



A HERITAGE OF GOOD LIVING

**Dr. Sheryl L. Mitchell Theriot**

**City Administrator**

City of Lathrup Village

27400 Southfield Road | Lathrup Village, MI 48076

[smitchell@lathrupvillage.org](mailto:smitchell@lathrupvillage.org)

Office: 248.557.2600 x 225 | Cell: 248.520.0620

**COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

**TO:** Mayor Garrett and City Council Members

**FR:** Sheryl Mitchell Theriot, City Administrator

**DA:** April 19, 2021

**RE:** Sidewalk Replacement Program – Tree Root

**SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM** – the 2021 project area is the residential area south of 11 Mile/I-696 and the commercial corridor of Southfield Road have been identified for this year's sidewalk program. An evaluation of the sidewalks is currently underway, with information be uploaded through a "Collector" application to a GIS system. Of approximately 60 sidewalk flags in this years sidewalk project area, 11 are raised in part due to city tree roots.

Instead of the Special Assessment Process, on the agenda is an Ordinance to amend the sidewalk ordinance to allow for notification to the property owner and allowing the owner a reasonable time (not less than 10 days) to complete the repairs. The typical flag costs \$125 - \$150 to replace.

If the repairs are not undertaken, the city can move forward with the repairs at city expense to address this as a public health and safety measure. The cost of the repairs shall be charged about the adjacent property owner.

For the 2021 Sidewalk program, it is being recommended to allow the property owners to contract for the repairs themselves; pay the full amount upon invoice; or divide the payments over 2 years (due December 1, 2021 and December 1, 2022). For any missed payments, the entire balance will be placed on the Summer Tax bill.

**TREE ROOTS** - It is recognized that many of the sidewalks are lifted up by the roots from City trees located in the easement area. The repair/replacement of the sidewalk is the responsibility of the property owner. Some of the sidewalk repairs may require the grinding of the tree roots, in order to help level the sidewalk flags. The additional cost for grinding the tree roots is estimated at \$100 each. This would normally also be the responsibility of the property owner adjacent to the raised sidewalk.

**RECOMMENDATION:** For the 2021-2023 Sidewalk Replacement Program, that the City of Lathrup Village assume the costs associated with grinding the roots of city trees that are impacting safe sidewalk conditions.

**Suggested Motion:**

**Adopt Policy and Amend the 2021-2023 Sidewalk Replacement Program to reflect that the City of Lathrup Village will assume the costs associated with grinding the roots of city trees that are impacting safe sidewalk conditions.**