

Guidelines for Footpath Inspection and Fault Grading Standards Whanganui District





Overview

Footpaths are important infrastructure asset for urban areas. They form the foundation of our public spaces. They make walking a safer and more convenient option for local trips, which are carried out in some form by almost all residents and visitors (particularly school pupils, public transport users, and the elderly).

Well-maintained footpaths are important for pedestrians' convenience and safety. The ability to negotiate footpaths safely on foot, by wheelchair/mobility scooter, or with a stroller is an important aspect for those who use footpaths

Maintenance considerations for all footpaths will:

- Ensure the Asset Management Plan will recognise the life of each footpath design and location and provide for adequate funding for maintenance and renewal programmes.
- Enforce the requirements for quality reinstatement of surfaces following development in or access to the street
- Implement 'sectioning' of the footpath asset to ensure quality reinstatement. This involves
 the identification of sections of footpath of a designated area. Work undertaken within a
 section, will then involve complete reinstatement of the entire section, rather than a patch.
 This technique reduces the 'patchwork' appearance and maximises pedestrian safety and
 amenity.
- Maintenance and renewal work will be prioritised to ensure the highest risk faults are repaired in a timely manner maximising pedestrian safety.

Increasingly footpaths are coming under pressure to be used by vehicles of all types. Fortunately, throughout New Zealand the law is clear that footpaths are principally for pedestrians. Pedestrians are people on foot and include people in wheelchairs and children in pushchairs.

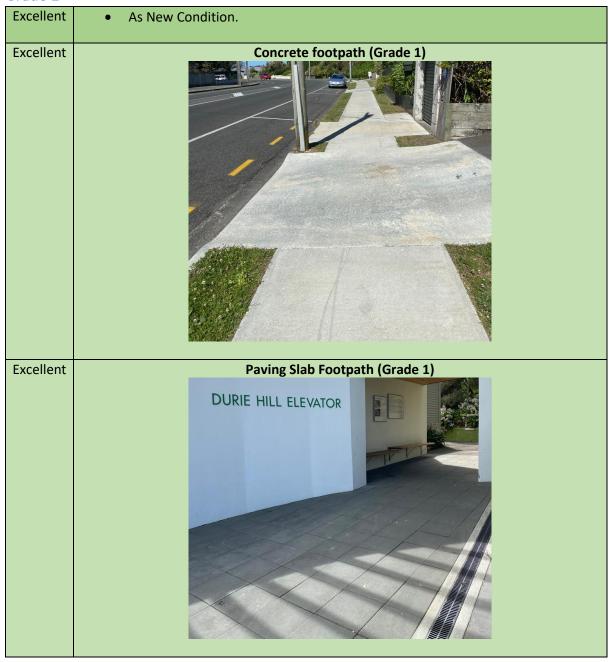
Shared pathways are available for all active user types including micro mobility and cyclists, operating at a safe and appropriate speed for the environment they are in.

In New Zealand, around 700 pedestrians are admitted to hospital each year as a result of slips, trips and stumbles in the road environment (including the footpath), and so the problem is not insignificant.

The Council conducts a triennial detailed inspection of footpath faults based on a standard set of criteria. Those criteria are outlined in this Inspection Guideline.



Grading Standards







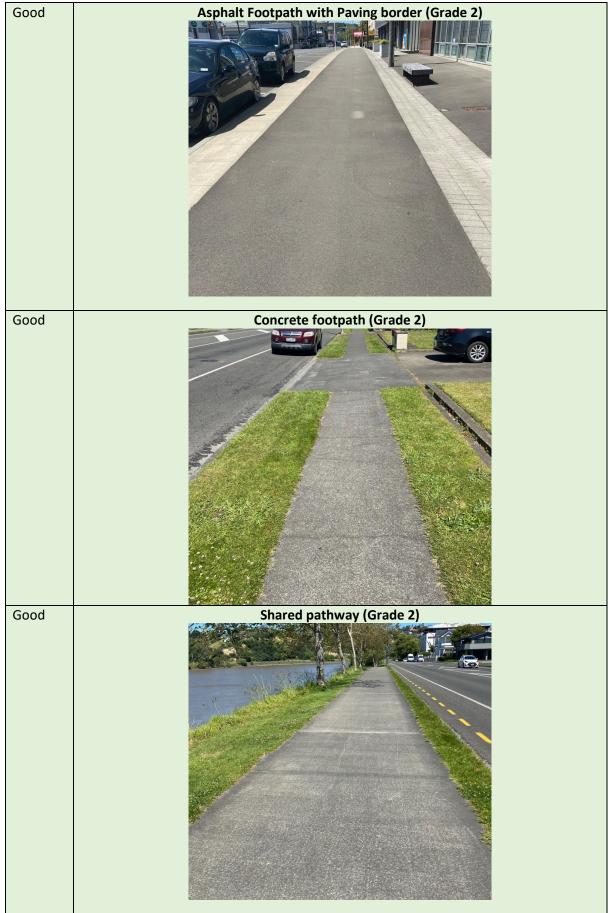






Grade 2 Good	 Acceptable physical condition with minimal short-term failure risk but potential for deterioration in long term (10 years or more). Asset functions safely at adequate level of service.
Good	Paving Stone footpath (Grade 2)















Grade 5	
Grade 3 Fair	 Significant Deterioration evident. No immediate risk for health & safety without major repairs for up to 3 years. Minor repairs may be required to ensure asset remains safe. Comments: Uneven patches with small bumps and depressions resulting in ponding; Cracking or settlement over trenches up to 10mm vertical displacement. Not a major safety hazard or dangerous. Some weed infestation in joints. Minor Maintenance maybe required but no major replacement/renewal required.
Fair	Asphalt Footpath (3)







Grade 4	
Poor	 Failure likely in short term; becoming dangerous with significant risk for Health & Safety of public. Asset unlikely to function without major repairs or replacement of asset within 1 year. Comments: Several repairs with large cracks exceeding 15mm and/or 10mm horizontal displacement that could cause pedestrians to trip. Bad ponding. Unstable slabs. Widespread infestation of weeds through joints. Where vertical displacement is between 10 and 15mm inspector to decide between Grade 3 & 4. Maintenance required and needs to be included on the programme for replacement. Renewal within next 12 months.
Poor	Asphalt Footpath (Grade 4)
Poor	Paver Footpath (Grade 4)







Very	
poor	

- Failed or failure imminent; dangerous and serious impact on asset performance and presence of hazards.
- Major work or replacement required urgently.
- Temporary repair and permanent repair to be completed within specified timescale.

Comments:

- Dangerous vertical displacements exceeding 20mm.
- Disintegrated or badly settled.
- Missing sections.
- Unstable slabs.
- Severe sunken trench lines.
- Widespread cracking.
- Obstruction of path with mature weeds.
- Where vertical or horizontal exceeds specification, the grade will be 5
- Requires immediate maintenance/making safe for safety purposes.



Asphalt Footpath (Grade 5) Very poor Very Paver Footpath (Grade 5) poor



