



The City of Gahanna places a high priority on maintenance of the City's infrastructure, including maintaining a safe sidewalk network throughout the City. Sidewalks that are in good repair promote community-wide safety and enhance connectivity and walkability.

Sidewalk Evaluation Criteria

Identifying when a sidewalk requires maintenance depends on many factors. Below is a list of factors that will be considered when determining whether a sidewalk requires maintenance in accordance with the City's sidewalk code (City of Gahanna Ordinance 903):

- Spalling (concrete has broken away from sidewalk in fragments)
- Sections projecting above walk
- Gapping between joints or cracks
- Surface deterioration
- Sloping away from street
- Excessive cracking
- Broken or has uneven grade
- Other conditions causing an unsafe walking surface. Some of those conditions may include, but are not limited to, deteriorating patches, wedges, loose or partial infill, excessive cross slope, or vegetation growing in cracks.

The current factors considered are described in more detail in the Sidewalk Maintenance Guidelines, which can be found on the City's website or by contacting the City's Department of Engineering.



Sidewalk Maintenance Program

What You Need to Know



Safe, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods are vital to our residents and are a source of community pride. Properly maintained sidewalks contribute to the livability and aesthetic image of our City.

Questions?

Contact the City's Department of Engineering at **614-342-4050**, or email questions/comments to **sidewalks@gahanna.gov**

To learn more, visit gahanna.gov/sidewalk-maintenance-program

G Inspection Process

City of Gahanna's inspectors will review the sidewalks in the program area and mark the sections, or "panels," that must be repaired or replaced. Depending on the cause of the damage, different marks will be used:

- The panel will be marked with an "O" if the damage is the result of a street tree. Panels marked with an "O" indicate that the tree adjacent to the sidewalk might be removed as part of the program.
- The panel will be marked with an "X" if the inspectors determine that the damage is not caused by street tree roots.

If repairs are needed, the property owner will receive notice from the City. It will include a summary of repairs, an estimated cost and outline of repair options. They will also be eligible to participate in the 50% cost share program.

G Repair Options

Property owners have two options to repair sidewalks:

- **Take no action upon receipt of the notice and allow the City contractor to complete the repairs.** The City and their contractor will complete the work and provide the property owner with a notice of completion and final cost of repairs.

Once the repairs are complete, the Owner will have 2 options to pay for the cost of the repairs.

Option 1: Pay **50% of the full repair cost** in one payment to the City.

Option 2: Have **50% of the full repair cost** assessed on the owner's property taxes at 0% interest over 5 years.

- **Property owners can opt-out of the program and make their own repairs.**

Property owners may complete the work themselves or hire a contractor to complete the repairs. This requires the property owner to apply for a right-of-way permit, which details the specifications for sidewalk repairs.



G Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is the program area determined?

A. The program areas will follow the Gahanna Street Programs, which update curb ramps and crosswalks to be ADA compliant. This approach will allow the City to create a continuous ADA compliant pedestrian route within the program area.

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. It is also a requirement set forth in City of Gahanna Ordinance 521.06.

The City offers a 50% cost share program for property owners who have the work completed by the City and their contractor. Property owners who opt-out are not eligible for the 50% cost share.

Q. Do property owners who opt-out of the program have to use a specific contractor?

A. No. Property owners may hire a private company or complete the repairs themselves. A right-of-way permit will be required prior to beginning any work, which details the specifications for sidewalk repairs.

Q. Will the City remove trees or prune trees and shrubs?

A. Street trees that are on the prohibited tree list within the City's Comprehensive Landscape Plan will be removed. This will include stump grinding and root bulb removal. Non-prohibited street trees identified as the cause of needed maintenance will be evaluated by the City Arborist to determine if tree removal or root pruning is necessary. Trees on private property that are the cause of needed maintenance will be root pruned by the City. No trees on private property will be removed by the City.

Q. Will the City pay for tree removal or pruning?

A. When the property owner participates in the program, the City will pay for the removal of identified street trees at no cost to the owner. Property owners who opt-out of the program will be responsible for the cost of tree removal and pruning.

Q. Will property owners be required to remove street trees?

A. Property owners who opt-out of the program will not be required to remove street trees. The City will not remove street trees for property owners who opt-out of the program.

Q. Will the City replace street trees?

A. The City will not replace street trees. However, a property owner may replace the tree on their own and at their own expense. All new or replacement trees within the right-of-way shall be approved by the City Arborist. A right-of-way permit will also be required prior to beginning any work.

