

VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS  
REPORT ON SIDEWALK  
INSTALLATION THROUGHOUT THE  
VILLAGE

APRIL 4, 2006



For decades the Village has struggled with policy, or lack thereof, for the installation of new sidewalks. It is the present Board's disposition to establish a policy which will guide the Village through the complex issues concerning sidewalks; where, how and when they will be installed, and most importantly the financial mechanism and cost sharing which will be utilized to fund said installation. The intent is to create a policy which can be adopted by the Board and then implemented by staff so that installation requests become routine and can be administered by staff without direct input from the Village Board on each item. This policy has three main goals:

1. To give maximum guidance to staff to implement policy without recurring input from elected and appointed officials.
2. Give oversight guidance to Commissions, Committees, and the Village Board should their input be required.
3. To provide consistency and fairness to those who request sidewalks as well as those who already have sidewalks.

The Village Code contains detailed descriptions on how sidewalks shall be installed; however, the only requirement to install sidewalk is listed in Title 8-2-1 of the Municipal Code. It states "As part of any new construction, tear down development, subdivision, planned development or an addition or renovation to an existing residence or commercial building, a concrete sidewalk shall be installed by the property owner in the public right of way along the street frontage of the property extending from lot line to lot line where a sidewalk does not currently exist ..."

The Village's practice of installing sidewalk has been extremely consistent. Virtually, all sidewalks in the Village were installed as part of a special assessment (SA). These SA's were usually in conjunction with a roadway project. The first SA for sidewalks was SA #80 initialed in 1923. It provided most of the north/ south sidewalks in Field Park. Coincidentally, the last sidewalk SA was #187 initiated in 1968 for the installation of several east/ west sidewalks in Field Park. The only major sidewalk installation which was not part of a SA occurred in Springdale. Those sidewalks were installed by the developer. It is logical to assume that Springdale homebuyers bore the cost of said sidewalks in the initial purchase.

In the 1990's the Village strayed from the SA installation pattern. These exceptions are noted below:

1996	Wolf Road	47 <sup>th</sup> to 55 <sup>th</sup>	Paid by Village 100%
1996	51 <sup>st</sup> Street	Wolf to Grand	Paid by State of Illinois
1997	Hampton	Ogden to Hillgrove	Paid by Village as part of conditional use permit for Rec. Center (1,450 linear feet)
1999	Lawn	49 <sup>th</sup> to 51 <sup>st</sup>	Paid by SSA (30% Village)
2000	Hillgrove	Central to Hampton	Paid by Fed. Grant (30% Village)
2002	50 <sup>th</sup>	Lawn to Grand	Paid 100% by Village due to sale of ROW

2003	Forest Hills		Various locations (approximately 30 squares total) paid 100% by Village to fill gaps to allow ADA access across Village ROW
2004	Oak	Forest to Hampton	Paid 100% by Village as part of Oak Recon.
2005	Howard	Ogden to 39 <sup>th</sup>	Paid 100% by Village east side only as part of Howard Avenue reconstruction project
1989	Commonweath		100% by developer, location set by PUD
2005	Timber Trails		100% by developer, location set by PUD

Though we have been unable to verify the exact start of the program, it is clear from minutes of Village Board Meetings that there has been a sidewalk maintenance program of one sort or another from as early as 1950. The Village offered a 50/50 cost sharing program, though the split was changed to 60/40 in 1991 with 60% being paid by the resident. Much of the infrastructure discussion throughout the 1980's and 1990's focused on sidewalk maintenance.

#### **Historical Recommendations**

The Utilities Commission (renamed Infrastructure Commission in 2001) has passed several recommendations on sidewalks. Those recommendations contain the following items:

- 89-01 02/14/89 Concerning Maintenance
- 89-04 11/07/89 That the Village adopt a policy in order that new sidewalk be installed in increased pedestrian hazard areas on prioritized basis.
- 91-01 02/19/91 maintenance split changed to 60/40 in anticipation of mandatory replacement policy.
- 96-01 05/14/96 Due to 66% opposition of installation that sidewalks not be installed on Lawn and Grand north of 51<sup>st</sup> at this time; that sidewalk be installed on 51<sup>st</sup> if traffic signals are installed; that the Village pay 100% of said installation (eventually funded by IDOT).
- 96-03 10/16/96 Concerning mandatory replacement participation (100% to be paid by homeowner if they do not participate in last offer voluntary contribution program).
- 97-03 10/01/97 That the Village not proceed with large scale installation at this time; that the Village continue its commitment to arterial sidewalk; that the Village expand arterial sidewalk program to include high pedestrian areas such as near schools and parks; that the complete sidewalk network be completed by 2012
- 99-04 04/28/99 Concerning Lawn Avenue installation: if sidewalks are installed they be continuous from one street to another; that if sidewalks be installed they be installed on both sides of the street.

### Inventory

The Village has approximately 80 miles of parkway. Approximately 60 miles contains sidewalk leaving 25% or 20 miles to be completed. The table below shows how much sidewalk remains. The costs are shown in 2002 dollars (which is when the data was collected).

Location	Length (feet)	Length (miles)	Estimated Cost
OLD TOWN NORTH	18920	3.58	\$629,711
FIELD PARK	4590	0.87	\$152,768
FORREST HILLS	42230	8.00	\$1,405,534
RIDGEWOOD	37730	7.15	\$1,255,761
FAIRVIEW ESTATES	4430	0.84	\$147,443
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>107,900</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>\$3,591,216</b>

If the \$3.6 million cost were allocated over the same 75 years as the Infrastructure Management Plan, it would cost approximately \$50,000 per year. Assuming an average block is 600 feet long per side, there are approximately 180 blocks of sidewalk to be installed at \$20,000 per block. Because the cost estimate was generated for the entire Village with a 15% contingency, the actual costs per block will vary. Certainly a straight flat area like Forest Hills will be less expensive to install than curvilinear, hilly terrain with poorly defined parkways like Ridgewood.

### Financial Considerations

Currently, the Village budgets \$50,000 per year for the maintenance of sidewalk. No money is budgeted for new installations. Funds have been allocated to the Village under the Federal Transportation Bill for the purpose of pedestrian improvements. Of the \$3.5 million allocation, approximately \$2 million is anticipated to be spent on an underpass west of Central Avenue. The Illinois Department of Transportation is the local clearinghouse for these federal funds with money being distributed over a six year period, one-sixth at a time. Since funds have not even been distributed to the State, it is unlikely the Village will receive any funding until 2008. Even then, sufficient funding may not be available until the next decade.

If the Village reverted to the historical practice of sharing the cost of new installations, the funding picture would be different. The following chart shows the total cost to the Village assuming various cost sharing scenarios. The last column also shows the number of years to complete the sidewalk installation assuming a \$50,000 per year Village expenditure.

Village Contribution %	Cost to Village	Years to Complete
100%	\$3,591,216	72
50%	\$1,795,608	36
40%	\$1,436,487	29
30%	\$1,077,365	22
20%	\$718,243	14
10%	\$359,122	7

### **Installation Mechanisms**

There are three primary mechanisms for installing sidewalk: 100% Village funded; Special Service Area (SSA); and Special Assessment (SA). A brief description along with pros and cons of their use is listed below.

#### **100% Village Funding**

Because the parkway where sidewalks would be installed is Village owned property, the Village could elect to install sidewalks without concern for legal opposition. Although the Village would likely meet some opposition, it would be far less than the other mechanisms which seek residential funding. The biggest negative to this mechanism is the overall cost to the Village. Unless the Village was able to fund the \$3.6 million project, this would likely be the slowest mechanism based upon available funds.

#### **Special Assessment**

This mechanism has not been used for sidewalks since 1968. The rewriting of the Illinois Constitution and the creation of Special Service Areas has all but eliminated the need for SA's in lower cost projects like sidewalk installation. A Special Assessment is created by the Village Board. The percentage of the project allocated to the residents is generally determined by an appraiser working with the Board to determine the value of the project to the homeowner. Once the percentage is set, the costs are distributed according to how much property fronts the project. This is generally deemed as "fair" because the wider lots with more frontage pay more than narrower lots. The biggest downside to this process is that each homeowner has an individual right to legally argue that the percentage allocated is inappropriate. Therefore, there is the potential for an extremely expensive and drawn out process. The biggest upside to the process however, is that once the Board creates a SA, the residents cannot oppose or stop it. The most that can be done is delay the project and increase the cost through legal objections.

#### **Special Service Area**

This mechanism has been used in the Village five times, once for sidewalks. SSA's provide for public improvements to be funded by area which the project benefits. SSA's must be congruent such as all of Ridgewood. Because missing sidewalk is scattered throughout the Village, this would require multiple SSA's. The Village Board determines the cost allocation for SSA's and that allocation cannot be challenged. SSA's are paid as part of a homeowner's tax bill. This has two potential benefits: the expense is tax deductible as part of the property tax bill, and the costs are allocated not by frontage, but by assessed valuation of the property. Thus, the more expensive homes pay a larger

share of the project. Generally speaking, the long term residents with smaller homes are typically opposed to sidewalks, while newer residents favor their installation. While the process of implementing a SSA is not as long as a SA, it still takes approximately six months due to several waiting periods in which objectors may file petitions opposing the creation of a SSA. The potential for object is the greatest negative associated with this type of mechanism (from the standpoint of ensuring the project is initiated). If 51% of the registered voters and 51% of the owners of record file petitions opposing the creation of a SSA, the Village cannot establish a Special Service Area. Historically, the Village has not embarked upon the SSA process unless it is confident the support for the project exceeds potential objections.

### **Policy Considerations**

There are several ways the Board could go about establishing a sidewalk installation policy. In the past the Village has dealt with sidewalk issues as they arise. It is the intent of this Board to move toward a policy which could streamline the process and the direct Board involvement in individual sidewalk issues. For a policy to be implemented, the following items must be addressed by the Board:

1. Does the Board wish to install sidewalks throughout the entire Village, or does it desire to act upon individual issues as they arise?
2. Who will pay for the installation, and if resident participation is required, what percentage shall be paid by homeowners and what funding mechanism shall be used?
3. Over what period of time shall this project extend?

It is possible that the answers to each of the above issues may be different depending on the specifics of each case. Assuming the Board desires the installation of sidewalks throughout the Village, the questions of specifics like parks and schools become less important and can be included based upon the answer to issue number 2, who will pay for the installation and how. If the Village is paying 100%, the issues of how to assess tax exempt properties like parks, schools and churches becomes moot. If the Board does not want to address the entire sidewalk network at this time, a policy should be drafted that will address when and how individual installations will be funded, and whether specific installations deserve any funding at all.

Given the Village's commitment to the Infrastructure Management Plan and the upgrade and maintenance of roadways, it is unlikely the Village can afford to fully fund sidewalks without sacrificing services or capital maintenance elsewhere. Therefore, we would recommend installing sidewalks on a cost sharing basis under the Special Service Area mechanism because it the best cost alternative to the Village and is most similar to the cost sharing utilized to install the vast majority of sidewalk in the Village. Should the SSA be met with objections, the Village could always initiate the formal Special Assessment mechanism. Due to the legal expenses associated with this process, it would inevitably cost residents more under that mechanism; an incentive to limit objections to the SSA.



UTILITIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 89-1

VOTE: Voice vote

RECOMMENDING A VILLAGE  
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR  
PROGRAM FOR EXISTING SIDEWALK

DATE: February 14, 1989

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs met on the evening of February 14, 1989 for the purpose of reviewing the Village sidewalk maintenance and repair program for existing sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission recognizes the potential hazards and liabilities of unsafe public sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission has determined that the unsafe conditions which exist should be corrected;

NOW, THEREFORE BE, IT RECOMMENDED BY THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the Village of Western Springs adopt a sidewalk maintenance policy which states that the Village sidewalk system shall be maintained in a condition that is consistent with Village safety standards.

Section 2. That the Village adopt a mandatory sidewalk replacement program for unsafe sidewalk to be instituted as soon as possible. Unsafe sidewalk shall be replaced by the Village contractor or a licensed and bonded contractor according to Village specifications and inspected by a Village sidewalk inspector.

Section 3. That the Village continue to pay for 50% and the property owner to pay 50% of the replacement cost. One hundred per cent of the sidewalk replacement cost will be required from the property owner if the owner was responsible for the damage.

Section 4. That sidewalk shall be considered unsafe if there is a 1-1/8" deflection, or greater. Other safety hazard factors such as serious cracking, pitching, and spalling shall be cause for replacement.

Section 5. That the Village will replace all unsafe keystones (corner sections) with keystones designed for handicapped access.

Section 6. That the Village adopt a sidewalk evaluation procedure.

Section 7. That the Village establish an ongoing 5-year sidewalk maintenance program to be prepared annually by Village staff and the Utilities Commission.

PASSED by the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs at a meeting thereof held on February 14, 1989, and APPROVED by me as Chairman on the same day.

  
Nicholas Malone

ATTEST:

  
Commission/Secretary

UTILITIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 89-4

VOTE: Voice vote

REGARDING THE VILLAGE SIDEWALK PROGRAM

DATE: 11/7/89

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs met on the evening of November 7, 1989 for the purpose of reviewing the Village new sidewalk program and sidewalk maintenance and repair program for existing sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission recognizes the potential hazards and liabilities of unsafe public sidewalk;

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission has determined that the unsafe conditions which exist should be corrected; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that new sidewalk may be advantageous in certain increased pedestrian hazard areas;

NOW, THEREFORE BE, IT RECOMMENDED BY THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the Village of Western Springs adopt a sidewalk maintenance policy which states that the Village sidewalk system shall be maintained in a condition that is consistent with recognized safety standards.

Section 2. That the Village of Western Springs adopt a new sidewalk policy in order that new sidewalk will be constructed in increased pedestrian hazard areas on a prioritized basis.

Section 3. That both policies shall be implemented in the development of a five year ongoing plan.

PASSED by the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs at a meeting thereof held on November 7, 1989, and APPROVED by me as Chairman on the same day.

ATTEST:

  
Nicholas Malone

  
Commission Secretary



RESOLUTION NO. 89-1141

VOTE: Passed by omnibus vote.

DIRECTING THE UTILITIES  
COMMISSION TO PREPARE A  
RECOMMENDED SIDEWALK  
MAINTENANCE POLICY FOR THE  
VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS

DATE: December 18, 1989

OTHER:

WHEREAS, the issue of the maintenance of existing sidewalks abutting private property in the Village of Western Springs and the lack of a Village policy regarding the same has been under consideration by the Utilities Commission of the Village and the Village Board of Trustees for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, acting at its regular monthly meeting of November 7, 1989, the Utilities Commission approved Utilities Commission Recommendation No. 89-4 in part recommending that the Village Board adopt a sidewalk maintenance policy based on recognized safety standards for the Village of Western Springs; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees discussed Utilities Commission Recommendation No. 89-4 at a Workshop meeting on November 13, 1989 at which time the Board unanimously agreed that it desired the Utilities Commission to develop a recommended policy for the maintenance of existing sidewalk throughout the Village and forward the same for consideration by the full Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, at the same time the President and Board of Trustees agreed to provide direction to the Utilities Commission regarding the development of such a sidewalk maintenance policy to the Utilities Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the Board of Trustees find that the adoption of a sidewalk maintenance policy is in the best interests of the Village of Western Springs in order to better protect the public health, safety and welfare of its residents.

Section 2. That the Village of Western Springs acting by and through its President and Board of Trustees establish a sidewalk maintenance policy for all sidewalk in the Village of Western Springs.

Section 3. That the Village Board direct the Western Springs Utilities Commission to develop and recommend a sidewalk maintenance policy on or before March 31, 1990 requiring that all sidewalk be maintained in a condition that is consistent with recognized safety standards and constructed to the minimum specification for sidewalks as established by the Village of Western Springs.

Section 4. Furthermore, that the Utilities Commission develop and recommend appropriate evaluation standards, a recommended priority implementation schedule and an appropriate financing policy for consideration by the Board of Trustees on or before September 30, 1990 for inclusion in the Western Springs Corporate Plan 1990-1994.

PASSED by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Western Springs, Cook County, Illinois, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 18th day of December, 1989, and APPROVED by me as President on the same day.

Edmund B. Driscoll  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

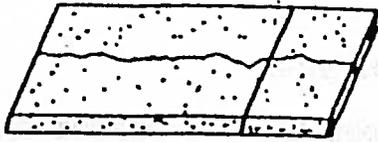
ATTEST:

Jessie M. Josica  
VILLAGE CLERK



# SIDEWALK DEFECT

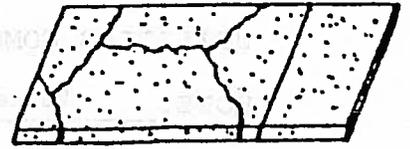
## RATING SYSTEM



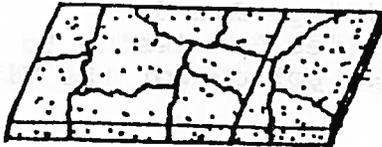
Cracking Type 1: 1 to 2 Cracks; No deflection. (No defect points.)



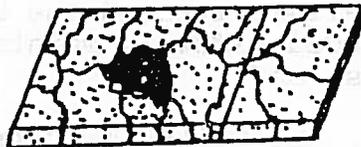
Cracking Type 2: 1 or 2 Cracks at the Corners; No deflection. (No defect points.)



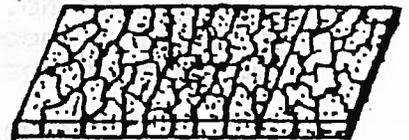
Cracking Type 3: 3 to 5 Cracks; No deflection. (1 defect point.)



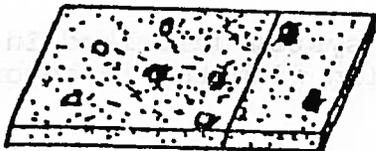
Cracking Type 4: 5 to 10 Cracks; No deflection. (1 defect point.)



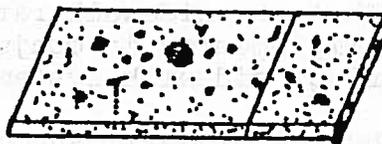
Cracking Type 5: Multiple Cracks with Missing pieces. (2 defect points.)



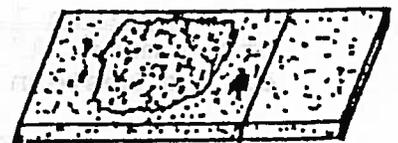
Cracking Type 6: More than 10 Cracks; No deflection. (2 defect points.)



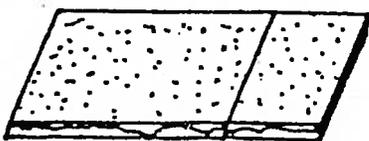
Spalling Type 7: Light Spalling. (0 defect points.)



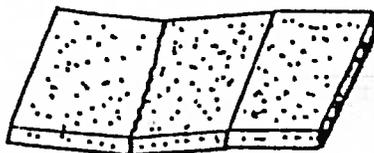
Spalling Type 8: Medium Spalling. (1 defect points.)



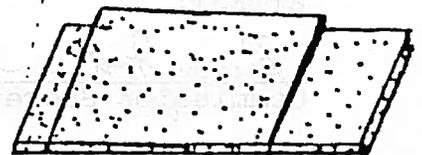
Spalling Type 9: Heavy Spalling. (2 defect points.)



Elevation Type 10: Less than 1/2 inch differential (0 defect points)



Elevation Type 11: 1/2 to 1 inch differential. (1 defect point.)



Elevation Type 12: More than 1 inch differential. (2 defect points.)

## SIDEWALK RATING SYSTEM REPLACEMENT CRITERIA

The sidewalk square will be replaced where the defect total is two (2) or greater. One (1) defect point will be added to squares adjacent to a sidewalk square rated for replacement, and if an adjacent sidewalk square defect total is now two (2) or greater, the adjacent square will be included in the replacement requirement.

### Example:

A sidewalk square with a Type 3 condition (3 to 5 cracks) and a Type 11 condition (3/4 inch elevation) differential, with adjacent squares.

Rating -- 1 (Type 3) + 1 (Type 11) = 2 Total Defect Points

Therefore Replace

If a square adjacent to this square had a defect rating alone of one (1), it too would be replaced for it receives an additional point for being adjacent to a replacement sidewalk square.

# REPLACEMENT SYSTEMS

The following table will be used to determine the replacement value of a system. The replacement value will be added to the value of the system to determine the total value. The replacement value will be added to the value of the system to determine the total value.

## Examples

A system with a Type 1 controller and a Type 1 controller is replaced with a Type 1 controller and a Type 1 controller. The replacement value is \$1000.00.

Rating - 1 (Type 1) = 1 (Type 1) = 1 (Type 1) = 1 (Type 1)

## Replacement System

If a system is replaced with a system of the same type, the replacement value is the same as the original value. If a system is replaced with a system of a different type, the replacement value is the value of the new system.

UTILITIES COMMISSION SIDEWALK SUBCOMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION

VOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDING A VILLAGE  
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR  
PROGRAM FOR EXISTING SIDEWALK

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees has requested that the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs develop a maintenance program for defective public sidewalk: and

WHEREAS, the Sidewalk Subcommittee of the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs met on numerous occasions for the purpose of reviewing the Village sidewalk maintenance and repair program; and

WHEREAS, the Sidewalk Subcommittee has determined that potentially hazardous conditions which exist require correction:

NOW, THEREFORE BE, IT RECOMMENDED BY THE SIDEWALK SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the subcommittee's rating system attached as an addendum be adopted as the standard for inventorying the sidewalk system.

Section 2. That all sidewalk squares with a defect rating of 2 or more be scheduled for replacement in the next 3-5 year period utilizing a mandatory short-form special assessment procedure.

Section 3. That the mandatory replacement program proceed on a priority basis according to the highest percentage of defective squares in each geographic area. The 1990 inventory indicates the following order: (1) Old Town North, (2) Old Town Northwest, (3) Field Park, (4) Ridge Acres, (5) all other areas.

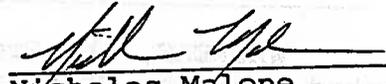
Section 4. That the Village contribute 30% of the replacement cost of the defective squares; that as an incentive for pre-payment by the homeowner, before initiation of the short form special assessment process, the Village increase its contribution to 40% of the cost.

Section 5. That keystone squares and handicap ramps be replaced or installed entirely at Village expense.

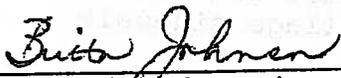
Section 6. That ancillary engineering, drainage, and administrative costs be factored into the cost per square determination for each year's program.

Section 7. That residents desiring to have sidewalk replaced out of sequence with a defective rating less than 2 shall pay 100% of the cost.

PASSED by the Sidewalk Subcommittee of the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs at a meeting held on February 19, 1991, and approved by me as Chairman on the same day.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicholas Malone

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Secretary

UTILITIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 96-3

VOTE: Unanimous

REGARDING SIDEWALK  
REPLACEMENT

DATE: October 16, 1996

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, The Sidewalk Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the whole, of the Utilities Commission of Western Springs on February 19, 1991 passed a recommendation regarding the "Maintenance and Repair of the Existing Sidewalk System"; and

WHEREAS, That recommendation established a rating system for defective sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, That recommendation further advised that "all sidewalk squares with a defect rating of 2 or more be scheduled for replacement in the next 3-5 year period utilizing a mandatory short form special assessment procedure"; and

WHEREAS, That recommendation further advised that "the mandatory replacement program proceed on a priority basis according to the highest percentage of defective squares in each geographic area;" and

WHEREAS, That recommendation further advised that "the Village contribute 30% of the replacement cost of the defective squares and that as an incentive for pre-payment by the homeowner, before the initiation of the short form special assessment, the Village increase its contribution to 40% of the cost;" and

WHEREAS, That recommendation further advised that "the keystone squares and handicap ramps be installed entirely at Village cost;" and

WHEREAS, That recommendation finally advised that "ancillary engineering, drainage, and administrative costs be factored into the cost per sidewalk square determination for each year's program;" and

WHEREAS, The Village Board took receipt of the Utilities Commission's recommendation and after deliberation and because of budgetary and operational consideration, modified the time frame for implementing the recommendation by extending the warning period to 3-5 years with the intention of systematically notifying residents with a warning letter and an enhanced Village cost share of 40%. Thereafter,

the Village Board's intention was for the Utilities Commission to review progress towards eliminating 2+ defective squares and reconsider the issue; and

WHEREAS, between 1991 and 1995 all residences with defective squares were notified and many residents chose to participate in the replacement program; and

WHEREAS, an inventory in the summer of 1995 indicated that there are 581 2+ defective squares remaining in the Village;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED BY THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the residents living adjacent to the 581 2+ defective squares be notified by March 30, 1997 with one more request to voluntarily participate in the share the cost sidewalk replacement program on a 60% resident, 40% Village cost basis.

Section 2. That those residents choosing not to participate in the share the cost program by May 1, 1997 offered in Section 1 above be assessed for the replacement of their defective sidewalk through a short form special assessment covering 100% of the replacement costs plus any ancillary costs incurred by the Village.

Section 3. That all 2+ defective squares be eliminated by December 31, 1998.

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William Dougherty, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Commission Secretary

UTILITIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 97-1

VOTE: Unanimous

REGARDING SIDEWALKS ON  
HAMPTON AVENUE

DATE: January 27, 1997

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the Transportation and Safety Commission recommended that the Utilities Commission review the feasibility of installing sidewalks along Hampton Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission recommended that a minimal sidewalk system be installed on Hampton Avenue to provide a continuous pedestrian circuit from Ogden Avenue to Willow Street; and

WHEREAS, Hampton Avenue is a minor arterial street with average daily traffic in excess of 1,600 vehicles per day; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation will provide access to multiple public facilities, including, but not limited to :

1. Laidlaw School
2. The Western Springs Service Club
3. The Theatre of Western Springs
4. The Western Springs Recreation Center; and

WHEREAS, that system is in accordance with the spirit of the Recreation Center conditional use permit;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED BY THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS as follows:

Section 1. That a sidewalk be installed along Hampton Avenue in the following locations:

- A. On the east side of Hampton from Oak Street North, south to Maple Street.
- B. On the west side of Hampton Avenue from Maple Street, south approximately one-hundred and sixty feet (160') to a point connecting with the existing sidewalk on the west side of Hampton Avenue.

- C. On the east side of Hampton Avenue from Walnut Street, north approximately seventy five feet (75') connecting with the existing sidewalk on Hampton Avenue
- D. On the west side of Hampton Avenue from Walnut Street, south through the traffic island, continuing south from Walnut Street, south to Ried Street.
- E. On the east side of Hampton Avenue from Ried Street, south to Willow Street.

Section 2. That a stop sign be installed at each of the following locations:

- A. On the east side of Hampton Avenue, just north of Ried Street, regulating southbound traffic on Hampton Avenue, and
- B. On the west side of Hampton Avenue south of Ried Street, regulating northbound traffic on Hampton Avenue.

Section 3. That this installation sidewalk be fully funded by the Village of Western Springs.

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William Dougherty, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Commission Secretary

C:\My Documents\SECY\Debbie\Memos\UTILITIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO.doc April 18, 2001(16:18)

UTILITIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 97-3

VOTE: Sandra Pechous, Cynthia

Schreiber, Terrence Gaffney, John

Re: NEW SIDEWALK  
INSTALLATION IN  
WESTERN SPRINGS

Madell,

DATE: October 1, 1997

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission of Western Springs has been asked by the President and the Board of Trustees to examine the question of new sidewalk installation in the areas of the Village currently without sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, there have been several petitions from the residents requesting sidewalk installation in certain sections of the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has surveyed all of the Village without sidewalk adjacent to their homes; and

WHEREAS, the survey indicated that 81% opposed the installation of such sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission recognizes that Western Springs is a community predominantly of sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has had numerous meetings and discussions on this subject and received public comment at those meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RECOMMENDED BY THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the Village not proceed with any new large scale sidewalk installation at this time; and

Section 2. That the Village continue its commitment to arterial sidewalk installation in conjunction with any other arterial roadway corridor improvements, or as such other opportunities may arise; and

Section 3. That the arterial sidewalk program currently in place be expanded beyond the current arterial program to include other desired sections of sidewalk in high pedestrian areas, such as near schools and parks; and

Section 4. That the future sidewalk improvements described in Section 3 above be constructed over the course of the remaining years of the 1992-2012 20 Year Infrastructure Management Plan; and

Section 5. That the future sidewalk improvements described in Section 3 above will be the subject of a future recommendation by the Utilities Commission from time to time as appropriate detailing specific projects and their scheduling; and

Section 6. That nothing in this recommendation precludes the Village or the Utilities Commission from considering large scale new sidewalk installation in the future at the request of the Village Board.

Passed at a special meeting of the Utilities Commission on October 1, 1997 and approved by me as Chairman on the same day.

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William Dougherty, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Commission Secretary

UTILITIES COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION NO. 99-4

VOTE : Unanimous

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDING THE INSTALLATION  
OF SIDEWALKS ON LAWN AVENUE  
BETWEEN 49<sup>TH</sup> STREET AND 51<sup>ST</sup>  
STREET

DATE: April 28, 1999

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, the Utilities Commission has been studying the installation of sidewalks throughout the Village periodically over the last five years; and

WHEREAS, various residents of the Forest Hills subdivision have approached the Commission about sidewalk installation on separate occasions, several times over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, the Commission has previously passed recommendations outlining the objective of installing sidewalks on all arterial streets throughout the Village, and of installing sidewalk to complete the pedestrian network where it is currently incomplete; and

WHEREAS, the Village surveyed the residents in the affected area and over 65% of those responding favored the installation; and

WHEREAS, the Commission heard and considered comments from residents at meetings held on March 31, 1999 and April 28, 1999; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED BY THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the minimum length of all sidewalks constructed within the Village be continuous from one street to another.

Section 2. That if sidewalks be constructed on Lawn Avenue that they be constructed on both sides of the street.

Section 3. That the Village allow the construction of sidewalks along Lawn Avenue from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 51<sup>st</sup> Street, with the final payment methodology to be determined by the Village Board at a later date.

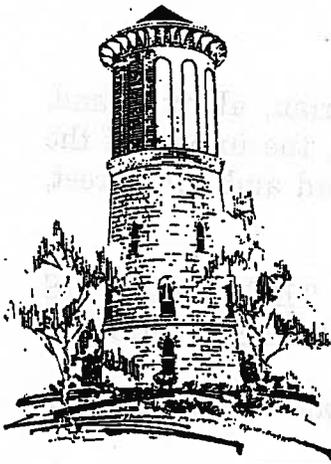
Passed at a special meeting of the Utilities Commission on April 28, 1999 by me as Chairman on the same day.

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Dougherty, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Secretary





# THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS

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## MEMORANDUM

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DATE: 14 MAY, 1996  
TO: UTILITIES COMMISSION  
FROM: PATRICK HIGGINS, DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
RE: SIDEWALK RECOMMENDATION

*PH*

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The following is a draft recommendation for your consideration regarding the South Forest Hills Sidewalk issue:

Whereas, the Utilities Commission of the Village of Western Springs has been studying the issue of sidewalk installation throughout the Village and was planning to survey those areas of the Village without sidewalk regarding the desirability of installing sidewalk during September 1996; and

Whereas, certain residents of South Forest Hills have petitioned the Village requesting the immediate installation of sidewalk along portions of Grand Avenue, Lawn Avenue, and 51<sup>st</sup> Street; and

Whereas, in response to that petition, the Village Board has requested that the Utilities Commission accelerate its study and survey of the South Forest Hills area and make a recommendation regarding same; and

Whereas the Utilities Commission has surveyed all of the residents along the proposed route of the sidewalk in South Forest Hills and determined that approximately 2/3 of the residents are opposed to sidewalk installation; and

Whereas, the Utilities Commission has duly considered this matter at meetings held on April 17, 1996, May 1, 1996, and May 15, 1996 and in making this recommendation has taken into consideration various factors including the response to the survey, the concerns regarding safety, the

current and projected traffic, both vehicular and pedestrian, along Grand, Lawn, and 51<sup>st</sup>, the precedential impact of this decision, the impact of the probable of traffic signals at the intersection of Wolf Road and 51<sup>st</sup> Street, and various financial and related issues,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RECOMMENDED BY THE UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the installation of sidewalks along Grand Avenue, Lawn Avenue, and 51<sup>st</sup> Street not be pursued at this time.

*Section 2. That, if the traffic signals are installed at Wolf Road and 51<sup>st</sup> Street, then sidewalk be installed along the north side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street between Wolf Road and Grand Avenue to complete a pedestrian way and school route extending from Gilbert Avenue to Forest Hills School.*

*Section 3. That because of the overall public benefit of the installation of sidewalk along the north side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street between Wolf Road and Grand Avenue that the Village assume all of the costs incurred for the installation.*

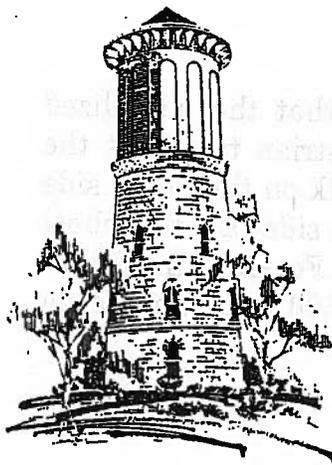
Section 3. That the issue of sidewalk installation in South Forest Hills be reconsidered as part of the larger issue of community sidewalk in the autumn of 1996, but that the residents included in this survey not be resurveyed at that time.

Passed by the Utilities Commission of the Village at a regular meeting thereof held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1996 and approved by me as Chairperson protem on the same day.

Sandra Pechous

As usual there is no pride of authorship, so mark up this draft as you wish. See the attached memorandum regarding my thoughts on the 51<sup>st</sup> Street issue. Obviously, I have italicized those sections of the draft memorandum which concern the 51<sup>st</sup> Street situation. We can discuss this Wednesday night. The agenda has been pared down to only the sidewalk issue and an update on the water situation. Both Trustee Mullen and I have conflicts which will necessitate our departing shortly after 8:00 p.m.

cc: Public Works & Water Committee  
Martin J. Bourke, Village Manager  
William Rypkema, Director of Law Enforcement Services  
Municipal Services Staff



# THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS

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## MEMORANDUM

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DATE: 14 MAY, 1996  
TO: PUBLIC WORKS & WATER COMMITTEE  
MARTIN J. BOURKE, VILLAGE MANAGER  
FROM: PATRICK HIGGINS, DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES  
RE: STATUS OF SOUTH FOREST HILLS SURVEY

*PH*

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The chart below summarizes the status of the first question on the South Forest Hills sidewalk survey (in favor or not in favor of sidewalks). Of 168 possible respondents 142 have responded.

RESPONSE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Yes	47	33.1%
No	95	66.9%
TOTAL	142	100.0%

The complete final results will be presented to the Utilities Commission at their May 15, meeting and forwarded to the Board for review.

I might also add that several people, independent of each other, have raised a concern about the need for sidewalk on the north side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street regardless of the results of the survey. They include myself, Bill Rypkema, a couple of residents, and a member of the Utilities Commission. From my perspective, now that the pedestrian crossing light is probably going to be a reality, it makes little sense to be crossing children through the Wolf Road intersection and then "redepositing" them back into the street. I think that this makes little sense given the current vehicular

and pedestrian traffic, and it makes even less sense given that the signalized intersection is likely to increase both the vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the intersection in the future. Moreover, the installation of sidewalk on the north side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street between Wolf and Grand would provide continuous sidewalk for school children and other pedestrians for the entire distance between Forest Hills School on the west and Gilbert Avenue on the east - approximately 4,500 feet. This issue is likely to be raised at the Utilities Commission meeting May 15.

cc: Bill Rypkema, Director of Law Enforcement Services  
 Francis J. Madler, Director of Public Works  
 William M. Nelson, Municipal Services Coordinator

DATE: 14 MAY 1980

TO: PUBLIC WORKS & WATER COMMITTEE

FROM: PATRICK HOGGINS, DIRECTOR OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES

RE: STATE OF SOUTH FOSTER HILLS DRIVE

The chart below summarizes the status of the five questions on the South Foster sidewalk survey. If you have any questions, please contact me at 442-1400.

QUESTION	ANSWER	RESPONSE
1. Is the sidewalk needed for the entire length of the block?	Yes	Yes
2. Is the sidewalk needed for the entire width of the block?	No	No
3. Is the sidewalk needed for the entire length and width of the block?	Yes	TOTAL

The complete final results will be presented to the Utilities Commission at their May 15 meeting and forwarded to the Board for review.

I might also add that several people independent of each other have raised a concern about the need for sidewalk on the north side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street between the Wolf and Grand streets. They include myself, Bill Rypkema, a couple of residents, and a member of the Utilities Commission. From my perspective, now that the pedestrian crossing light is probably going to be a reality, it makes little sense to not have the sidewalk on the north side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street between the Wolf and Grand streets. I think that the whole idea of having a continuous sidewalk on the north side of 51<sup>st</sup> Street between the Wolf and Grand streets is a very good idea.

VAR1 In Favor/Not in Favor

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Yes	1	47	32.9	32.9	32.9
No	2	96	67.1	67.1	100.0
Total		143	100.0	100.0	

Valid cases 143 Missing cases 0

VAR2 Now or Never

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Whenever	2	42	29.4	100.0	100.0
.	.	101	70.6	Missing	
Total		143	100.0	100.0	

Valid cases 42 Missing cases 101

VAR3A Safety

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Yes	1	47	32.9	100.0	100.0
.	.	96	67.1	Missing	
Total		143	100.0	100.0	

Valid cases 47 Missing cases 96

VAR3B Appearance

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Yes	1	20	14.0	100.0	100.0
	.	123	86.0	Missing	
Total		143	100.0	100.0	

Valid cases 20 Missing cases 123

VAR3C Family Benefit

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Yes	1	31	21.7	100.0	100.0
	.	112	78.3	Missing	
Total		143	100.0	100.0	

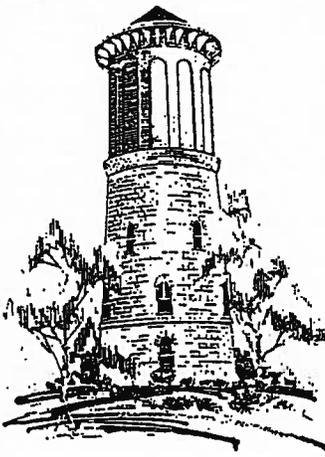
Valid cases 31 Missing cases 112

VAR3D Handicap Access

Value Label	Value	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cum Percent
Yes	1	16	11.2	100.0	100.0
	.	127	88.8	Missing	
Total		143	100.0	100.0	

Valid cases 16 Missing cases 127

# THE VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS



July 22, 1997

TO: Utilities Commission

FROM: William M. Nelson, Municipal Services Coordinator

RE: Results of Sidewalk Survey

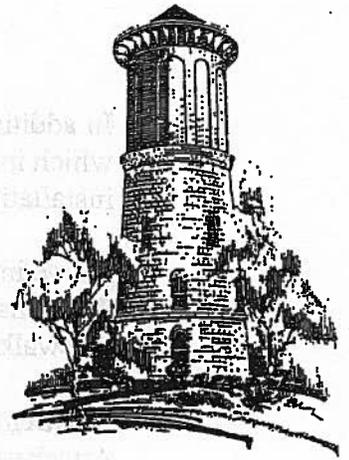
Attached is a map depicting the results of the most recent sidewalk survey. 857 surveys were mailed, and 589 were returned. Of those, statistics were performed on 560 surveys. In total, 453 residents opposed the installation of new sidewalks. This represents approximately 81% of the respondents. By area the results were as follows:

	Favor	Oppose	Total	% Opposed
Old Town	20	107	127	84%
Field Park	2	11	13	85%
Fairview Estates	5	29	34	85%
Forest Hills	38	122	160	76%
Ridgewood	42	184	226	81%
Total	107	453	560	81%

The overwhelming response by those opposed to sidewalks was the cost and the negative appearance of sidewalks. Those in favor noted the increased safety.



# VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS



January 31, 2003

TO: Public Works and Water Committee

FROM: William M. Nelson, Director of Municipal Services

RE: Administrative Procedures

Per Manager Higgins' memo of last November, the Committee has been asked to review administrative policies relative to House Utility Service Lines and Residential Sidewalk Replacement. The following pages attempt to put in writing the formal/ informal policies the Municipal Services Group currently follows.

## Residential Sidewalk

At my first Utilities Commission meeting (now the Infrastructure Commission) the topic of sidewalks was on the agenda. Mr. Patrick Higgins began that discussion by explaining that the Commission had had sidewalk on and off the agenda since his first Commission meeting in the late 1970's. Almost 30 years later many of those same issues are still unresolved.

In 1989 the Board took a major step towards establishing a policy with Resolution 89-1141 (attached). That resolution directed the Utilities Commission develop a sidewalk maintenance policy and evaluation standards. The Commission responded with recommendations 89-1 and 90-1 (attached). My records search does not show any record of the Board discussing or making formal resolutions regarding these recommendations.

The criterion for defective sidewalk established in 90-1 is relatively unchanged. I would recommend, however, that the maintenance standards in policy in 89-1 be tweaked. Our current practice differs from recommendation 89-1 in the following:

- Section 3. The cost sharing is currently 40% - 60% with the larger share going to the resident.
- Section 4. Sidewalk is eligible for replacement if there is greater than 1/2 inch of vertical displacement.
- Section 5. The village is replacing keystones and curb cuts as part of the roadway program as those intersections are rehabilitated if there are no ADA handicap ramps.
- Section 6. The Village does not have a formal evaluation policy. I believe we need a policy, but I am concerned about culpability associated with prior knowledge of defects.

1/4 below  
IRMA

Focus on  
elevation

740 HILLGROVE AVENUE • WESTERN SPRINGS, IL 60558  
www.wsprings.com

VILLAGE SERVICES 708.246.1800  
Fax 708.246.0284

POLICE 708.246.8540  
Fax 708.246.3609

FIRE 708.246.1182  
Code Fax 708.246.4871

RECREATION 708.246.9070  
Fax 708.246.1309

In addition to a maintenance policy, the Board should consider a comprehensive policy which incorporates several recent Commission recommendations concerning the installation of sidewalk where none currently exist.

I have included recommendations 96-3, 97-1, 97-3, and 99-4 for your review. While the Board has taken action on some, such as the installation of the Hampton Avenue sidewalk, no formal comprehensive policy has been adopted.

### **Residential House Water Service**

Attached is an extremely comprehensive 1992 review of the policy regarding service lines from former Village Manager Nicholson. These policies are relatively unchanged except for some Municipal Code revisions which came out of that 1992 review. The current relevant codes are attached.

The Committee may want to consider expanding this policy to address the semi-ongoing water service line replacement program. The program was successful in the past but unsuccessful recently. Perhaps the Committee could make a recommendation on whether or not to re-initiate the program or to terminate it for a given period.