



## City of Beatrice Sidewalk Improvement Program

### Purpose

The City of Beatrice is initiating a Sidewalk Improvement Program to assist in repairing hazardous sidewalks and provide for the installation of new sidewalks in areas currently without them. While property owners are responsible for maintaining the sidewalks adjacent to their property, this program is intended to assist in providing for pedestrian safety, improving the appearance of neighborhoods, and increasing property values.

### Eligibility

This program is available for all property (residential, commercial, and industrial) located in the City of Beatrice. New construction where sidewalks are required are not eligible. Driveway approaches and aprons are not eligible. In order for a sidewalk repair or installation to be eligible for this program, all necessary permits must be obtained and the work must be completed in accordance with all City, State, and Federal codes and regulations, including the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). Any sidewalk replacements or installations occurring after July 1, 2015 shall be eligible to participate. A project funded by this project must be completed within six (6) months of applying for the program. Application for this program must be filed within six (6) months after completion of the project for reimbursement.

### Funding

The City of Beatrice will fund this program through the City Budget. A property may receive a maximum of \$1,500 reimbursement or \$5,000 loan as part of this program.

### Description of Program

A property owner or tenant may participate in this sidewalk improvement program in one of two ways; partial cost reimbursement or a loan.

**Partial Cost Reimbursement** - A property owner or tenant hires their own contractor to repair or install the sidewalk. Upon completion, the property owner or tenant submits all of their invoices for the sidewalk repair or installation to the City, including labor and materials, for reimbursement up to 25% of the cost up to a maximum of \$1,500.

**Loan** - A property owner or tenant can make an application to the City for a loan to assist in the replacement or installation of sidewalk. The loan will be required to be paid back within four (4) years of issuance, require monthly payments, be an interest bearing loan, and no single loan shall exceed \$5,000.

### Participation

All properties located in the City of Beatrice shall be eligible for participation in this program. Participation in this program will be based upon the order in which requests are made, first received, first funded basis. A property is only eligible for funding under this program once per calendar year.



## Sidewalk Improvement Programs FAQ

**1. *Why did the City begin this program?***

Sidewalks are a very important means of travel for our citizens. The City began this program in order to improve defective sidewalks, encourage the installation of new sidewalks, and maintain property values throughout the City.

**2. *I thought the City took care of sidewalks. Why do I have to pay for it?***

Sidewalks in Beatrice are the responsibility of the property owner. The City does not maintain sidewalks adjacent to private property and/or along a public street.

**3. *Is the City making money off this program?***

No. The City is using tax dollars in order to improve the City's safety and increase property values. Any interest earned off of the loans made through this program will be reinvested into the program for future use.

**4. *What happens if I don't repair my sidewalk?***

Failure to repair your sidewalk may lead to the City's Building Inspection Department issuing you a notice and requiring you to make the necessary repairs. The goal of this program is not code enforcement, but to eliminate hazardous sidewalks and provide property owners with means to correct the hazard.

**5. *What happens if I don't install my sidewalk?***

The Building Inspection Department may require you to install sidewalks if your property has curb and gutter and is improved. Once again, it is not the goal of this program to be code enforcement, but to provide property owners with means to install sidewalks.

**6. *What if the existing sidewalk is brick and in need of repair? Can it be repaired with brick or is concrete required?***

The property owner or tenant may replace their sidewalk with a brick sidewalk as long as it meets all of the current City, State, and Federal codes and regulations. This work will be reimbursed at the same funding levels as all other sidewalks through this program.

**7. *Are residential apartments eligible for funding?***

Apartment complexes are eligible for funding for sidewalks located along public streets. Sidewalks within an apartment complex are not eligible.

**8. *I live on a corner lot, am I eligible for additional funding because I have two frontages?***

The funding levels in this program are the same regardless of the size of the project.

**9. *Can I use money from this program to improve sidewalks that are located in my back yard, side yard, or which go to my front door?***

No. The intent of this program is to improve sidewalks located along public streets. Other sidewalks throughout the property that are not along a public street are the responsibility of the property owner to improve and pay for.

**10. *Who do I contact for more information?***

Building Inspection Department at (402) 228-5250. Applications may be found at the Building Inspection Department at 205 North 4<sup>th</sup>, or online at [www.beatrice.ne.gov](http://www.beatrice.ne.gov). Permit may also be required.