy:

- The City Council may modify or clarify this policy at any time.
- Where the City Council has delegated responsibility or authority to any City employee or official for development or implementation of any portion of this policy, that employee or official shall have full authority to modify that portion of the policy at any time.
- The Public Services Department will keep on file comments and complaints received regarding this policy.
- The policy will be reviewed periodically.

- Any review will consider comments and complaints since the last review and any other factors affecting the policy or its implementation.

Effective Date

- This policy shall be effective on the date approved by City Council.
- Modifications of the policy shall be effective on the date said modifications are approved by City Council resolution or the date City employee or official (with authority granted by the City Council) has approved the policy modification or change.