

ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Engineering Division of Public Works provides services related to the development, maintenance, management, and design of the public infrastructure for the City of Appleton. The Engineering Division is responsible for managing the City's infrastructure in a way to ensure adequate levels of service at acceptable costs. This is achieved through six sub-programs: Sanitary Sewer Program, Stormwater Management Program, Watermain Program, Sidewalk Program, Street Improvement Program, and Bridge Program.

Q & A

Q: Why are street reconstructions stretched out over 2 years?

A: In the first year of construction, the underground utilities are installed and the street is temporarily patched. In the second year of construction, all of the existing pavement, curb and gutter, and driveway aprons are removed and replaced with new pavement, curb and gutter, and driveway aprons. This is done over a two year period to allow for the trenches that were dug for the utilities to settle over the course of a year and thus prolong the life of the new pavement.

Q: How is it decided which streets will be reconstructed?

A: For most street reconstruction projects, the existing condition of the pavement is the determining factor whether the street will be placed in the 5 year paving program. Occasionally, the need to reconstruct the underground utilities will require the pavement to be reconstructed even if it's in relatively fair condition. The City assigns pavement ratings to all of the streets within its jurisdiction. The poorest rated streets are placed in the 5 year paving program for future reconstruction.

Q: What is the Wheel Tax used for?

A: The City of Appleton established the \$20 Wheel Tax to replace the revenue source from Street Reconstruction Special Assessments. The Wheel Tax generates \$1.33 million annually. Wheel Tax funds are used for the concrete and asphalt reconstruction programs, not for pothole patching, sidewalk replacement, etc.

Q: Why do we need all of these ponds around the city?

A: The City's stormwater detention basins (ponds) provide two benefits. The first benefit provided by the basins is flood control within the city. The second benefit provided by the stormwater basins is the ability for wet ponds to help clean/treat stormwater runoff before it is released back into the waterways. The Wisconsin DNR mandates communities in Wisconsin have facilities in place to treat stormwater runoff.

Q: If there's a green dot on my sidewalk, am I assessed for the cost to remove and replace?

A: No, there is no assessment for removing and replacing existing sidewalk that meets the City's replacement criteria.

Q: If I don't have sidewalk in front of my newly constructed house, how long do I have to install the new sidewalk?

A: The City requires property owners to install new sidewalk along their property within 6 months of occupancy.

Q: How does the City budget for major bridge reconstruction or rehabilitation?

A: The City applies for Local Bridge Program funds, which are federal dollars managed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The City receives 80% of the dollars for the total cost of the project. The City can apply about every 2-3 years during the DOT's application period.

Q: How many bridges does the City own and maintain?

A: The City owns and maintains 35 bridges.

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For more information please visit: www.appleton.org or call 832-6474.