

# PUBLIC WORKS

## AT WORK

Check out what your local Wenatchee Public Works Department is up to.



“An early-morning walk is a blessing for the whole day” -Henry Thoreau

Have you ever been on an early-morning walk and noticed an uneven sidewalk panel and thought to yourself “*I wonder how that will get repaired?*”

Like most Cities in Washington, the Wenatchee City Code requires abutting property owner to maintain their respective sidewalk in a safe condition and free of any obstructions. Most property owners understand the importance of keeping their sidewalk clear by shoveling the snow or raking the leaves, but fixing an uneven sidewalk panel takes maintenance to a higher level.

In the past few years, the City Council has taken steps to try to assist residential property owners faced with maintenance of uneven sidewalk panels. When an uneven sidewalk panel is identified along a residential street, Public Works staff proceeds with the following:

- The uneven panel is marked with yellow paint to alert pedestrians and the location is entered into a tracking database.
- The panel is evaluated for potential grinding (bevel) to even the panels and if grinding is feasible, it's added to the grinding list.
- If grinding is not feasible, Public Works staff will install temporary wedges with concrete or asphalt to even out the sidewalk surface. These locations will be logged into the tracking database for future panel replacement.



- Tree roots are the most common reason for an uneven sidewalk panel and if the tree is healthy, the City looks for options to save the tree while repairing the sidewalk.
- In some cases, the sidewalk may be removed and a temporary asphalt sidewalk will be installed until funding is available to address the tree and sidewalk issue collectively.

In 2022, the City was able to correct 866 uneven sidewalks panels throughout Wenatchee and 2023 will closely parallel this progress.

In addition to keeping our sidewalks walkable, accessible curb ramps are also a high priority for the City. Accessible curb ramps are an important part of making sidewalks, street crossings, and the other pedestrian routes accessible for everyone. With ongoing funding, it is the City's long-term goal that all street intersections in the City will have accessible curb ramps. In 2022 the City installed or replaced over 90 accessible curb ramps and 2023 will yield another large number of new accessible ramps.

