
2020 – 2021

Curb Ramp Report & Transition Plan

Each year, the City of Iowa City installs and repairs sidewalks and curb ramps throughout the City to improve accessibility to all our community's residents and visitors and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This report details the progress made during calendar year 2020 and anticipated for 2021 which furthers pedestrian accessibility in the City. For a full inventory of Iowa City's sidewalks and curb ramps, please visit: www.icgov.org/accessibility.

Inventory

From 2012 through 2014, the Metropolitan Planning Organization of Johnson County (MPOJC) conducted an inventory of all sidewalk and curb ramp locations in the greater metropolitan area. Approximately 5,000 ramp locations within Iowa City were evaluated and photographed by field technicians. This inventory provided a baseline for scheduling and prioritizing curb ramp improvements in Iowa City.

The Iowa City Public Works Department maintains a living database and map of curb ramp locations within the city. The map includes existing curb ramp locations, data points, and photos as well as potential curb ramp locations to be evaluated. The database is updated annually after the construction season has ended. There are currently 5,836 curb ramps identified in the database (this includes a significant number of ramps that are on University property and 72 ramps in University Heights).

Residents may also report missing or insufficient curb ramps for inclusion in the City's repair and replacement program. Staff collect the details of these requests, conduct a field review, and documents the process. If the site review verifies that work is required, it is scheduled and other planned projects in the vicinity are considered for the curb ramp to be paired with to avoid redundancy. In some instances, the requested site work may not be feasible, in which case staff will communicate what those limiting factors are.

Appendix I lists the criteria used for evaluating and tracking ADA compliance of curb ramps.

Projects & Prioritization

Curb ramp construction, repairs, and replacements are completed through many avenues in order to maximize opportunities for progress each year:

Capital Improvement Program (CIP): Curb ramps are built into The Annual Asphalt Overlay Program and Annual Curb Ramp Program and completed in conjunction with many other

scheduled projects including dedicated road construction projects, underground utility projects, sidewalk infill projects, and parks improvement projects.

New subdivisions/site plans: Curb ramps are installed with the construction of corner lots and adjoining sidewalks, rather than at the time of other public improvements. Thus, these projects are dependent upon the developer.

Unscheduled Projects: If feasible, the City seeks to incorporate simple curb ramp projects into unexpected utility or roadway repairs that come up.

Curb ramp projects are prioritized based on a comprehensive set of considerations, including:

- **Condition** of ramp, including slope and domes (see Appendix I).
- **Location** of ramp, such as whether it is near a public facility or park, school, or other heavily used public location such as a bus stop.
- **Adjoining sidewalk** exists but lacks curb ramp(s).
- **Pedestrian safety** considerations, such as proximity to heavy traffic and whether the ramp is located at a controlled intersection or a mid-block location.
- **Exceptional accessibility needs**, such as located in a neighborhood with a high percentage of disabled or elderly residents.
- **Other scheduled projects** in the vicinity of the ramp requiring work.

2020 – 2021 Curb Ramp Transition Plan

During the 2020 construction season, a total of 232 curb ramps were repaired, replaced, or installed. This includes 45 new ramps which were part of subdivision development and 187 ramps which were completed as part of City projects. The full 2020 Annual Curb Ramp Project funding was allocated to curb ramp improvements in alignment with the Lower Muscatine storm sewer project.

2020 Construction Season: Completed Projects		
Project	Location	# Curb Ramps
Subdivision/site plan	Tegler	2
Subdivision/site plan	Tamarack Ridge	4
Subdivision/site plan	Lindemann	3
Subdivision/site plan	Stone Bridge Estates	2
Subdivision/site plan	Sandhill Estates	2
Subdivision/site plan	West Side Estates	12
Subdivision/site plan	Cardinal Pointe West	4
Subdivision/site plan	General Quarters	2

Subdivision/site plan	Churchill Meadows	4
Subdivision/site plan	Cherry Creek	2
Subdivision/site plan	Windmill Heights	1
Subdivision/site plan	Galway Hills	1
Subdivision/site plan	Windsor West	1
Subdivision/site plan	Linn/Market	2
Subdivision/site plan	Hieronymus Square	2
Subdivision/site plan	Capital Subdivision	1
Storm sewer project	Windsor Ridge Drainage	1
Park improvement	Willow Creek Park	2
Water Main Replacement	Spruce St.	2
Street project	Burlington/Madison	16
Street project	Prentiss St.	5
Street project	McCollister Blvd	30
Parking project	Capitol/Washington	1
Storm sewer project	Lower Muscatine	34
Water Pressure Zoning	Various	12
Water Patching projects	Various	7
2020 Asphalt Overlay Program	Various	77
Total Completed 2020		232

A total of 255 curb ramps are anticipated for repair, replacement, or construction in the 2021 construction season. This includes 253 ramps associated with City projects and 2 expected as part of subdivision development at West Side Estates. Two additional subdivisions have public improvements in place and could see build out soon, which could add 18 ramps at Anna St./Lindemann subdivision and 13 ramps at Community View.

2021 Construction Season: Anticipated Projects		
Project	Location	# Curb Ramps
Subdivision/site plan	West Side Estates	2
Street project	Benton St.	50
Street project	1 st Avenue/Scott Blvd	16
Street project	American Legion Road	26
2020 Asphalt Overlay Program	Various	34
2021 Asphalt Overlay Program	Various	63
2021 Curb Ramp Project	Various	64
Total Anticipated 2021		255

Appendix I

Iowa City Curb Ramp Condition/Evaluation Criteria
Ramp type: Left or Right (perpendicular) Center (diagonal) Under Construction
Detectable warnings: None installed 25% damaged 50% damaged 75% damaged None Damaged
Truncated domes aligned with crosswalk: Yes No Unknown
Common panel slope: Cross slope over 2% Cross slope less than 2% No common panel
Ramp running slope: 0-5% 5-8.3% 8.3-11% 11%+
Receiving ramp on opposite side of street: Yes No
Pavement Condition: Good – no major cracks or uneven areas Fair – some major cracks or uneven areas Poor – major cracks or missing and uneven concrete