

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Robinson Trust Sidewalk Projects

How was my street selected?

The Robinson Trust has provided more than \$7 million to the Town specifically for installation of sidewalks. The sidewalks are to be constructed within 5 years (starting from October 2019) and they cannot be installed in areas where projects already have been planned or are likely to be funded through other sources. Trust funds are not eligible to be used on roads that require substantial and expensive infrastructure (like curb and gutter, storm drains and roadway construction). Therefore streets where curb and gutter already exists but sidewalks do not, are project location candidates.

Who is responsible for shoveling the snow off of the sidewalk?

No law or ordinance requires a homeowner to remove snow from a sidewalk. However, the Town encourages assistance with clearing snow and other natural debris from sidewalks.

How does installation of sidewalk impact my assessment/taxes?

Fairfax County is responsible for property assessments in the Town of Vienna. Assessments are based primarily on the size and number of structures on your property. The proposed sidewalk will be installed on property that belongs to the Town of Vienna (also referred to as the Town's right-of-way). You will not be additionally assessed for the sidewalk. For more information about assessments, you may contact the Fairfax County Assessment Office at 703-222-8234.

What do you mean when you say right-of-way?

The right-of-way is another way to say Town owned property. Generally, a right-of-way refers to public property adjacent to or through property that belongs to another.

Who is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the sidewalk?

The Town of Vienna's, Department of Public Works is responsible. The Public works Department may be reached by calling 703-255-6380.

What can be done to save my tree?

Tree preservation is very important to the Town. When the health of a tree and the sidewalk design allows, the Town will make every effort to save trees, but not all can be saved. Some measures used to save a tree include the use of porous

concrete over the root zone (a rubberized material that can be placed directly on top of roots), routing the sidewalk around a tree, and installing the sidewalk adjacent to the curb and gutter. The Town can provide additional information about design, impacts and impact mitigations during the design phase.

Will the Town relocate my tree at no cost to me?

Not all trees can be relocated. An arborist will evaluate trees' condition, age, size, type, and to what locations a tree can be moved to. If it is feasible, a tree can be relocated as part of the project.

How wide is the sidewalk going to be?

To meet the current Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements, sidewalks will be 5 feet in width.

Will my Lot Coverage Ratio be affected if a new sidewalk is constructed; therefore, restricting my ability to build an addition to my property in the future?

No, the Lot Coverage Ratio is determined using the area of the lot. The sidewalk improvements will be constructed on the public right-of-way; therefore, the area of the sidewalk is not relevant to the Lot Coverage Ratio.