A Crumbling Campus

Abstract

Our research was concerned with how many areas of main campus appear to be falling apart and are also visible to visitors and prospective students. There was a concern that visitors and prospective students would not come away with a pleased perception of campus when they visited due to the somewhat decrepit state many pathways and buildings are in.

Our research used GPS units that allowed us to record the physical location of each broken area on main campus and then convert it to a digital format. This allowed us to perform analyses which found where the areas of disrepair existed, and whether they coincided with the prospective student tour path that Texas A&M University provides. We found that a small number of the total areas of disrepair are visible to those following the path, which led us to wonder why those areas are so frequently kept in a pristine manner. Also, what effect occurs when prospective students wander around campus on their own and find the many poorly cared for areas of campus?

With these concerns in mind, we created several maps that display these areas and clarify just how little prospective students see of everyday pedestrian life is like at Texas A&M University.