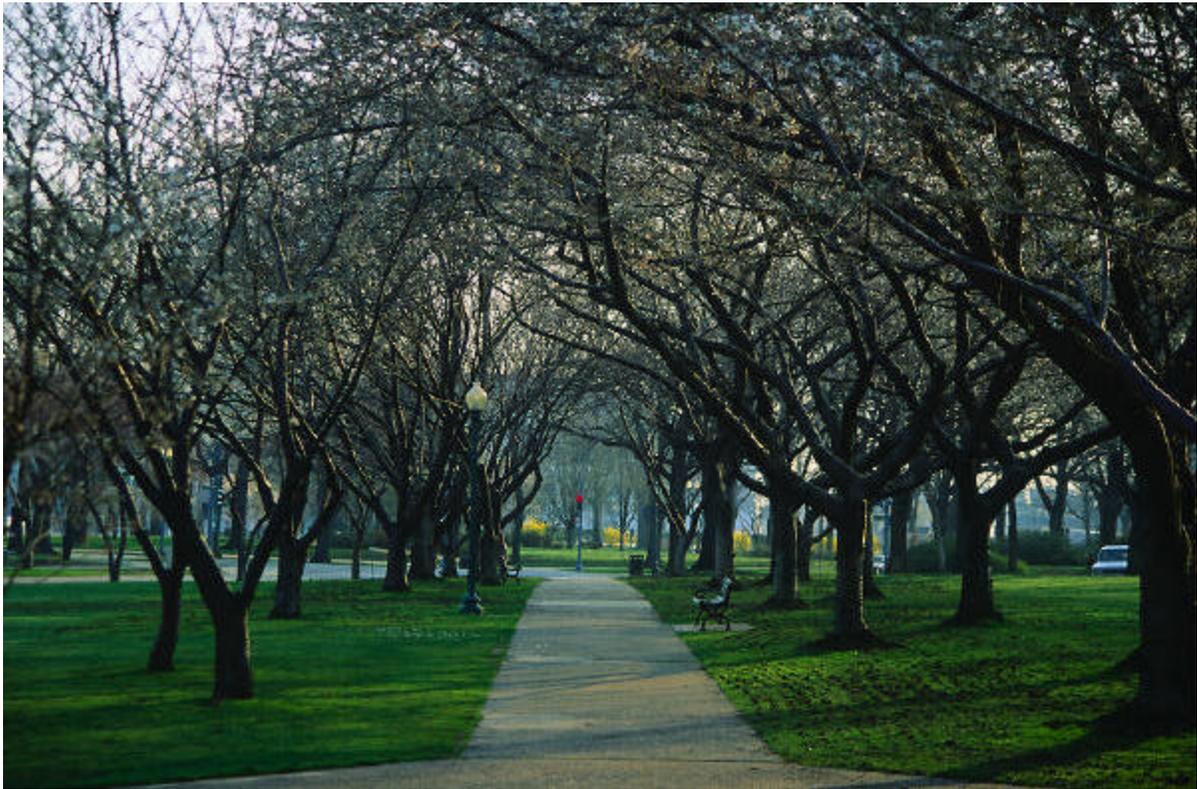


Saginaw Charter Township Sidewalk Program



Adopted 1980
Amended February 26, 2001

Saginaw Charter Township Sidewalk Program

The purpose of the Sidewalk Program Plan is to provide information, which will result in the effective and efficient use of Township funds for the construction of pedestrian walkways. This plan shall serve as a guide for the individuals involved in the decision making process.

Mission Statement

To provide a network of pedestrian walkways on all primary roads within Saginaw Township for the use, safety, benefit, and enjoyment of the citizens of the community and to appropriate the necessary funds for the construction and maintenance of the sidewalk network.

Goals and Objectives

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| Goal | To provide a pedestrian link from residential areas to neighborhood schools, parks and commercial areas. |
| Objective | Construct sidewalks in populated areas of the Township that provide a pedestrian link to schools, parks, and businesses. |
| | Evaluate the placement of existing sidewalks and construct the necessary links for a continuous route. |
| | Install sidewalks on both sides of four-lane roads and one side of two lane roads. |
| Goal | To properly maintain and monitor the condition of the walkways and to ensure safe and convenient use of the walkways. |
| Objective | Perform yearly inspections on the condition of the sidewalk network to ensure surfaces are free of apparent tripping hazards. |
| Goal | To create or develop a continuous green space between the curb and the sidewalk for safety and aesthetic considerations. |
| Objective | Review the placement and grade elevation of the walkway on site plans for new construction. |

Program Introduction

In 1980, the Saginaw Charter Township Board created the Sidewalk Program through the passage of Ordinance #327. The Board's intent is to have sidewalks constructed along designated roads of the Township, for the use, benefit, protection, safety, convenience and general welfare of the citizens of Saginaw Township.

Each year, approximately \$65,000 of General Fund money is set aside by the Township Board to construct sidewalks. Another \$50,000 is budgeted to maintain the walkways through snow removal and repair. The Department of Public Services is responsible for snow removal and repair of all sidewalks constructed along primary roads. Each time it snows, the DPS dispatches two snowplows, which have been specially equipped for sidewalks, to clear the walkways so that they can be used by the residents. This is a rather unique service being provided by the Township. Most communities delegate the responsibility of removing snow to the residents who own property abutting the walkways.

Since the adoption and implementation of the sidewalk program 20 years ago, approximately 1.8 miles of sidewalk have been construction each year. To date, approximately 36 miles of walkways have been constructed along primary roads in the Township. The Township strives to construct an estimated three-quarters (3/4) to one (1) mile of sidewalk each year. The balance of the walkways is constructed in conjunction with new developments.

Role & Responsibility of the Township Board and Sidewalk Committee

The route selected each year for sidewalk construction is determined based upon input from the Sidewalk Advisory Committee, the Township Manager, and the Saginaw Township Board. The Sidewalk Advisory Committee is appointed by the Township Board and consists of one member of the Township Planning Commission, one member of the Township Board, and three members of the public at large. Each serve a term of three years.

The Sidewalk Advisory Committee is currently comprised of the following members:

Mrs. Barbara N. Ewend, Township Board Member
Mr. Mark A. Schaff, Township Board Member
Mrs. Linda Simms, Township Resident
Mrs. Judy Weldy, Township Resident
Mr. Randy Alpin, Township Resident

The Committee has been assigned the following duties and responsibilities by the Township Board:

- ◆ To prepare and recommend to the Township Board an annual budget relating to sidewalks.

- ◆ To determine and recommend to the Township Board an annual Sidewalk Construction Program.
- ◆ To act on requests for extensions of time relating to installation of sidewalks.
- ◆ To consider and approve or reject requested variances in the location or specifications for the construction of sidewalks.

Role & Responsibility of the Community Development Department

The Community Development Department staff facilitates and coordinates the sidewalk construction projects with the Township Engineer, the Department of Public Services, the Saginaw County Road Commission and the Michigan Department of Transportation. The duties and responsibilities of staff include:

- ◆ Recommend areas of the Township where sidewalks should be constructed for each program year.
- ◆ Coordination with the Township Engineer in preparing cost estimates and project management.
- ◆ Maintain an inventory of sidewalks on a designated map and provide yearly updates based on newly constructed sidewalks from the preceding year.
- ◆ Advise the Sidewalk Committee Members of requested variances in the location or specifications for the construction of sidewalks.
- ◆ Coordinate sidewalk construction on all new development projects.

General Sidewalk Plan

Throughout the course of the last few years the Sidewalk Committee and Township Board have prioritized areas within the community where they feel sidewalks will benefit the general public. Recognizing the fact that certain areas of the Township are more developed than others, the Sidewalk Committee and Township Board have designated areas:

- ◆ Where sidewalk construction may be deferred until such time as the Township Board deems their construction necessary.
- ◆ Where sidewalks must be constructed in conjunction with new developments.

The above-mentioned areas are designated on the Townships “General Sidewalk Plan.”

Generally speaking, the northwest portion of the Township has been designated as an area where sidewalk construction may be deferred. This area is not densely populated and mainly consists of large undeveloped parcels. In all other areas of the Township, sidewalks must be constructed in conjunction with new development.

Based upon the areas depicted on the “General Sidewalk Plan” the Sidewalk Committee and Township Board have developed a strategy that specifies where public funds shall be spent to construct new sidewalks. This strategy has been adopted in the form of a 5-year and 10-year sidewalk construction plan.

The 5-year plan focuses on developing a sidewalk system in the more populated areas of the Township. The Sidewalk Committee strives to direct public funds toward projects that provide a continuous link to schools, churches and recreational facilities. Furthermore, sidewalks that are installed by developers during the previous year, are reviewed to determine whether or not it is beneficial to link them with other areas.

The 10-year plan is set aside for areas of the Township that are on the fringe of development. While these areas are not as heavily populated as the properties located in the 5-year plan, they are expected to see a significant amount of growth within the next 10 years. Requiring that sidewalks be constructed in conjunction with new developments located within the 10-year plan is rather controversial.

A question that is frequently posed to the Community Development Department is, “Why are we required to build a sidewalk that does not connect to anything or lead anywhere?”

Quite honestly, this is not an easy question to answer. It basically comes down to the philosophy of the Township. Some areas may develop more quickly than others. Requiring sidewalk construction to coincide with new developments will ultimately allow the Township to connect to them in a more reasonable time period. Once residents

begin to realize that sidewalks are planned in their area, they will become more receptive to them and ask that the Township connect the existing sidewalks to them.

A more pragmatic answer is the fact that it is more cost effective and easier for the Township to have the developer build the sidewalks as a project is being constructed. This is mainly due to the fact that the property owner who has entered into an agreement to construct sidewalks sometime in the future, is usually not the one with whom the Township will be dealing with 5 to 10 years later.

It has been the Community Development Departments experience that new property owners typically are not aware of the fact that the previous property owner signed a sidewalk agreement with the Township. Only after the Township has notified them that they must pay for and install the sidewalks do they become aware of the agreement. Often times this leads to a rather lengthy and heated debate between the property owners and the Township thereby causing significant heartache for all involved.

Selection of Sidewalk Projects

Each year, beginning in November, the Sidewalk Committee meets with the staff of the Community Development Department for the purpose of selecting the projects that will be recommended to the Township Board for construction in the upcoming year. Below is a suggested time table, which is used by staff in guiding each year's project:

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|--|-----------|
| Community Development Prepares Recommendations | November |
| Preparation of Preliminary Cost Estimate | December |
| Selection of Project by Sidewalk Committee | January |
| Prepare Bid Documents | January |
| Bid Project | February |
| Township Board Adopts & Awards Project | March |
| Project Starts | April |
| Project Completion | September |

Route selection is based upon the roadways designated within the 5-year plan. Each route is considered based on the needs of the area and the connections that can be made to existing walkways. The Sidewalk Committee has adopted a policy of constructing sidewalks along at least one (1) side of a two- (2) lane road and along both sides of a roadway that contains four (4) lanes.

The selection of a pedestrian walkway being included within the ten-(10) year plan is dependent upon vehicular traffic characteristics, adjacent land uses, and expected growth patterns, as well as other factors.

Cost of Sidewalk Construction

Single family and two family residentially zoned properties developed prior to the sidewalk program and selected as a project by the Sidewalk Committee will have 100% of the cost of construction paid for by the Township.

Commercial, Manufacturing and High Density Residentially zoned properties are required to pay 50% of the cost of construction when selected by the Sidewalk Committee to participate in a project. These property owners typically have the option of paying their share of the project cost in one lump sum at the end of the calendar year, or they may have it spread as a special assessment and collected on their property tax bill in December of each year. The length of the special assessment typically is no longer than 5 years. An 8% interest rate is applied to each years remaining principle.

All property owners are required to pay 100% of the cost of construction for their sidewalks if new construction is proposed on the property, which requires a building permit. (Exception: Areas shown as deferred on the General Sidewalk Plan).

The Township does not require sidewalks to be constructed within subdivisions and along roadways not designated within the Sidewalk Ordinance.

****Any sidewalk, not required by Ordinance, but constructed within a subdivision, or in conjunction with a multiple family or commercial use for the use and benefit of the residents in the neighborhood will not be paid for or maintained by the Township.**

Maintenance of Sidewalks

The Department of Public Services (DPS) maintains the public investment of the sidewalks. Saginaw Township is unique from other communities in that it maintains sidewalks throughout the year to ensure the safe and convenient use of the constructed sidewalks. Each year, sidewalks are inspected by the DPS for liability purposes to ensure pedestrians using the sidewalks are not using hazardous walkways. During the winter months, two (2) snow plows are specifically outfitted for snow removal from the sidewalks. In addition, the DPS provides such services as tree trimming, providing fill material, improving drainage in and around sidewalks as well as other materials that may be required to properly maintain the sidewalk route.

Administration of the Sidewalk Program Ordinance Summary

Areas where walks are required:

1. All Section line and Quarter Section line roads.
2. Brockway Road.
3. Wieneke Road.
4. Fashion Square Boulevard.
5. Fortune Boulevard.
6. Midland Road from Gratiot to Winterstein Drain (west side only)
7. Midland Road from Winterstein Drain to State Street (east side only)
8. Towne Centre Road

Construction Expense:

Single family and two family residentially zoned properties developed prior to the sidewalk program and selected as a project by the Sidewalk Committee will have 100% of the cost of construction paid for by the Township.

Commercial, Manufacturing and High Density Residentially zoned properties are required to pay 50% of the cost of construction when selected by the Sidewalk Committee to participate in a project.

All property owners are required to pay 100% of the cost of construction for their sidewalks if new construction is proposed on their property, which requires a building permit. (Exception: Areas shown as deferred on the General Sidewalk Plan).

The Township does not require sidewalks to be constructed within subdivisions and along roadways not designated within the Sidewalk Ordinance.

Assessments:

Property owners may request that the cost associated with a sidewalk project selected by the Township Board be assessed and spread, on their property tax bill for a period not exceeding 5 years. Assessments are subject to an interest rate not to exceed 8% per year. (The current interest rate levied is 6%).

Public Hearing:

A public hearing must be held by the Township Board prior to an assessment for sidewalk construction being levied on a parcel of land. The Township Board shall notify all property owners involved with a sidewalk project of the time and place of the hearing. The notice shall be made by first class mail and directed to the last known address of such owners as indicated by the Township Tax Roll.

The Township Board uses the procedures outlined by Public Act 80 of 1989 to create special assessment districts for sidewalk construction.

Sidewalk Advisory Committee:

The Township Sidewalk Advisory Committee is appointed by the Township Board and consists of one member of the Township Planning Commission, one member of the Township Board and three members of the public at large. These members serve for terms of three years.

The Sidewalk Advisory Committee has the following responsibilities and duties:

- A. To prepare and recommend to the Township Board, an annual budget relating to sidewalks.
- B. To determine and recommend to the Township Board, an annual sidewalk construction program.
- C. To act on requests for extensions of time relating to installation of sidewalks as provided in the Ordinance.
- D. To consider and approve or reject requested variances in the location or specifications as provided in the Ordinance.

The present members include:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Mrs. Barbara N. Ewend | Township Board Member |
| Mr. Mark A. Schaff | Township Board Member |
| Mrs. Linda Simms | Township Resident |
| Mrs. Judy Weldy | Township Resident |
| Mr. Randy Alpin | Township Resident |

Proposed 5 Year Plan

Four Lane Roadways

1. Gratiot Road (M-46) – City limit to Midland Road
 - South side projects:
 - 1) St. Andrews Road west to Bridge.
 - North side projects:
 - 1) Residential lot on the northeast corner of Edgewood Drive and Gratiot.
 - 2) West of Frost Drive to Bridge.
2. North Center Road – Gratiot to McCarty Road
 - East side projects:
 - 1) Gratiot Road north to Seidel Street.
 - West side projects:
 - 1) Seidel street north Glenfield.
 - 2) Brockway Road north to State Street.
3. South Center Road – Gratiot south to West Michigan Avenue
 - East side projects:
 - 1) West Michigan Avenue north to Kencliff Road.
4. State Street (M-58) – City limit to Midland Road
 - North side projects:
 - 1) Passolt west to Ethel.
 - 2) Parcel just west of Weineke Road.
 - South side projects:
 - 1) Commercial lot adjoining City limits.
 - 2) Gold Building Property.
 - 3) Seminole Lane west to Midland Road
5. Bay (M-84) - Weiss to Tittabawassee Road
 - East side projects:
 - 1) Weiss Street north to Shattuck Road.
 - 2) Shattuck Road north to McCarty Road – Fill in.
 - 3) Schust Road north to Tittabawassee Road.

6. Shattuck Road – City Limits west to Hospital Road.
 - South side projects:
 - 1) Bay Road west to Vido Drive.
 - 2) Mackinaw west to Center Road
 - North side projects:
 - 1) City limit west to Bay Road.
 - 2)
7. Tittabawassee Road – Bay Road west to Mackinaw Road
 - South side project:
 - 1) Dicks Sporting Goods to State Farm Office.
 - 2) Vacant land west of State Farm Office to Mackinaw Road.

Two Lane Roadways

1. Schust Road – Towne Centre to Mackinaw Road
(The most practical areas for sidewalk construction given the characteristics of the properties are listed below).
 - South side projects:
 - 1) Bay Road west to Mackinaw Road.
 - North side projects:
 - 1) Fashion Square Boulevard to Towne Centre.
2. McCarty Road – Hermansau Road to Mannion Road.
 - South side projects:
 - 1) Hermansau Road west to Bay Road.
 - 2) Center Road west to Mannion Road.
 - North side projects:
 - 1) Hermansau Road west to Bay Road.
 - 2) Bay Road west to Valley Lutheran High School.
 - 3) Railroad track west to Center Road.
 - 4) Oakside Drive to Autumn Ridge Drive.

3. Shattuck Road – Center Road west to Hospital Road.
 - South side projects:
 - 1) Center Road west to Hospital Road.
 - North side projects:
 - 1) Winston Drive west to Hospital Road.
4. Brockway Road – City limits to State Street.
 - South side projects:
 - 1) City limits west to Hemmeter Road.
 - 2) Commercial lot on southeast corner of Center and Brockway Road.
 - North side projects:
 - 1) City limits west to State Street.
5. South Center Road – West Michigan to Tittabawassee River (Boat Launch)
 - East side projects:
 - 1) West Michigan to Tittabawassee River.
 - West side projects:
 - 1) West Michigan to Tittabawassee River.
6. Mannion Road – McCarty Road to Shattuck Road
 - West side projects:
 - 1) Shattuck Road north to McCarty Road.
7. Seidel Road - North Center Road west to Frost Drive.
 - South side projects:
 - 1) Plymouth Road west to Frost Drive.

Proposed 10 Year Plan

1. West Michigan Avenue
 - South Center Road to Gratiot Road.
2. Mackinaw Road
 - McCarty north to Tittabawassee Road.
3. Midland Road (M-47)
 - Gratiot north to State Street.
4. Barnard Road
 - Shattuck Road north to Schust Road.
5. Fashion Square Boulevard
 - Shattuck Road north to Tittabawassee Road
6. North Center Road
 - McCarty Road north to Tittabawassee Road.
7. Tittabawassee Road
 - Mackinaw Road west to North Center Road.
8. Hermansau Road
 - Shattuck Road north to McCarty Road.
9. Towne Centre Road
 - Schust north to Tittabawassee Road.
10. Seidel Road
 - Frost west to Midland Road.
11. Weiss Street
 - Bay Road to Carrolton Township.

Sidewalk Advisory Committee Priorities

Year 2001 Projects:

1. Seidel Road – South side from Plymouth Drive to Frost Drive.
2. Mannion Road – North portion of west-side near McCarty Road.
3. Daytona Road – West to Weineke Road.

Year 2002 Projects:

1. North Center Road – East side, Gratiot to Seidel Street.
2. North Center Road – East side, Brockway North to State Street.

Year 2003 Projects:

1. Mannion Road – Shattuck north to Pine Gate Drive.
2. Tittabawassee Road – West Valley Shopping Center west to State Farm Office.

Year 2004 Projects:

1. Mannion Road – Pine Gate Drive north to McCarty Road.

