

# Sidewalk Program FAQs

## Who can request a sidewalk?

A sidewalk request can originate from an individual, elected official or an association.

## Are residents responsible for snow and ice removal in inclement weather?

**Yes**, residents are responsible for removing snow and ice on any sidewalk, other walkway on or adjacent to property that the person owns, leases, or manages, including any walkway in the public right-of-way, to provide a pathway wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use within 24 hours *after* the end of the precipitation that caused the condition. Residents may choose to wait to remove the snow and ice until after the road has been plowed so as not to duplicate efforts. See Montgomery County Code Section 49-17 Accumulation of snow and ice on property prohibited.

## Is there any additional cost or property tax assessment with the installation of a new sidewalk?

**No**. There are no assessments or costs to the property owner when a new sidewalk is installed. Further, sidewalks are statistically proven to raise property values due to the safety and connectivity the sidewalks add to your community. The augmented value is benefit to you alone.

## Is installation of a sidewalk contingent upon approval of the adjacent property owners?

**No**. The decision is made based on public use and need for the community-at-large.

## Will the replacement trees be planted in my community or elsewhere in the County?

The County's Arborist tries to fit as many trees as possible back into the County's public right of way from which the previous trees were removed. If there are overflow trees, they will be planted in available space on alternative, nearby streets within your community. If there are trees remaining once there is no available space left in your community, the trees will then be planted elsewhere within the County.

## How will the sidewalk be constructed in relation to rainwater drainage issues?

Sidewalks are typically constructed in one of two ways:

- 1) The sidewalk will be constructed between the swale and road at a 2% pitch so that the rainwater will flow into the swale; or
- 2) The culvert pipe at the driveway apron may be replaced if damaged. A drainage pipe may be placed in the swale and backfilled, if needed. The sidewalk will be constructed over the backfilled area at a 2% pitch to direct the rainwater away from private property.

In some cases, the swale may need to be realigned or adjusted. **If you have a concern regarding standing water or existing drainage issues along the proposed area, please inform the Sidewalk Program so that reparations can be coordinated if the sidewalk is approved and constructed.**

## Why does the sidewalk have to be 5-ft-wide?

The State of Maryland has adopted the width of 5 feet for all new sidewalks based on the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) recommendations and guidelines. Montgomery County follows the State of Maryland design standards.

### **What will happen to my mailbox?**

All mailboxes are removed and reinstalled the same day as the sidewalk is constructed. In some locations, field conditions do not allow enough space for the mailbox to be installed with the mailbox's door facing the road. In this instance, the mailbox will be installed parallel to the roadway, with the door to the mailbox facing your driveway.

### **What is the Sidewalk Program's Budget?**

The Sidewalk Program is an ongoing Capital Improvement Project. Please visit the Office of Management & Budget's website for current annual funding figures:

<https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISCAPITAL/Common/Project.aspx?ID=P506747&CID=3&SCID=8>

### **Does the Sidewalk Program repair and maintain sidewalks?**

**No**, repairs and maintenance of sidewalks are the responsibility of the Division of Highway Services. If you would like to request sidewalk repair, please contact Montgomery County's 311 and request that a service ticket be opened with the Division of Highway Services. You can reach Montgomery County's 311 by dialing 311 from any phone in the County or, outside of the County, by dialing 240-777-0311.

### **Does the Sidewalk Program install curbs and gutters?**

The installation of curb and gutter must be requested and is typically installed to resolve drainage issues. You may request curb and gutter via Montgomery County's 311. 311 can be reached by dialing 311 or 240-777-0311. Please also feel free to peruse our Drainage Assistance website.

If adjustments to the existing curb and gutter are to be made with the potential sidewalk installation, such adjustments will be described in the Construction Impacts sent with the sidewalk proposal.

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Sidewalk Request Link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/forms/sidewalk.html>

**Please feel free to email Planning Specialist, Lori Main, at [Lori.Main@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Lori.Main@montgomerycountymd.gov) with any additional questions you may have.**

**Thank You!**