FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Trees

Q. What criteria may cause street trees to be removed?
A. Any street trees that have reached a level of unacceptable risk or have a high potential for future damages to City infrastructure, including streets and utilities, will be removed. In addition, street trees will be removed that have a limited useful life remaining.

Q. Will the City remove the street trees?
A. The City strives to save street trees that benefit the community. The City Forester, with the direction of the Shade Tree Commission, will determine if street trees will be removed. All locations where street trees are removed will be evaluated for potential replacement street trees.

Q. Why isn’t the City replacing the street trees?
A. The City replaces as many trees as possible. Street lights, fire hydrants, existing trees, and other infrastructure, including streets and utilities, may be in conflict and do not allow for street trees to be replaced.

Q. How much do replacement street trees cost?
A. There is no cost to the property owner for replacement street trees.

Q. What kind of street trees will be planted? Can property owners choose?
A. The replacement street trees chosen will adhere to the Shade Tree Commission’s approved Street Tree Master List. This list provides three street trees as replacements for each street to improve the diversity of the City’s urban forest canopy. The City Forester will select the specific street trees for each location.

Q. What if the street trees cause damage to the sidewalk in the future?
A. The City strives to utilize a variety of replacement street tree species that will not cause damage to sidewalks in the future. The City has covered the cost of sidewalks damaged by street trees since 2009.
REPAIR OPTIONS

Generally, property owners have two options for repairing their sidewalks:

- **Property owners can make their own repairs.** A sidewalk repair permit, which details the specifications for sidewalk repairs, is required. While in most cases the permit is free, if eight or more panels of sidewalk are in need of repair, a fee of up to $100 may be assessed for the City’s inspection services during construction. Property owners may complete the work themselves or hire a contractor to complete the repairs. Property owners working together are likely to receive lower prices for sidewalk replacement due to the greater quantity of work.

- **Do nothing upon receipt of the notice and have the City’s contractor complete the work.** The City pays the contractor to complete the work, and then provides the property owner with a notice of completion and the actual cost of completing and inspecting the sidewalk replacement as well as restoring the lawn area. After review, property owners may choose to make full, partial, or no payment to the City. Any remaining unpaid balance, plus interest, will be assessed to property taxes via an assessment over the following five years.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Construction**

Q. Why do property owners have to pay for the repairs to the sidewalk?

A. Section 729.01 of the Ohio Revised Code provides for municipalities to require property owners to maintain the sidewalk that abuts their property. The State believes that the property owner benefits by having use of the sidewalk, and through the increased property value.

Q. What criteria is used to determine if a sidewalk needs to be repaired?

A. The City has specific criteria it follows when inspecting sidewalks. Inspectors look for cracked and uneven sidewalks, excessive deterioration to the sidewalk, excessive slopes, and horizontal or vertical offsets that can cause tripping hazards. Once inspections have been completed, property owners are notified of any sidewalk that failed inspection.

Q. Do property owners have to use the contractor provided by the City?

A. No. Property owners may hire a private company or complete the repairs themselves. A permit must be obtained from the Planning and Development Department prior to beginning any work.