



City of Gilroy

7351 Rosanna Street
Gilroy, California
95020-6141

Public Information Office
Telephone (408) 846-0254
Fax (408) 846-0445

2008 Sidewalk Survey Facts

Repair or replacement of damaged sidewalks has been an important issue in the city of Gilroy for many years and over the years the city has operated various programs that have shared costs with property owners for the repair of damaged sidewalks.

In May 2008, the Gilroy City Council identified development of a comprehensive approach to solving the sidewalk issue as one of its Top Ten priorities. The approach seeks to address damaged sidewalks, street tree remediation and replanting policies that will lead to a long-term reduction in the damage of sidewalks as a result of tree root growth along with a financing mechanism and comprehensive ordinance that guides future responsibility for sidewalk repair responsibility. In June 2008, the city council directed staff to proceed with a field sidewalk survey during the summer months, utilizing three full-time engineering employees and one intern. The purpose and scope of the survey was identify and document the damaged areas, so that the magnitude and cost of the repairs could be assessed. The survey reviewed 11 basic elements, including sidewalk removal & replacement, sidewalk grinding, tree removal & replacement with root barriers, ADA sidewalk ramps, curb & gutter removal& replacement, and park strip and driveway repair for each parcel located within the city.

During a two month timeframe staff walked approximately 16 square miles of the city surveying 11,120 properties and identifying 2,555 (23%) parcels with sidewalk damage or deficiencies requiring repair. The survey of this size of an area in the timeframe provided by the council was structured to identify those areas that require removal and replacement, assess areas requiring tree removal and replacement, indicate that a total estimated construction cost for all identified damage and deficiencies is approximately \$7.4 million if the property owner contracts the work, and up to \$11.7 million if the City contracts the work.

Because of the nature of cement damage the survey intuitively identifies the broad scope of the repairs necessary through removal and replacement. In addition to determining the actual number of repairs required citywide, council and staff are looking at various methods of approaching the problem such as repairing sidewalks only (not curbs, gutters, driveways, etc.) in targeted focus areas containing the most severe damage.

The sidewalk survey generally shows:

- 193,449 square feet of sidewalk needs replacement
- 2,293 square feet of sidewalk can be remediated with a grinding program
- 824 offending trees may require removal
- 846 stumps would require removal
- 687 trees would need to be replaced
- 256 ADA ramps to be installed
- 15,697 lineal feet of curb and gutter requires removal and replacement
- 18,736 square feet of park strip requires remediation.

In 2006, a citizen Sidewalk Task Force was formed to study and make recommendations that would better manage the maintenance of the sidewalks in the city. Based on their recommendations, the city implemented and funded programs which, partnering with property owners, have repaired many damaged sidewalks, but the percentage as compared to the whole has been quite small. In FY 08/09, for example, a total of up to 139 properties are slated for repair. This is about .05% of the total as identified in the survey as needing repair. Historically, the scale and scope of these repairs has been in large part limited by available funding.