

Dear Sir or Madam;

According to the records of the Survey Division of the Department of Engineering and Construction of the City of Pittsburgh, the land abutting your property is not a City of Pittsburgh street and is not owned by the City of Pittsburgh. The land in question is commonly referred to as a "paper street." As such, the City of Pittsburgh is not responsible for the maintenance of the property.

A paper street is a portion of land that was planned to be, but never became, an official municipal street. For a portion of land to become an official street for which a municipality is responsible, four things have to occur; (1) the street must have been dedicated (i.e. offered by the owner as a right of way to the municipality); (2) the municipality must have accepted the street by way of a municipal ordinance; (3) the street must have been opened (i.e., graded, paved and curbed by the municipality); and (4) the street must have been used as a street by the public. If any one of these things have not occurred, the land is only a street on paper and the municipality is not responsible to maintain the land.

In such a situation, the land is the property of the abutting property owner (out to the middle of the paper street) and is the responsibility of that abutting property owner to maintain.