

IMPROVING OUR ALLEYS

Evaluate alleys

The first recommended step in the project is to conduct a survey of alleys to determine property lines, identify encroachments (vegetation, utilities, personal property), and evaluate alley surface conditions (pavement, snow).

Municipal programs (including Public Works and Code Enforcement) can work with community councils to evaluate the first alley in a neighborhood, then provide on-call support for evaluating remaining alleys.

Remove encroachments

Once evaluations are complete, councils can outline priorities to target the removal of encroachments.

The best tool for dealing with encroachments is education. Distribute this flyer to your neighbors as a guide to the responsibilities of all Anchorage residents.

Long-term projects

Some alleys are in need of capital improvements, such as paving or storm drain repairs. Alleys also need ongoing support for surface maintenance, as well as snow and vegetation removal. Community councils are encouraged to work with Public Works to identify such construction and maintenance projects and prioritize them for capital project requests.

Community input on priorities helps the Municipality define projects for inclusion in municipal bonds or requests for state funding.



Make room for your municipal services!

Contact Information

APD Vehicle Hotline	786-8854	muni.org
Code Enforcement	343-4141	muni.org
Municipal Ombudsman	343-4461	muni.org
Public Works	343-8120	muni.org
Street Maintenance	343-8277	muni.org
Solid Waste Services	343-6250	muni.org

Federation of Community Councils
communitycouncils.org

Alaska Communications 563-8000
www.alaskacommunications.com

GCI 868-0316 www.gci.com

Municipal Light & Power 263-5340
www.mlandp.com

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Public Information About Alleys

Spring 2013

Several neighborhoods in Anchorage have alleys as well as streets. Alleys are permanent service rights-of-way that provide secondary access to adjacent properties and space for utilities, such as trash and recycling service, and phone and power lines.

Solid Waste Services (SWS) recently met with other municipal agencies and received input into how residents can work with agencies and commercial entities to address problems affecting alley refuse collection. In addition, during meetings between SWS and community councils, many of the councils agreed to work together to find a means of continuing alley collection. This informational flyer was created as a result of these interactions for distribution by community councils to their members.

This flyer is a quick reference for residents in the neighborhoods of **Downtown, Fairview, Government Hill, Rogers Park, and South Addition**. It contains resources to guide residents in identifying and removing encroachments in alleys, as well as assisting in identifying and prioritizing potential capital projects and long-term maintenance projects for neighborhood alleys.

SWS is working with community residents to resolve issues that would impede continuing refuse collection in certain areas of the MOA service area.



Spring 2013

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT ALLEY USE AND MAINTENANCE

Resident vehicle storage and parking

Parked and junk vehicles in alleys can restrict access. In the central business traffic district, no parking is allowed in alleys. In other areas, cars parked in alleys must leave a width of at least 10 feet for the movement of other vehicles.

(AMC 9.30.050)

Report junk vehicles on property:

Code Enforcement Hotline 343-4141

Vehicles illegally parked in right-of-way:

APD Vehicle Hotline 786-8854

Personal property encroachments

Many fences are built right along property lines; however, their correct location should be verified by locating the lot corners (usually marked with rebar or monuments), or by reviewing a survey map of your property. All personal activities (storage of vehicles and boats, trash carts, compost bins, landscaping) must be within the property boundaries.

Report encroachments:

Code Enforcement Hotline 343-4141

or at www.muni.org under "For Residents" section on the "Code Enforcement" link.

Overhead wire/cable below code

National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) has various height requirements for overhead wires; the minimum along roads and alleys is 15' 6". Many lines may have been installed to code, but over time have sagged, or snow build-up on the roads decreases this clearance.

Notify utilities to have low wires raised:

Alaska Communications – 563-8000

GCI – 868-0316

ML&P – 263-5340



This photo illustrates the need for side and overhead clearing in alleys. Packed snow can affect the overhead clearance. Snowbanks can build up throughout the winter, interfering with side clearance.

Trees and other vegetation

Vegetation in the rights-of-way can pose a hazard by impeding traffic flow and reducing visibility. Property owners adjacent to a right-of-way are responsible for trimming trees to the property line and above, to a height of 14 feet above a roadway. Trees also must be trimmed so they do not interfere with public street lights and utility line clearance. (AMC 24.70.020)

If a tree is growing on, or has fallen onto, an ML&P power line, ML&P will remove or trim it at no charge.

ML&P Dangerous Trees Hotline 263-5463

Trash and recycling roll carts

SWS roll carts need to be stored on-property during the week, with trash stored securely inside a shed or garage to avoid attracting bears. Set carts out before 7am the morning of service. Place carts a minimum of 3 feet from each other and obstructions (parked cars, mailboxes, utility poles, snow berms), so the automated truck arm can pick up the carts. (AMC 26.70.040.C.5.c)

Snow storage and removal

The MOA Street Maintenance Section plows snow in alleys and requires them to be cleared of encroachments to allow sufficient space for snow removal. Residents are not allowed to place snow from their property into alleys or other rights-of-way. (AMC 24.25.060)

Residents are responsible for clearing snow to access utilities such as dumpsters and roll carts. Information on snow plowing progress can be found at www.muni.org/departments/works/operations/streets.

Property identification

House numbers should be posted visibly in alleys, as well as streets, so emergency services and utilities are assured of the correct location. Garages and fences are excellent locations to post numbers.

Oncoming traffic

Larger service vehicles in alleys often encounter oncoming traffic, making it difficult to pass. Please yield to larger vehicles in alleys by pulling off to the side and stopping to allow safe clearance when passing.