


## City of Olympia Excerpts Relating to Sidewalks from various "Five Things"



Jul/Aug 2020

# Five Things

Olympia Utilities Publication



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### Sidewalks

#### Our Priorities

#### Who Fixes the Sidewalk?

Property owners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalks adjacent to their property. They are required to keep the sidewalks clear of vegetation and snow.

If your sidewalk is in poor repair, it is your responsibility to fix it.

Download our *Property Owner's Guide to Sidewalk Repairs* at [olympiawa.gov/walking](http://olympiawa.gov/walking) to learn how.

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#### Questions?

Public Works  
360.753.8333  
[publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us)

#### We Build Sidewalks on Busy Streets

In 2004, Olympia voters approved an increase to the private utility tax to help pay for new sidewalks. This voted utility tax generates about \$1 million per year in revenue for sidewalk construction.

The City's goal is to have a sidewalk on one side of every major street. With this revenue, we have added sidewalks to San Francisco Avenue, West Bay Drive, Henderson Boulevard, and 22nd Avenue, to name a few. We built them with porous concrete, which allows rainwater to soak into the soil instead of having to drain to a pipe or a storm water pond.

The priorities for sidewalk construction are based on a scoring system that takes into account how busy the street is, how close the street is to a school or park and other factors. Visit [olympiawa.gov/walking](http://olympiawa.gov/walking) to learn more.





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## Neighborhoods

### More Ways to Explore

#### Keep Sidewalks Clear

Trim any vegetation on your property and planter strip that blocks sidewalks, traffic signs or corners of an intersection.

Please remember there are many types of pedestrians. Even if some people can walk around or over something on the sidewalk, it might be difficult for people using wheelchairs or pushing strollers.

#### Go on a Self-Guided Bike Tour

The Thurston County Bike Map can guide you through the bike network in Olympia and beyond.

[www.ThurstonBikeMap.com](http://www.ThurstonBikeMap.com)

#### Find Art in Unexpected Places

Public art is on display through murals, sculptures, and wrapped traffic boxes throughout the City. Visit the City's public art web page for detailed guides and online galleries.

[olympiawa.gov/publicart](http://olympiawa.gov/publicart)

#### Use a Neighborhood Pathway

Make travel interesting by taking a shortcut made just for people walking or biking. The City's Neighborhood Pathways map may help you find a new route.

[olympiawa.gov/neighborhoodpathways](http://olympiawa.gov/neighborhoodpathways)

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#### Questions?

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# three

## Street Sweeping & Sidewalk Clean-Up

### Help Keep Drains Clear

We have over 7,400 storm drains in the City. To prevent localized flooding, you can help keep this essential part of our stormwater system working by raking the drains clear of leaves, sediment, and debris.

Please be careful and only try to rake a drain if the conditions are safe.

Need help, or see a problem with a City storm drain? Call 360.753.8333, 24/7.

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### Questions?

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We sweep streets and bike lanes to help clear debris in roadways year-round. This task becomes essential when leaves begin to collect in the fall. Residents and business owners play an important part in leaf clean up, too.

In Olympia, property owners must maintain sidewalks and planter strips next to their property. This includes leaf removal. Please put the leaves in your organics bin or haul them to the Saturday Drop-off site. **Do not rake or blow leaves into the street.**

Thank you for helping create safer streets for people traveling in your neighborhood, whether walking, biking or driving.





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## Winter Weather

### Clear the Way

#### Take the Bus

On snowy days, ride the bus to work, school, or to run errands. Use the OneBusAway app for real-time information about bus routes near you.

Beat the winter weather and sign up now for rider alerts by clicking "Stay Connected" on Intercity Transit's website at [www.intercitytransit.com](http://www.intercitytransit.com). This information is especially helpful when buses are on snow detours.

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#### Questions?

Public Works  
360.753.8333  
[publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.olympia.wa.us)

City crews are on call and ready to plow when snow is in the forecast. Our priority is to clear streets used by first responders and public transit. We plow snow and remove downed trees to help keep these essential roads open.

What can you do to prepare?

- **Check your supplies.** Make sure you have a snow shovel and supplies for a possible power outage. Planning ahead can help reduce stress during unexpected weather events.
- **Keep your sidewalks clear of snow and ice.** Help your neighbors create a safe route to school, work or the bus stop.
- **Trim tree limbs and bushes on your property.** Heavy snowfall can cause weak limbs to break, which could fall on a power line or block a roadway.

During snow events, visit [olympiawa.gov/snow](http://olympiawa.gov/snow) to follow our live snow plow map.

