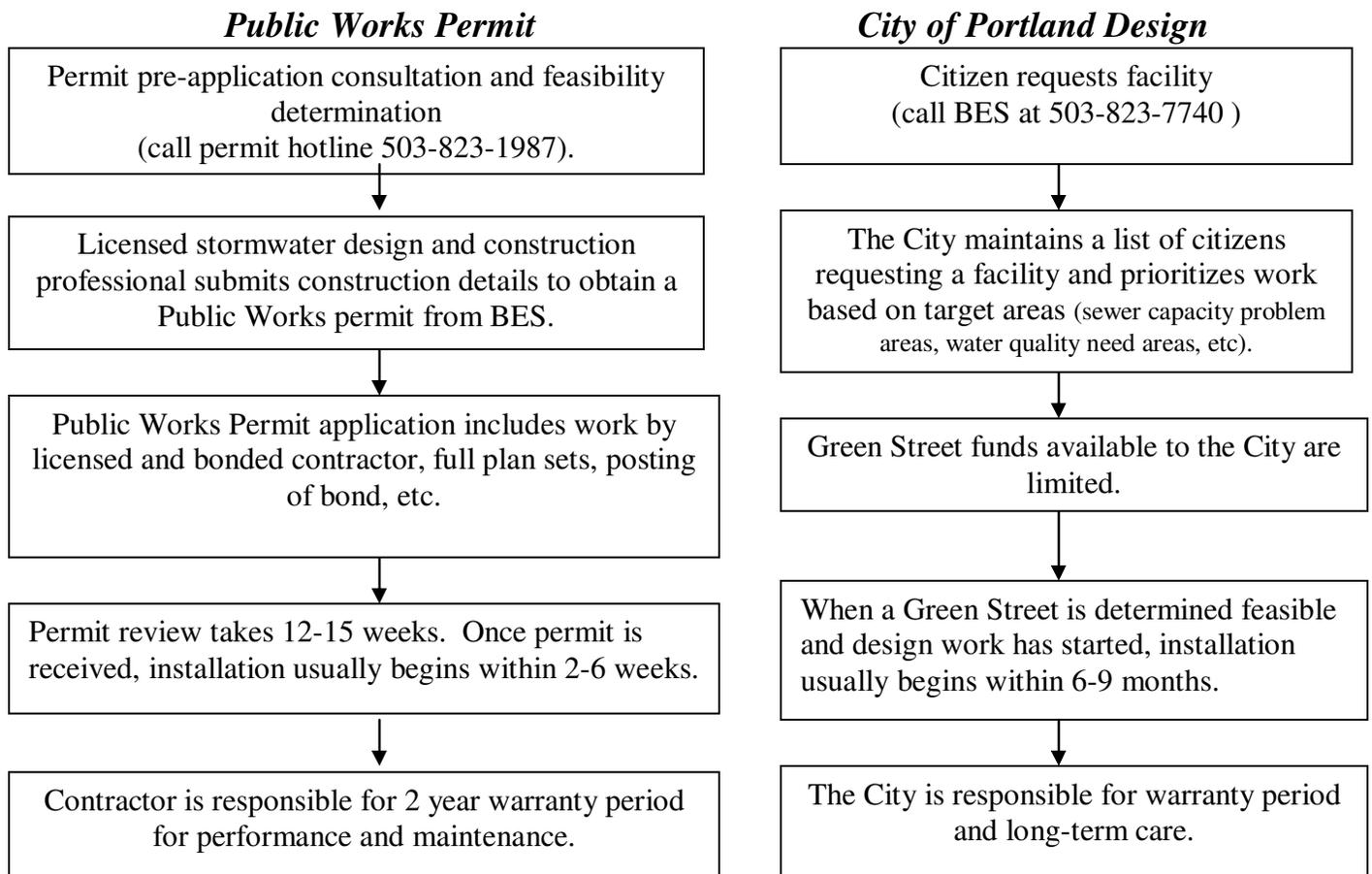


Voluntary Installation of Green Streets

Green streets are a vital component of the City's stormwater green infrastructure. They improve watershed health and conserve the existing and future conveyance capacity of the sewer system. These public improvements are engineered structures that contain soils and plantings with a primary function of managing stormwater runoff from the public right of way. Ability to effectively capture stormwater, remove pollutants and ease of maintenance are critical factors for success. Proper facility design and installation is best left to licensed professionals with experience designing and constructing stormwater facilities.

Green streets are required to manage stormwater runoff from public streets and rights of way with new development. Because of their aesthetic and environmental benefits, many Portland citizens want to retrofit the existing right of way in front of their house as green street facilities. This demand is ever increasing, and both the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) are seeing an increase in permit applications to install green streets. Green Streets however, are not feasible at all locations due to variable site conditions.

Currently, voluntary green streets may be initiated by licensed professionals via the City's public works permit process or through the design and installation process by the city; city staff should first be consulted in either situation. The flow chart below summarizes the two options:



BES is developing a voluntary Green Street maintenance program to have local residents assist the city with maintenance activities (such as trash and removal, watering, and weeding) regardless of the method of Green Street construction. A guidance handbook is in development.