

APPENDIX G: SF Public Works Maintenance Responsibilities

Not all evaluated elements are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works to maintain. In general, SF Public Works' maintenance responsibilities are "curb-to-curb," while sidewalk maintenance is the responsibility of private property owners.

	SF Public Works responsible	Private property owners responsible	Other public agencies responsible
STREETS	Litter and maintenance issues are SF Public Works' responsibility "curb to curb." SF Public Works performs street sweeping operations to keep street surfaces clean and repairs potholes and other damage to road surfaces.	--	--
SIDEWALKS	Responsible for curb ramps and odors emanating from SF Public Works-maintained assets.	City sidewalks are private property and the responsibility of fronting property owners. Illegal sidewalk dumping is the responsibility of property owners. SF Public Works notifies property owners if repairs are needed; if property owners fail to make repairs, SF Public Works repairs sidewalks and bills owners.	Light poles, traffic signs, signal boxes, retaining walls, and other public property on the sidewalk are maintained by other public agencies (e.g., BART, MTA, or PUC).
GRAFFITI	Responsible for graffiti removal on trash receptacles and street surfaces.	Graffiti on sidewalk surfaces and other private property (e.g., newspaper stands) is the responsibility of the property owner. If SF Public Works finds this graffiti, they will send a notice to the property owner, who must clean the graffiti or face blight penalties.	If SF Public Works finds graffiti on non-SF Public Works public property, they remove the graffiti and bill the appropriate city agency.
TRASH RECEPTACLES	SF Public Works owns the city's trash receptacles. Some are cleaned and maintained directly by SF Public Works, while others are maintained by an independent contractor (Recology).	Private trash bins are not evaluated.	--
TREES	SF Public Works currently maintains about one-third of the city's street trees. Most of those will be transferred to private property owners over the next seven years. SF Public Works will maintain responsibility for trees on medians and on public property. This evaluation treats all trees as SF Public Works property.	In general, private property owners are responsible for street trees. SF Public Works has set up a hotline at (415) 554-7336 to inquire about maintenance responsibility for a street tree.	--