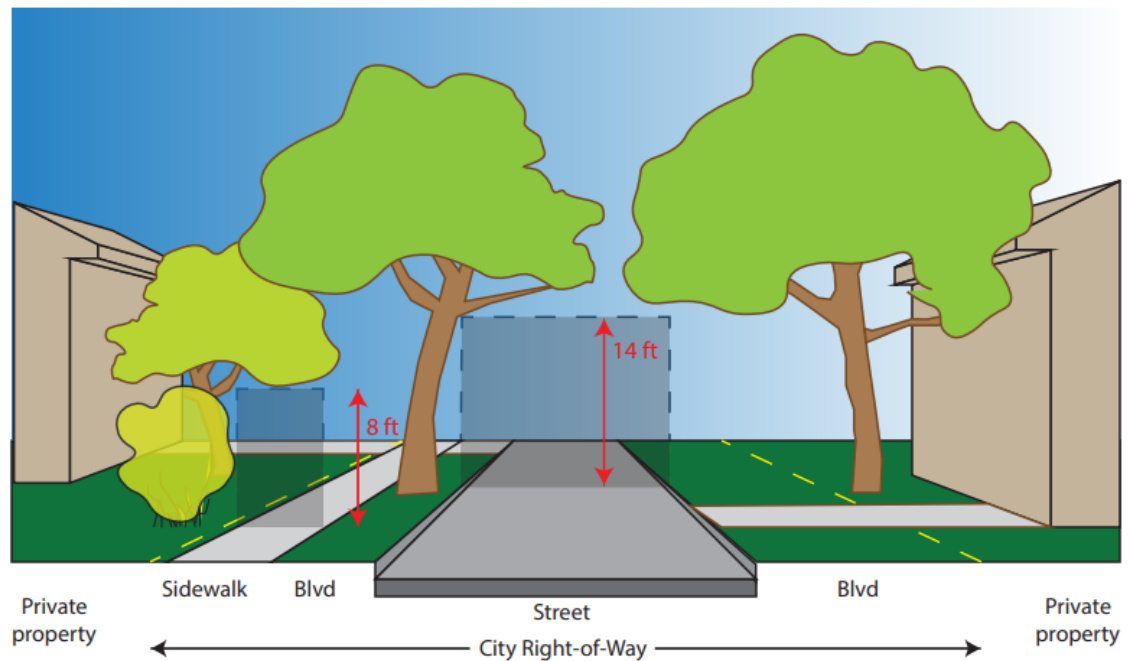


PAVE THE WAY TO A SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD



A GUIDE TO THE RIGHT OF WAY ENCROACHMENT



*Clearance requirements are within the shaded areas. Example shows a clear right of way.

THE REASONS

Overgrown vegetation poses a threat to public health by decreasing visibility and safety. Green spaces can improve the aesthetics of our community while providing a variety of environmental, economic, and health benefits. As a homeowner it is important to keep your streets, sidewalks, and other public areas open and accessible from overgrown vegetation. Regulations under the **Chapter 9-17: Vegetative Sidewalk and Roadway Encroachments:**

Sidewalks

Maintain a clear path by trimming tree limbs and vegetation to the sidewalk edge and at least **8 feet** above sidewalks.

Streets/ Alleyways

Maintain a clear path by trimming tree limbs and vegetation to the street curb and at least **14 feet** above streets, bike lanes, and alleys.

TIPS ON SAFETY

- Increases pedestrian and vehicle safety.
- Allows better access for first responders and snow removal.
- Keeps trees healthy while providing shade and improving air quality in Rochester
- Dial **507-328-2515** to request tree care in the public right of way.

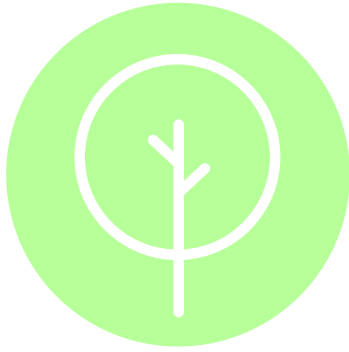
THE RULES

Property Owner Responsibility

Property owners are responsible for caring and maintaining vegetation on private property. Overgrown trees, plants, or grass can block traffic signs, signals, fire hydrants, vehicles, and people. Prune trees and trim vegetation that blocks streets, sidewalks, trails, alleys, and bike lanes. It is important to note that the land between the street and sidewalk (boulevard) is public property. Property owners are responsible for all vegetation maintenance in the boulevard with exception to trees which are managed by/property of the City of Rochester.

City Responsibility

The City of Rochester owns the public right of way which includes all streets, sidewalks, and alleys. Although trees grown in boulevards are maintained by city-trained crews, keep in mind the property owner is still responsible for maintaining vegetation and mowing grass. Dial **328-2515** to report a tree growing in the right of way.



KNOW THE RULES

- Sidewalks and recreation trails must be trimmed or cleared of vegetation at least **8 feet** above sidewalks and **14 feet** above streets, bike lanes, and alleys.
- Obstructing the right of way breaks the **City of Rochester Code of Ordinance 9-17**. The City identifies vegetative encroachment as a barrier for individuals with disabilities and a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Do not prune or remove trees in the right of way. Dial **328-2515** to report a tree in violation.



NEW PERSPECTIVES

- People will often walk into the street if the pathway is blocked, putting them in a less safe environment.
- Overgrown trees, plants, or grass can block traffic signs, signals, fire hydrants, vehicles, and people.
- Trees provide a variety of benefits for our economy, health, and environment so it is important that we care for them. Visit our website for more information: www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/forestry



QUESTIONS?

- Visit: www.rochestermn.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/forestry to learn more about planting, natural landscape, and boulevard tree work permits.
- **Sick tree?**
For Public: 328-2515
For Private: visit our website or call a licenced tree care company

REPORT AN ISSUE

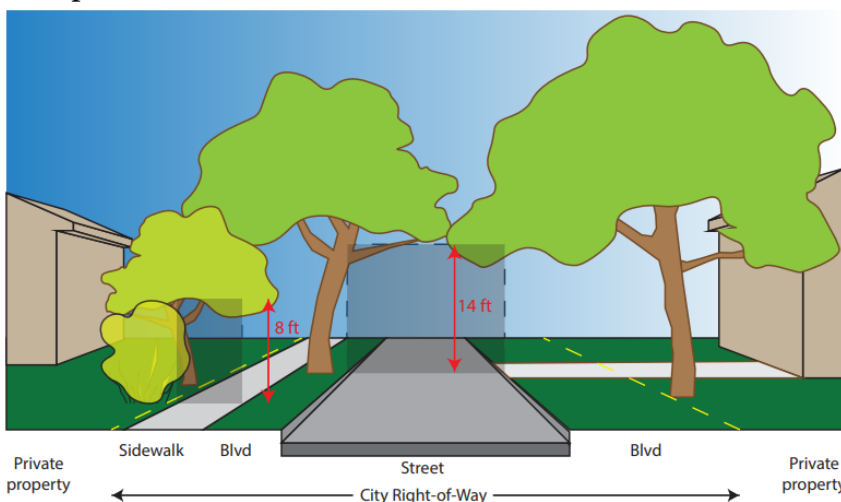
Dial 328-2512 to report concerns about trees, tall grass and weeds taller than 12 inches, and other obstructive vegetation

MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit our website!

Learn more about volunteering opportunities, tree care, invasives, tree ID, code enforcement, Emerald Ash Borer, and more.

*Example of encroachment violation within the shaded area.



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