

## **Guidelines for community path repairs and maintenance**

Footpaths and cycle paths (referred to as community paths) are provided to assist the community with walking and cycling activities. As at 30 June 2012, there was 2,533 kilometres of community paths in the ACT (2,190 kilometres of footpaths and 343 kilometres of off-road cycle paths). Community paths can be used by pedestrians, cyclists and motorised mobility devices (electric wheelchairs and mobility scooters/buggies that cannot travel over 10 kilometres per hour).

Community paths are repaired and maintained by Roads ACT. Damage to community paths mainly arise from aging infrastructure, vehicle overrun or through tree roots lifting the paths.

Requests to repair community paths are received from the public through Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 or via the ACT Government's online service 'Fix My Street' which is available at [www.canberraconnect.act.gov.au](http://www.canberraconnect.act.gov.au). Requests are forwarded to Roads ACT who endeavour to inspect the path within three working days of receiving the request. Once the path has been assessed it is entered into Roads ACT's asset management database system for repair and or replacement.

Any urgent requests that may pose an extreme safety risk to the public are repaired within one business day after the initial inspection. High risk paths are repaired within seven business days after the initial inspection. Path replacements are packaged into contract works and contracts are awarded progressively over the financial year. It can take between three to 12 months for replacement requests to be addressed depending on the priority, the location and whether the existing paths are safe and serviceable.

Emergency repairs are generally carried out using cold mix (a form of asphalt) to remove or reduce the defect to an acceptable level. For example, where there is a trip hazard, cold mix is placed in front of the trip to make a small ramp. Alternatively, the method of grinding can be used to remove small trip hazards. These methods provide interim repair and allow Roads ACT to replace the path (if needed) in a future path replacement contract package.

Roads ACT has a number of staff that regularly inspect the condition of road assets, including community paths and pedestrian areas. Inspections focus on areas with high pedestrian usage. Priority for inspections is given to community paths within city and town centres followed by group centres, community facilities (such as hospitals, schools and retirement facilities), local centres and cycle paths. Other suburban areas are only inspected upon receiving a request from the public.

## Community path intervention levels

The following table provides details on the intervention level (at what stage Roads ACT will carry out work) and the type of repair method employed for the various types of path material.

Concrete Path Defects	Intervention Level	Repair Method
Trip hazard	15-35 mm trips within the path	Grinding
Trip hazard	Greater than 35 mm trips within the path	Panel replacement (or part of)
Slab damage	Irregular cracking with 15 mm or more of height change	Panel replacement (or part of)
Slab damage	Loose, multiple cracking or broken panels greater than 15 mm width	Panel replacement (or part of)
Slab damage	Uneven surface (lifting) greater than 50 mm over a panel	Panel replacement (or part of)
Slab damage	Subsidence causing significant water ponding with safety implications	Panel replacement (or part of)
Slab damage	Tree roots (if Parks and City Services advise that roots are non removable)	Remove and realign footpath
Slab damage	Tree roots (if Parks and City Services provide approval to remove roots)	Cut roots and replace segments, request reinforcing into slab

Paver Defects	Intervention Level	Repair Method
Pavers damage	Loose, broken or missing pavers	Replace or re-bed
Pavers damage	Individual paver level change greater than 15 mm	Replace or re-bed
Pavers damage	Sinking causing significant pooling of water with some safety implications	Replace or re-bed
Pavers damage	Slippery pavers	Replace or re-bed
Pavers damage	Tree roots (if Parks and City Services advise that roots are non removable)	Remove and realign footpath
Pavers damage	Tree roots (if Parks and City Services provide approval to remove roots)	Cut roots and replace segments

Asphalt Path Defects	Intervention Level	Repair Method
Pavement cracking	Extensive single crack wider than 15 mm with little or no change in height	Crack sealing
Pavement cracking	Significant length of weed infested pavement cracks causing water pools	Weed poisoning and removal by Parks and City Services, and crack sealing
Pavement damage	Cracking with a height change greater than 15 mm	Pavement reconstruction/overlay
Pavement damage	Uneven surface with greater than 50 mm change in height (as measured with a 1.2 m straight edge)	Pavement reconstruction/overlay
Pavement damage	Sinking causing significant pooling of water with safety implications	Pavement reconstruction/overlay
Pavement damage	Potholes greater than 25 mm diameter	Pavement reconstruction/overlay
Pavement damage	Tree roots (if Parks and City Services advise that roots are non removable)	Assess height, overlay and match into existing path or remove existing asphalt and realign footpath
Pavement damage	Tree roots (if Parks and City Services provide approval to remove roots)	Cut roots and replace asphalt, match into existing path