

## SIDEWALK COST-PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

### **Sidewalks, Curb Cuts, Street Approach Permits**

Each property owner is responsible for repair or replacement of the public (boulevard) sidewalk bordering their property. A permit is required before any work is initiated in the public right-of-way. Public sidewalks, approaches, curb cuts, driveway approaches and sidewalk accessible ramps are regulated through the City Engineer's Office.

### **Cost-Participation Program**

The City currently has a cost-participation program to assist property owners in paying for the replacement of a public sidewalk in residential areas. A permit is required before beginning any work, and the sidewalk must be constructed to ADA standards.

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

***Do I qualify for the Cost-Participation Program?*** If your property is residential, and you intend to replace all or a portion of your boulevard sidewalk, you most likely will qualify for the program. You also may qualify for some assistance if you own a corner lot with no sidewalk in an older neighborhood that has a sidewalk network.

***How do I sign up for the program?*** You will need to take out a permit, for which there is no charge. To apply for a permit please visit [watertownpermits.com](http://watertownpermits.com) and select the Engineering tab.

***Will the City hire the contractor, or can I choose whoever I want to do the work on my sidewalk?*** You will need to hire and make all the arrangements with the contractor of your choice. You may also choose to do the work yourself.

***What are the requirements for the construction of the sidewalk?*** The sidewalk must conform to ADA Standards. These construction standards can be found [here](#). The City will inspect the forms before the concrete is poured, to ensure that it will meet ADA standards for slope, width, subgrade and concrete thickness.

***How much does the City pay?*** The City will reimburse you \$4.00 per square foot to replace your boulevard sidewalk, provided a permit has been issued beforehand, and the sidewalk is constructed to ADA Standards. If the sidewalk was constructed without a permit, or does not meet ADA standards, there will be no cost-participation by the City.

***What is the reimbursement process?*** Once the work is finished, contact our office. The inspector will measure the square footage of your new sidewalk, and staff will calculate your reimbursement based on that figure. The reimbursement will be processed through the City's Finance Office, and a check will be mailed to you. But remember- the permit must be issued before any work is done, and the forms must be inspected before pouring, to ensure ADA compliance.

***Does the reimbursement come from a grant that the City has received?*** This is not part of a grant. It is funded from tax-payer dollars that have been budgeted to make the sidewalks ADA compliant. This is the same budget that is being used to fund the City's annual project to install sidewalk handicap ramps at street intersections. The City is mandated by the federal government to have a program for converting the sidewalk network to be accessible.

***If you have any questions about sidewalk permits, or to find out if you qualify for the Sidewalk Cost-Participation Program, please contact the Engineering Office at 605-882-6202.***

