

PUBLIC WORKS  
ENGINEERING  
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P.O. BOX 27  
1200 18TH STREET  
HOOD RIVER, OREGON 97031

This letter is intended to aid the public in understanding the City's need to maintain both horizontal and vertical clearance for brush and trees adjacent to streets and driveways.

Chapter 13.12 of the Hood River Municipal Code (HRMC) provides authority for the City to address vegetation in and adjacent to City Rights - of - Way. As per HRMC, it is the adjacent property owner's responsibility to trim vegetation within the public right-of-way.

The right-of-way is an area designated for public streets, sidewalks, and utilities. The right-of-way line and private property lines are the same. On one side of the line is private property; on the other is the public right-of-way. While the right-of-way typically extends one to two feet behind the sidewalk, in some areas it actually extends further.

In areas with no sidewalks many people are surprised that a portion of what they considered their yard is actually part of the public right-of-way. Until these areas are improved to include curb, gutter, and sidewalks, the City typically is not concerned with landscaping, etc. except as it may affect public safety. Shrubs, trees, etc. that become a hazard, or limits emergency, maintenance, or delivery vehicles from providing needed services, are required to be trimmed or possibly removed.

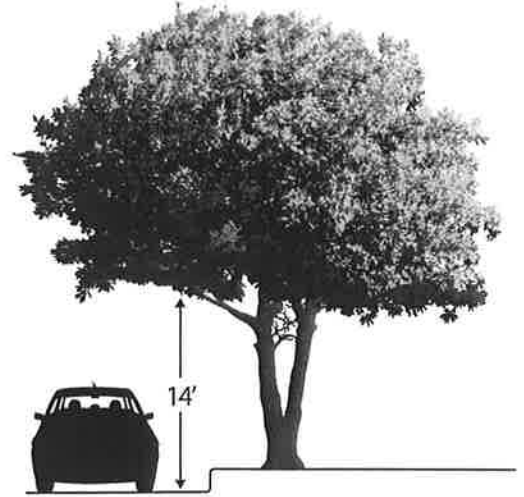
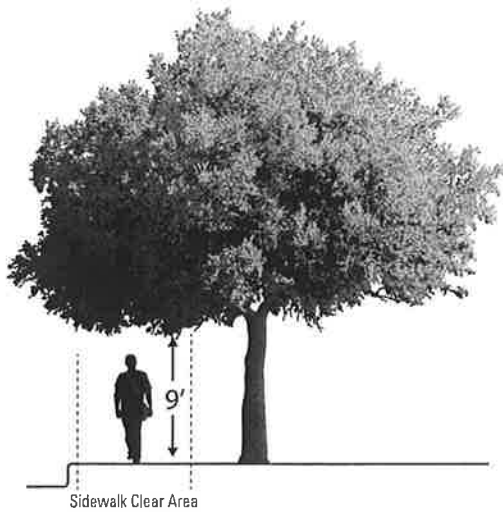
For vertical clearances the requirements are typically a minimum of 9 feet above the sidewalk, and 14 feet above the street or alley. The 14 foot measurement is taken at the face of the curb, or, in cases where there is no curb, at the edge of the drivable surface.

For horizontal clearances the requirements for sidewalks is that pedestrian traffic not be impeded. Typically, trees and brush must not extend into the sidewalk area. At street, alley, and driveway intersections, the visual clearance area is a triangle formed by measuring 15 feet along the curb line or the edge of the drivable surface where no curb exists, and 15 feet along the edge of the intersecting street, alley, or driveway. The third side of the triangle is formed by extending a line between the ends of the 15 foot lines.

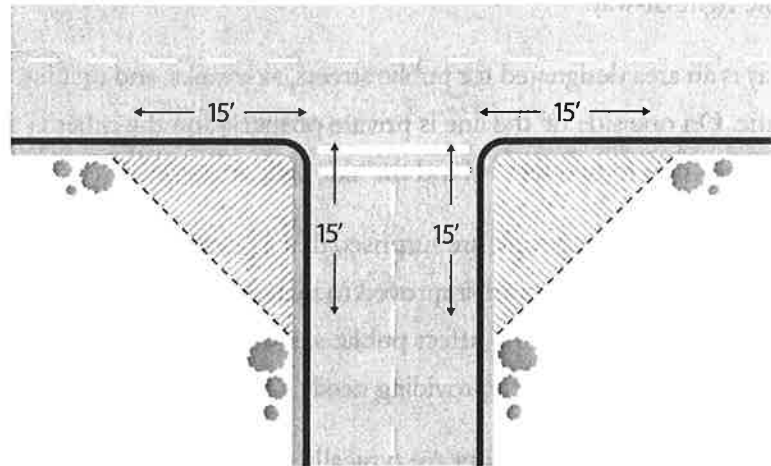
A drawing showing the clearance requirements is included on the opposite side of this letter.

If you have any questions, please call Mark Lago, Director of Public Works, 541-387-5205.

Minimum vertical clearance requirements at curb/edge of asphalt and above sidewalk



No visual obstructions between 3 1/2' and 8' within vision clearance triangle



**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
1200 18th Street, Hood River, OR 97031

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