

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Question: Who is responsible for maintenance of curbs and sidewalks?

Answer: City Ordinance No 907.01: Curbs, sidewalks, disability ramps, crossovers (driveway approaches) and crosswalks will be constructed and maintained at the expense of the property owner, for the safety and convenience of the public.

Question: What is the time-frame for property owners to remove snow and ice from the sidewalk?

Answer: Property owners are required to remove snow and ice within 10 hours, from the end of the storm. A path, 3 feet in width, must be cleared from all sidewalks, regardless of whether they are paved or not. Property owners are required to comply, or could face a fine of up to \$600.00 per day, beyond the 10-hour period.

Question: I need to have my property surveyed to determine the property corners, and establish my property lines. Will the City survey my property?

Answer: The City does not provide survey services to the public. City survey crews are used to gather specific, detailed data for City-sponsored infrastructure projects, as well as right-of-way easement acquisitions. Property owners are required to seek these services from a private source.

Question: Who is responsible for street trees located in the public right-of-way?

Answer: The owner of property abutting a public right-of-way. And having a shade tree, as defined, growing in such public right-of-way, is responsible for the care of, and maintenance of said tree/trees. Before any work is performed to street trees in the public right-of-way, the owner of the adjacent property should request details regarding said work, from the Bureau of Parks.

Question: My water service line is leaking. May I fix the leak myself?

Answer: Water service lines may only be repaired, or replaced, by a registered plumber. The excavation to expose the work may be performed by a person other than a registered plumber. A plumbing permit and excavation permit are required. If excavation extends to the street, restoration of the street is required, and a deposit for such repairs must be provided before issuance of permits. Sidewalk restoration is the responsibility of the property owner. These permits are available at the Bureau of Engineering, 641 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

Question: What are my limits of responsibility, regarding repairs to my water lateral (service line) and sewer lateral?

Answer: The home owner is responsible for the water lateral, from the house to the curb shutoff box. The sanitary sewer lateral is the homeowner's responsibility from the house to the sanitary sewer main in the street.

Question: I own a corner property and would like to replace my deteriorated curb and sidewalk radius. Must I replace it with a ramp when this work is done?

Answer: By both State Law and Federal Law (American's with Disabilities Act) requires replacement with an accessible ramp, that conforms to standards that can be provided by the City.

Question: Are there any other materials that can be placed in the planter strip (area between curb and sidewalk), other than grass?

Answer: Materials allowed in the planter strip are grass, concrete, and brick, in residential areas, and concrete, grass, brick, or asphalt paving in nonresidential areas with the approval of the City Engineer.

Question: The root from the street tree, in front of my home, is lifting my sidewalk causing a hazard to pedestrians. Who is responsible for the repairs?

Answer: The street tree, and sidewalk, are the responsibility of the property owner. However, before any work proceeds to cut the tree roots, the owner must contact the Bureau of Parks for someone to check the tree for soundness, or potential damage that might result in root removal. A permit is required for both tree work, and sidewalk improvements, from the Bureau of Parks, and Bureau of Engineering respectively.

Question: I've noticed different colored paint markings in the street, and on the sidewalk is front of my home. What does that represent?

Answer: When excavation is planned in the public right-of-way, or easements, contractors or utility companies, the Municipality, etc. must notify the "Pennsylvania One Call System", which notify all utilities in the area to reasonably mark the location of their facilities. The colors are a uniform code, by which the utility is identified.

