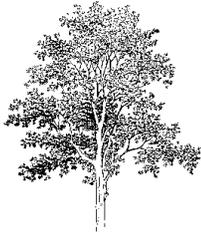


SIGHT DISTANCE

A CLEAR VIEW: VEGETATION, WALLS AND FENCES



STREETS AND VEGETATION

The area between the sidewalk and the street, often called the landscape or parkway strip, is within the road right-of-way. The landscaping in the City's road right-of-way is owned and maintained by the City. The adjacent property owner (or occupant) is responsible to maintain all plants and trees on private property, outside of the road right-of-way. To ensure safe passage for everyone, tree limbs over streets and sidewalks must meet the standards below.

WHAT ABOUT WAYS TO MAKE OUR STREETS SAFER?

Overgrown vegetation impedes the safe flow of traffic when it blocks our view of traffic signs, pedestrians and other vehicles. If vegetation is blocking visibility in the street or an intersection, it is your responsibility as the adjacent

property owner or resident to trim the vegetation. Each quadrant of an intersection should provide a corner sight triangle, free of obstructions that might block the approaching driver's view of potentially conflicting vehicles.

SIGHT DISTANCE AT INTERSECTIONS WITH NO STOP SIGN CONTROL

Intersections between low-volume and low-speed roads/streets may have no stop sign control. At these intersections, sufficient corner sight distance should be available to allow approaching vehicles to adjust their speed to avoid a collision, typically a reduction to 50% of their mid-block running speed of 20 mph to 10 mph on residential streets.

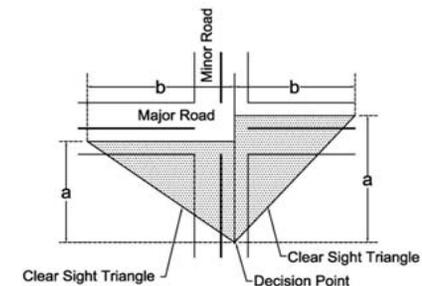
Figure 1 illustrates the corner sight distance triangles for intersections with stop sign traffic control. The area enclosed by the sight line and a distance of 40 feet measured from the curb return along the curbs of the intersecting streets, known as the sight triangle, shall be kept clear of any sight obstructions. This distance is shown as either "a" or "b" in Figure 1.

The driver's eye is known to be 42 inches above the roadway pavement. Therefore, the height of shrubs, planting, and other visual obstructions (such as boulders, etc.) shall be limited to a maximum height of thirty inches to allow plants to grow. If this corner sight distance cannot be provided, placing stop signs on the lower volume approaches should be considered and

the appropriate sight distance shown in Figure 2 will be applicable.

Trees with diameters less than or equal to four inches may be planted within corner areas provided the bottom of the canopy (leafy branches) of the tree is at least eight feet above the finished grade of the street adjacent to the tree. However, trees shall not be planted in such numbers that their trunks create a visibility obstruction for vehicles or pedestrians.

Figure 1: Measurement of Sight Distance at intersections with no traffic control



SIGHT DISTANCE AT INTERSECTIONS WITH STOP SIGN CONTROL

Where traffic on the minor road of an intersection is controlled by stop signs, the driver of the vehicle on the minor road must have sufficient corner sight distance for a safe departure from the stopped position assuming that the approaching vehicle comes into view as the stopped vehicle begins its departure. Therefore, the height of shrubs, planting, and other visual obstructions (such as boulders, etc.) shall be limited to a

maximum height of thirty inches. The applicable intersection corner sight distance is obtained by providing clear sight triangles both to the right and left as shown in Figure 2. Distances “a” and “b” vary with the speed limit of the major road and whether trucks will use the intersection. The corner sight distances shown in Table 1 should be used based on the posted speed limit of the street. For private roads, the stopping sight distance shown in Table 1 should be used.

Figure 2: Sight Distance at intersections with Stop Sign control.

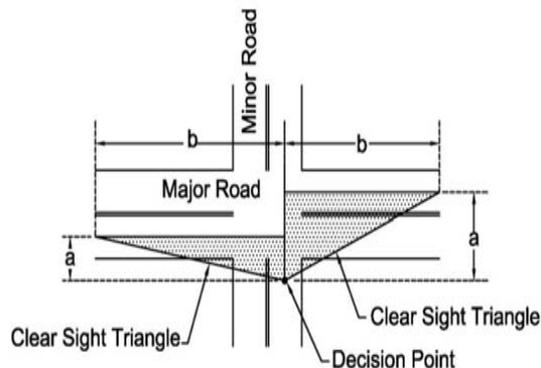


Table 1: Corner and Stopping Sight Distance

DESIGN SPEED (MPH)	CORNER SIGHT DISTANCE (FT)	PRIVATE ROADS STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE (FT)
20	220	125
25	275	150
30	330	200
35	385	250
40	440	300
45	495	360
50	550	430
55	605	500
60	660	580

Trees with diameters less than or equal to four inches may be planted within corner areas provided the bottom of the canopy (leafy branches) of the tree is at least eight feet above the finished grade of the street adjacent to the tree. However, trees shall not be planted in such numbers that their trunks create a visibility obstruction for vehicles or pedestrians.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PROPERTY OWNERS

If the City is notified that there might be a visibility problem at your corner, you will be contacted and requested to trim or remove the vegetation or other obstructions such as walls and fences causing the sight distance restrictions. The letter also notifies you that should a traffic collision occur due to lack of maintenance of this vegetation, you may be subject to legal action. If the trees and shrubs are not trimmed in a timely manner, the City may trim the vegetation and bill you for the cost incurred.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic, please call the Public Works Department at

**SIGHT DISTANCE
A CLEAR VIEW:**