

## **2018 Citywide Hazardous Sidewalk Replace Program FAQ**

1. **Why has my sidewalk been chosen for replacement?** The City conducts a citywide inspection of sidewalks about once every 10 years. During the most recent citywide sidewalk inspection, a section of your sidewalk was found to be defective and it was marked for replacement. Sidewalk maintenance is important to both appearance and value. Moreover, it may save a pedestrian from injury and you, the homeowner, from a lawsuit.
2. **Will the City remove a tree that is damaging my sidewalk?** For aesthetic and ecological reasons, the City does not remove healthy trees from the public right-of-way.
3. **I have a question about why my sidewalk was marked for replacement.** Former Department of Public Works employees, Jay Mader and Larry Page, are available to answer questions on sidewalk markings. They can be reached at 248.581.2633 to leave a message.
4. **When will the program begin?** Italia Construction has been awarded the contract for the program and the work is scheduled to begin May 29<sup>th</sup> and last through June, depending on the weather.
5. **Can I get my own contractor rather than have the City do the work?** No. Because this is a citywide program, the City is handling the program so the work is done on a timely basis.
6. **What about patching the defect?** No patching or any other type of repair work will be permitted. Generally, patches are temporary measures which do not have longevity due to the freeze/thaw cycle. Removing and replacing the defective slab is the most economical repair in the long run.
7. **What will happen if the new sidewalks become damaged?** Barricades will be placed to protect the newly poured sidewalks. The City will not be responsible for any sidewalk slabs driven over or walked on before the contractor has removed the barricades.
8. **Where can I park if I can't get into my driveway?** You may park on the street while your drive is inaccessible. You do not need to notify Public Safety. They are aware that driveways with barricades are inaccessible and are permitted to park on the street overnight.
9. **What do I do to avoid damage to my sprinkler?** Mark sprinkler heads adjacent to the sidewalk with a flag or tie a rag to a stick. Automatic sprinklers should be shut off during the construction and may be turned on the day after the cement is poured.
10. **Will my lawn need to be restored after the work?** Within a short time your lawn should restore itself. Usually only a few inches of sod adjacent to the defective walk is uprooted. This strip is filled with topsoil after the concrete forms are removed. No sod will be laid in the interest of keeping repair costs to a minimum and because of the difficulty in matching the variety of lawns. The adjacent grass normally spreads quickly to the edge of the walk.

11. **Why are homeowners responsible for the repairs?** Property owners are responsible for the condition of the sidewalk abutting their property in nearly all cities, including Huntington Woods. In fact, courts have held owners liable for injuries caused to people falling on defective sidewalks.

12. **How will I be billed?** You will receive a bill in the mail around July 1st. You will have until October 31st to pay this amount. After that, a penalty will be added and the balance will be added to your tax bill.

13. **Who will pay for corner lots and curb cuts?** Sidewalks on corner lots will be responsibility of the abutting homeowner except for sidewalk slabs on Coolidge Highway. Curb cuts will be paid by the City.

14. **Will the contractor be available to do side jobs?** Yes. If residents are considering additional concrete work on their property, they can call Italia Construction directly at 586.405.1347 to discuss it further.

2017-18 CITY-WIDE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM  
CRITERIA USED TO IDENTIFY HAZARDOUS SIDEWALK FLAGS



ELEVATION DIFFERENCE

An elevation difference between flags of 1/2" inch or greater will be replaced



HOLES

A hole that is 3/4 inch or greater in depth



CRACKS

A flag that has any crack will be replaced regardless of width or length



SURFACE SPALLING

Surface spalling (a chipping away or crumbling of the surface) equal to 25% or more of the flag surface