



Village of Glenwood 2011 Sidewalk Evaluation Survey

Introduction

The Village of Glenwood as a municipality is responsible for making sure the sidewalks are in safe condition for pedestrian use. Unfortunately, many sidewalks throughout the Village are not safe and, therefore, are a hazard for users. In order to reduce or prevent injuries to pedestrians and the resulting claims and losses, [an] inspection and repair procedure [has been] established using the Sidewalk Evaluation Survey. This evaluation will be used to determine the most hazardous sidewalks and allow the Village to make repairs as needed.

Methodology

First, it is determined which sidewalks are primary walkways (see attached Village of Glenwood map #1). Primary walks include areas around schools, nursing homes, parks, and primary business/merchant districts. Since these are high volume zones, they will need to be inventoried every year. Then, the village is divided up into three sections of non-primary or secondary walks (see attached Village of Glenwood map #2). Since these sidewalks do not receive as much traffic each section will be inventoried on a rotating schedule every three years. After these determinations are made, each sidewalk square is visually inspected and rated on a scale of 1-6, as follows:

Rating 1 – New, No Structural Defects

Rating 2 – Good Condition

- ❖ Slight cracking
- ❖ No joint deterioration
- ❖ No vertical separation

Rating 3 – Aged and Minor Defects

- ❖ Cracking
- ❖ Joint deterioration
- ❖ Vertical separation up to ½ inch
- ❖ Irregular sideslope
- ❖ Spalling up to 35%

Rating 4 – Eminent Failure

- ❖ Severe cracking (no loose pieces)
- ❖ Joint deterioration up to ½ inch
- ❖ vertical separation up to 1 inch
- ❖ irregular sideslope up to 1 inch per foot
- ❖ spalling up to 50%

Rating 5 – Structural Failure

- ❖ severe cracking (loose pieces)
- ❖ joint deterioration over ½ inch
- ❖ vertical separation over 1 inch
- ❖ irregular sideslope over 1 inch per foot
- ❖ spalling over 50%

Rating 6 – Other Trip Hazards/Obstacles

- ❖ trees
- ❖ manholes
- ❖ b-boxes
- ❖ road signs
- ❖ wires etc.

To help clarify these ratings, some additional definitions are necessary. Sideslope – A condition when a piece of sidewalk is tilted horizontally with one side higher than the other directly across from it (see photo attached).

Spalling – A condition where the aggregate in the concrete becomes exposed. This is usually caused by weathering (see photo attached).

For every address hazardous pieces of sidewalk are given a rating of 2-6. (Sidewalks rated #1 are not inventoried as they do not pose any problems for pedestrians). A sample Sidewalk Evaluation form used to inventory these walks is attached. Additionally, walk that does not meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements is also noted with a rating. A photograph of sidewalk that meets these ADA requirements is provided along with a picture of walk that does not (see attached).

Final Results

After the data is collected, each address is ranked in descending order from rating 6 to 2 so the sidewalk that poses immediate danger can be repaired as soon as possible. According to the criterion given, this includes any sidewalk that has a rating of 4 or higher since these pieces are the greatest tripping hazards. When a potential tripping hazard is being removed, the adjacent section of sidewalk with defects warranting a rating of 4 will also be removed.

This survey successfully relates each address with the number of sidewalk squares of each condition. Because of the ongoing nature of the survey, it assures that the hazardous sidewalks in the Village of Glenwood will be kept to a minimum, therefore making walkways safer for all pedestrians.