

Service: Sidewalk Repair, Permits and Maintenance

Description: Sidewalks in the City of Portland are generally the responsibility of the adjacent property owners for both construction and maintenance.

Responsibility for the maintenance of sidewalks, driveway approaches and curbs falls to the owner of the abutting property (City Code 17.28.020) The exception to this is the intersection corner area of the sidewalk (including curb ramps) and curbs not attached to sidewalks, which are the responsibility of the City. Inspectors often have to make a determination as to what constitutes the “corner area”. This is done by Right of Way Inspectors (503-823-7002x1) not Sidewalk Inspectors.

Snow and Ice/Leaves on Sidewalk: City Code 17.28.025 states snow, must be cleaned 3ft in width within 4 daylight hours by adjacent property owner. **City Code 17.52.020** states occupants must keep sidewalks clean of leaves and organic matter. (The city does not have resources to enforce but the property owner is liable for all damages to any person injured from defective condition or failure to keep in safe condition.)

Mandatory Sidewalk Repair – The City Sidewalk Program oversees the maintenance of City sidewalks (including the transit brick sidewalks and tree grates). They can address complaints from community members concerning dangerous sidewalk in need of repair. Individual property owners must work with them if they have had an adjacent sidewalk turned in or ‘posted’. The Sidewalk Repair Section also handles the permitting process and inspections for these cases.

Contact Info: Physically located at **1900 SW 4th Ave - Development Services Center, 503-823-1711**, SidewalkRepair@portlandoregon.gov - much of this still needs to be done in-person.

Curbs, corners and ADA curb ramp repairs are the responsibility of the City Bureau of Transportation Maintenance Section and should be reported to 503-823-1700.

Voluntary Sidewalk Repair – non-City mandated sidewalk repair or new sidewalk construction (including individuals repairing a sidewalk on their own that has not been ‘posted’ by the city) need to work with the Transportation Development Services Division to get a Minor Improvement Permits - <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/64968>, The Minor Improvement Permit Inspector is available for consultations before you getting a permit by calling 503-823-7002x1. The City Forestry inspector can be reached for questions regarding trees at 503-823-TREE (8733). **Online permit form** - <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/656733>

Contact Info: Customer Service Line: 503-823-7002, Option 3,
pbotsidewalkpermits@portlandoregon.gov, Development Services Center – 1900 SW 4th
Ave, 1st Floor

New Sidewalks -

New sidewalks on local streets (unimproved) without existing curbs: LID Administrator:
Andrew Aebi, 503-823-5648 - Neighborhood residents may wish to join together to form a Local
Improvement District (LID) to build sidewalks.

<http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/35715>

New sidewalks on local streets already with curbs: Minor Improvement Permits -
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/656733> Right of Way Customer
Service: 503-823-7002 x3, pbotsidewalkpermits@portlandoregon.gov

New sidewalks on major arterials: Planning Section - Michelle Marx, 503-823-4589

Questions:

If someone is injured as a result of an unmaintained sidewalk who is liable? What is City Risk
Management's role in such a case?

Who are the sidewalk inspectors?

Who are the right of way inspectors?

Who in Risk deals with sidewalk injury issues?

What to tell people inquiring about City enforcement of people not sweeping snow/leaves from their
sidewalk?

Plans for sidewalk repair process being done online/remotely?

Follow Up:

Reach out to Sidewalk Repair (LesaTofi), Minor Improvement Permits staff (Wayne Close?) and Risk
Management (Randy Stenquist?)