



Photos by Kirby Neumann-Rea

NO ONE IS SURE when the river rock wall (left) was built on the south side of State, between Second and Third just west of Overlook Memorial Park. Sometime in the late 19th century, it is believed. The boulders had turned green in the past 120 or so years, forming a distinctive barrier along that section of sidewalk. The basketball-sized boulders were removed (center) in October 2013, along with two trees and adjoining walls made of earth and concrete in front of the retaining wall in front of the county Courthouse. That made way for new rip rap — far larger boulders replacing the old river rock. At right, the way it looks now, with a seating wall and wider sidewalk. Landscaping will be added this spring, matching what has already been planted just to the east at Overlook Memorial Park. (The new restroom will be placed at far right, in front of the courthouse.)

STATE

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You can still see the minor details left unfinished — a patch of concrete here, a bit of railing left unpainted there, the odd piece of pipe left behind.

But the major changes are, well, major:

- New sewer and water lines and stormwater drainage are in place, to go with new sidewalks and street surfaces.

- From Sixth Street west, there are no more overhead power lines, and in their place, new aluminum light poles; all electrical and communications lines were put underground.

- New parking kiosks have been installed along State, and new meters on connecting side streets. (You must now pay for parking across from the county building, the north side of Sixth Street, but parking remains free on the south side.)

- A new elevated sidewalk overlooks State from Second to First.

- A pedestrian plaza at Sixth and State, with drinking fountain, provides a place to sit and look at the river.

- Sidewalks are wider in places, and the pedestrian signal is back in front of the Library.

The streetscape is greatly changed in front of the two church buildings along the project: at Riverside Church, at Third, you can now walk down the 102-year-old front steps to the safety of a new sidewalk, rather than over the curb and into the street, and at the (former) Asbury Church building at Sixth, a concrete retaining wall and railings replace the deteriorating rock wall and weed-choked drainage ditch, outdated features that were less than picturesque.

Staying safe after a winter storm hits

With cold windy weather blowing into parts of the Northwest, Pacific Power reminds its customers and the public to stay safe by avoiding and reporting any downed or dangling power lines.

- Stay at least 30 feet away from all downed power lines and utility lines. Even if the lines are not sparking, they could be energized and extremely dangerous. If the ground is wet, stay at least 60 feet away.

- Call 911 immediately and then call us toll free at 1-877-508-5088 if you see a downed power line. Don't touch it.

- Keep everyone, including pets, out of the area. You cannot tell if a line is dangerous by just looking at it.

- Standing water or wet ground can also be dangerous if a live wire is nearby.

- Do not touch a person if a power line is touching them. Immediately call 911.

- If a power line falls across your vehicle, stay in the car and wait for emergency personnel to cut the power. If your vehicle is on fire and you are in imminent danger and you must get out of the vehicle, JUMP — with both feet together — as far from the car as possible.



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