



CASE STUDY: Preserving City Trees / Michigan City, Indiana

Problem: Michigan City, Indiana is located on the sandy beaches of Lake Michigan just 55 miles east of Chicago. Its 32,000 residents take pride in its Historic City Center, its beaches and its urban forest, which features an abundance of Silver Maple, Poplar, and Oak trees.



Most of Michigan City's urban forest was designed and planted over 50 years ago. The problem today is infrastructure damage to sidewalks, curbs, and driveways caused by the tree roots of the maturing forest. The City has recently completed a survey of the tree population in part to determine the extent of the damage. The poplar tree depicted to the left is an example of the current situation.

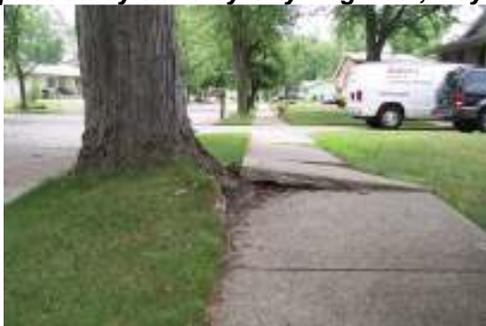
Solution: Rubbersidewalks™ and TERREWALKS®' modularity and flexibility allows them to be easily and inexpensively removed so that tree root growth can be monitored before they grow large enough to damage sidewalks. This preventative maintenance is more cost effective. Michigan City has been using Rubbersidewalks and Terrewalks for a number of years and is now confident that these modular sidewalk solutions will preserve some of the most valued trees in their inventory that would otherwise have to be removed.



The results show that not only the poplar tree in the picture is well situated for the future maintenance program but that Michigan City is planning to maintain many of the trees identified in its survey with the same modular solution.

City Planners are also exploring modular sidewalks to solve other challenges like improving beach access that is also ADA compliant and lessening the volume of urban runoff into Lake Michigan.

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“A pilot study done by City Engineer, Boyd Phelps documents that it cost the City only \$367 more to install Rubbersidewalks instead of pouring back concrete to save 2 Pin Oaks. The Oak trees were valued by a Purdue University formula at \$8,580 and \$11,206.”

Chris Bohnert, City Planning Department,

For more information, please contact:

Chris Bohnert, City Planning Department Michigan City Indiana

Tel: 219-873-1419

Email: christopher@emichigancity.com

10061 Talbert Ave. 2nd Floor Fountain Valley, CA 92708

PH 714-964-1400 FAX 714-964-8600 info@terrecon.com www.terrecon.com