

WHAT IS THE MOORE TO O'FARRELL PATHWAY PROJECT?

This project is to formalize a walking path at the end of Moore Street between Governor Stevens Avenue and O'Farrell Avenue. While the path has been used by residents for years, it is on private property.



“Formalizing” the path means getting an easement from the property owners that will allow the public to walk across their property.

While the current property owners have supported the path, future owners of the property may not. Without an easement, a property owner could block the path. The easements ensure that the public can use the path into the future without trespassing.

Isn't there already an easement, because it's been there for so many years?

Not unless someone chooses to pursue one through the court system. This can be costly, time-consuming, and there is no guarantee the court will rule that the easement exists.



Location of the pathway

So this isn't part of Trillium Park?

No. This pathway crosses four different private properties.

Why is the easement 10 feet wide? We don't want a path that wide!

The width of the easement is *not* the width of the path. Right now, the width of the path roughly varies between four to six feet.

Both neighborhood associations, Wildwood and Governor Stevens, have been very clear that maintaining the current feel of the pathway is a high priority.



Neighbors meeting on site with the City Surveyor

(over, please)

Moore to O'Farrell Pathway Project

The City requested a 10-foot easement for two reasons:

1. If it is ever necessary for maintenance vehicles to get into the pathway, they will be able to, and
2. It allows greater flexibility to design a meandering path.

We know that neighbors are concerned about people driving down the pathway. A lot can be done with proper design to prevent drivers from thinking they can turn onto the pathway.

Will this pathway change?

Yes. We have heard how much the neighborhoods value the pathway as it is. We will work very hard to honor the pathway's "Wildwood" character.

Here's what we know will change:

- There are four trees that have been assessed as hazardous, which means they threaten the safety of people walking near them. They will be removed.
- The cedar fence at the north end of the pathway will be replaced along the easement line. We plan to use landscaping between the new fence and pathway to keep it feeling comfortable and neighborhood-scale. There will be room for the path to meander around the natural landscaping.
- There will be another fence on the southwestern side of the pathway.

Also, at the southern end of the pathway where it crosses a private driveway, the City will replace the broken concrete with a new surface. The City could not take on the liability of someone getting hurt by tripping on broken concrete.

How did we get here?

In 2014, the Wildwood and Governor Stevens Neighborhood Associations submitted a joint proposal to the City to formalize this pathway under the Neighborhood Pathways Program. The proposal included letters of support from all the affected property owners.

There remain several details to figure out about the design of the pathway. The City has contracted with landscape architect, Bob Droll, to help with the design.

What's next?

All of the affected property owners have signed acceptance letters for granting an easement. This means the landscape architect can now go on the site and begin design work.

This work will include feedback from the adjacent property owners and the two neighborhood association representatives. Our goal is to come up with a design that works for everyone.

Once a design has been settled on, your neighborhood representative will share it with you.

Timeline of work

Tree removal will begin in the next few weeks, while the pathway is being designed.

We plan to put the project out to bid in time to complete the work before school begins. This assumes the design process will move quickly.

Maintenance

Under the Neighborhood Pathways Program, the neighborhood associations are expected to commit to maintaining the pathway for two years. Your neighborhood association will enter into a formal agreement with the City for the pathway's maintenance.

Questions?

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