

## 2024 Sidewalk inspection defective sidewalk standards and criteria

Public sidewalks in Minneapolis are designed and constructed to meet:

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II regulation guidelines and requirements
- Minnesota Department of Transportation standards and specifications
- City of Minneapolis Department of Public Works standards and specifications

On a yearly basis, the Public Works Department inspects sidewalks. We do this to identify defects and hazardous conditions that exceed the minimum criteria for removal and replacement. Sidewalk inspectors use minimum criteria when ordering sidewalk repairs.

### Minimum criteria

#### Cracked or broken sidewalk:

Sections of broken sidewalk, with multiple cracks, or intersecting cracks, that are uneven or have separated apart (1/4" minimum).

#### *Exception*

In many cases, there may be a:

- Crack in a section of sidewalk, but the crack is tight (no separation).
- Single crack that is not intersecting with other cracks and has not become uneven with projecting edges.

In this case, the Sidewalk Inspector may determine that the sidewalk section can remain in place. This is unless there are issues with other adjacent sidewalk sections that would require this section to be replaced as part of a larger problem.

#### Uneven or settled sidewalk:

- Uneven sections of sidewalk with projecting hazardous edges exceeding one (1) inch. This results in a tripping hazard and/or impeding proper drainage of the section.
- Settled sections of sidewalk causing rainwater to pond in the summer.
- Settled sections of sidewalk making it hard to remove snow and ice during the winter.

#### *Exception*

Ponding or poor drainage on sidewalks from existing grades on adjacent properties and/or boulevard spaces, is not enough to require sidewalk replacement on its own. The Public Works program for sidewalk replacement is limited to the sidewalk sections themselves. It is not meant to fix larger area drainage issues.

## Projecting:

- Projecting edges of sections or projecting broken edges of sidewalk exceeding one (1) inch. The City Attorney's office has determined (based on case history) that in the City of Minneapolis, any projecting edge of one (1) inch or more must be ordered removed and replaced.
- Projections of less than one (1) inch may be removed and replaced, if deemed by the Sidewalk Inspector (based on judgment and experience), to be a hazard to pedestrians.

## *Example*

If the projecting section was blocking drainage, or adjacent to another section that was uneven and blocking drainage. This would require us to remove and replace both sidewalk sections.

## Other defects or conditions:

- Excessive pitting or surface deterioration (often as a condition of age) that affects the quality of:
  - Walking
  - Biking
  - ADA mobility standards
- Excessive spalling of the concrete surface and edges, where the tooled edges at the joints of a section have deteriorated to the point that they present a tripping hazard.
- When the structural integrity and/or capacity is comprised due to:
  - Excessive deterioration
  - Spalling
  - Pitting of the concrete sidewalk
- When the Park Board removes a boulevard tree and puts a new one nearby, and there's a round space (tree ring) in the sidewalk from the old tree. In this case, we'll replace that tree ring space with a full width of sidewalk. This is only the case if the tree ring projects into the sidewalk by six (6) inches or more.