

What Is Slope Creep?

Soil and weathered rock can move very slowly downslope over years to decades.

1 WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE





2 SIGNS AT THE SURFACE

-  **Tilted fence posts**
Fences no longer stand upright.
-  **Curved tree trunks**
Trees grow in a curved shape.
-  **Cracked pavement**
Small cracks form and widen over time.
-  **Leaning walls**
Retaining walls tilt or bulge outward.
-  **Shifted utilities**
Pipes and poles can move or crack.

3 MOVEMENT OVER TIME



4 WHY IT HAPPENS

- Natural processes slowly weaken and move soil and weathered rock.
- Repeated wetting and drying**

Water softens soil; drying causes shrinkage and cracking.
 - Freeze-thaw and expansion-contraction**

Temperature changes cause ground to expand and contract.

5 WHY IT MATTERS: SLOW GROUND MOVEMENT CAN DAMAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Roads**

Cracks, bumps, and drainage problems.
- Foundations**

Uneven settlement and structural stress.
- Retaining Walls**

Walls can tilt, crack, or fail over time.
- Pipelines**

Joints can separate or pipes can break.
- Utilities**

Poles, lines, and boxes can shift or be damaged.



POLICY TAKEAWAY: Slope creep is slow, but it can still damage roads, foundations, retaining walls, pipelines, and utilities over time. Long-term monitoring and maintenance matter even where no sudden landslides have occurred.