

# Sidewalk Replacement Program

Effective January 1, 2016

## Objective

The City of McPherson believes all citizens benefit from sidewalks that are in good condition. Well maintained sidewalks provide the following benefits:

- Facilitate safe travel for those whom have disabilities or are unable to drive
- Improve public image of neighborhoods
- Facilitate safe routes to school
- Improves safety for night and early morning walkers

## Program Details

The City recognizes that performing sidewalk maintenance can be expensive. This program helps offset some of the expense to residential property owners by reimbursing them for the cost of materials for qualifying sidewalk repairs.

Funding for this program is determined annually and will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis.

## Eligibility

Sidewalk must be an existing public sidewalk located in the street right-of-way.

The adjacent property must have residential zoning (R-1, R-2 or R-3). Sidewalks adjacent to businesses and industries are not eligible under this program.

Only sidewalk which meets one or more of the violation criteria specified below are eligible.

The City must inspect the existing sidewalk before any work is performed.

## Violation Criteria

**Uneven Surface** - Holes, depressions or raised elevations greater than 1/2 inch above the established level of the sidewalk.

**Overgrowth** - Weeds or other vegetation growing between the cracks and joints.

**Deteriorated Sidewalks** - Any broken section with cracks larger than 1/2 inch in width, sections that have multiple cracks, or sections with significant spalling.

**Tree roots** - Damage to sections of sidewalks caused by tree roots that result in any of the criteria above. Tree situations will be evaluated by the City Forester on a case-by-case basis to determine the best way to prevent future damage and still maintain the tree, if possible.

**Americans with Disabilities Act** – sidewalk which exceeds the maximum allowable cross slope (2% or 1/4" per foot) or running slope (5% or 1 foot in 20 feet).



## Participation

To get started call or come by the city offices:

**City of McPherson  
Public Works Department  
Phone: 620-245-2545**

400 East Kansas Ave  
P.O. Box 1008  
McPherson, KS 67460-1008  
website: [www.mcpcity.com](http://www.mcpcity.com)

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Can I also replace the walkway that leads up to my house?** Yes, but the sidewalk leading from the street to the house is not eligible for the program.

**I had to fix my sidewalk a few years ago. Can I get any reimbursement now?** No, we do not retroactively reimburse. Especially if no inspections were done at the time the sidewalk was installed.

**I participated in the sidewalk program a few years ago, can I use the sidewalk program again?** Yes, as long as the sidewalk is in violation of city code or ADA, it is eligible for participation in any year.

**Only three squares of my sidewalk were marked for repair. Can I replace the whole sidewalk?** You are welcome to replace sections of sidewalk that were not marked by the City, but those repairs will not be eligible for reimbursement.

**Who is responsible for the sidewalk in front of my home?** State statute and the City of McPherson Code both dictate that it is the duty of the adjacent property owner to keep the sidewalk in repair. In short, nothing in this program relieves you of the responsibility to maintain and repair your sidewalk.

**Do I have to hire a contractor or can I do the repairs myself?** You are welcome to make repairs yourself or hire your own contractor: as long as you have first obtained a sidewalk construction permit, have had all the required inspections, and the sidewalk is properly constructed to City specifications.

**I have seen some sidewalks 4' wide and some 5' wide. Which is right?** If you are replacing the entire sidewalk in front of your house, it must go back 5' wide. If you are only replacing a portion of the sidewalk, match existing.



## Voluntary Participation

After you contact the City, an inspector will assess the condition of the sidewalk on your property. The inspector will mark all sidewalk panels that meet one or more of the violation criteria and calculate the eligible participation amount. The City will then send you a letter with the total amount eligible for City funding and an official participation form.

Should you choose to do the work and participate in the program, sign and return the enclosed form to the City office.

If funds are still available, the City will send you a notice to proceed with your project. You will have 30 days to complete the sidewalk work unless otherwise approved by the Director of Public Works.

You or your contractor must call for a pre-construction inspection before placing any concrete. A City inspector will inspect the sidewalk forms and reinforcing steel to ensure they meet City requirements.

After all work is finished the City Inspector needs to make one final inspection before payment is issued.

## Abatement of Incomplete Work

If you do not complete the work within 30 days of signing the agreement, you will no longer be eligible for reimbursement under the sidewalk program. The City may hire an abatement contractor to complete the work and bill you for any and all costs associated with completing the repairs.

Overgrowth

Tree Roots

Uneven Surface

Deteriorated Sidewalk

