



# SIDEWALK vs. STREET TREE

## What to do when tree roots are lifting your sidewalk

The Borough of Carlisle is committed to safe sidewalks and beautiful street trees. Many property owners face a dilemma when roots of their street tree cause damage to their sidewalk. In many cases it is possible to repair a sidewalk without removing the tree. Here are some tips to consider when facing the **Sidewalk vs. Street Tree dilemma**.

Don't assume the concrete has to be replaced entirely. It can be costly to replace an entire section of sidewalk, so choose a contractor who will explore all options with you, such as...

- Grinding the edges of a concrete slab to eliminate a tripping hazard.
- Raising the level of a sidewalk over the tree roots, creating a gentle slope.
- Curving a new sidewalk around the tree, creating more room for the tree to grow.
- Laying a brick sidewalk with a base of compacted sand.



**Additional considerations:**

- Avoid cutting tree roots. Cutting roots can severely damage a tree and compromise its stability. If it is impossible to repair a sidewalk without trimming some roots, be sure to have an arborist present for root cutting.
- In some cases, it may be necessary for a property owner to remove a street tree and plant a new one. Approval to remove a street tree must be obtained from the **Carlisle Parks and Recreation Department** at 415 Franklin Street, Carlisle. Call 240-6950 to request evaluation of a tree for removal.
- Any method of sidewalk repair must be approved by the **Carlisle Borough Codes Department** at 53 W. South Street, Carlisle. Call 240-6936 or 240-6935 for information about the Curb/Sidewalk Maintenance Program. A permit is required for sidewalk repair.

For more information on Carlisle's Street Tree program, email [parksandrec@carlislepa.org](mailto:parksandrec@carlislepa.org), call 240-6950 or visit [www.carlislepa.org/departments/parks-recreation/shade-trees](http://www.carlislepa.org/departments/parks-recreation/shade-trees).

**Trees beautify your property, provide shade,  
purify the air and increase the value of your home.**