



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT • 1140 Terex Road • Hudson, Ohio 44236 • (330) 342-1790

Date: February 27, 2024
To: City Council
From: Greg Hannan, Community Development Director
CC: Thomas J. Sheridan, City Manager, Brad Kosco, City Engineer
Re: Public sidewalk maintenance standards

City Council recently requested some additional information on sidewalk maintenance standards. This request was in relation to the ongoing sidewalk construction projects which is bringing new sidewalk segments and possible maintenance requirements to abutting property owners. List below and attached is summary information related to the codified ordinances and how such standards are managed.

Section 660.05 - Snow and ice removal from sidewalks: Section 660.05 requires property owners or occupants of lands abutting a public sidewalk to clear the sidewalk within 12 hours of a weather event. City Staff routinely informs the community of this standard at the beginning of each winter and as part of major snow events. The CD Code Enforcement staff will send letters to individual property owners during sustained cold, snowy weather. These efforts are limited to properties within close proximity of the schools and only occur once every several years (most recently in 2022). City staff additionally work to connect residents with community groups offering to clear walks during such enforcement activity.

Sidewalk Maintenance and Repair: Chapter 1012 regulates the specifications for public sidewalk construction and maintenance responsibilities.

- 1012.01: Establishes standards for public sidewalks including width, placement, grade, materials, and thickness.
- 1012.02: States that whenever the condition of a sidewalk, culvert, driveway, or treelawn does not confirm to the above standards, the city may order the owner of the abutting property to correct such condition.
- 1012.03: States the city shall maintain a record of citizen requests for sidewalk repair, develop a priority list, and complete repairs within budgeted capital funds each year.

The Section 1012.01 specifications are utilized to set a standard for new development and for repair/replacement activities. Section 1012.02 gives the city the authority to require abutting property owners to repair/replace sidewalks; however, the city has not historically imposed this on property owners. The city has exclusively utilized 1012.03 for sidewalk “trip hazard repairs” by maintaining a priority list of staff and resident identified areas in need of repair. These are annually addressed within the Annual Concrete Sidewalk program of the capital budget. To date this annual program has functioned to address the needed repairs in the community.