



CONTROLLING VEGETATION

IN THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM

Controlling vegetation is the responsibility of the City as well as the adjacent property owner.

Please do your part to keep our streets and sidewalks safe and accessible!

City Responsibilities

- Remove vegetation when it's blocking the storm drainage system
- Maintain and mow roadside vegetation, as well as drainage ditches
- Maintain City's street trees

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?

The City of Bellingham Public Works Department is responsible for ensuring vegetation does not obstruct legal sight distance or encroach upon streets and sidewalks.

Adjacent property owners will be notified when vegetation is found to be obstructing legal sight distance or the traveled portion of any street, alley, or sidewalk. All trees or shrubbery must be maintained to a minimum height of 15 feet over a street and 8 feet over a sidewalk (full width).

Property Owner Responsibilities

- Keep travel portion of sidewalk, alley, street clear of obstructions and vegetation
- Maintain street trees and vegetation in planting strips (obtain permits* when necessary)
- Remove vegetation in sidewalk cracks and maintain adjacent areas to the edge of the street.
- Maintain appropriate sight distance at intersections

Report issues via

SeeClickFix

Visit cob.org/fix or download the mobile app



Specifications for vegetation pruning within the City of Bellingham

Overgrown vegetation can interfere with mobility and sight distance. People in wheelchairs, pushing strollers, using walkers, with limited or no eyesight and kids on bikes all depend on open and accessible sidewalks. (BMC 13.40)

Examples can be found on our website at cob.org/streets

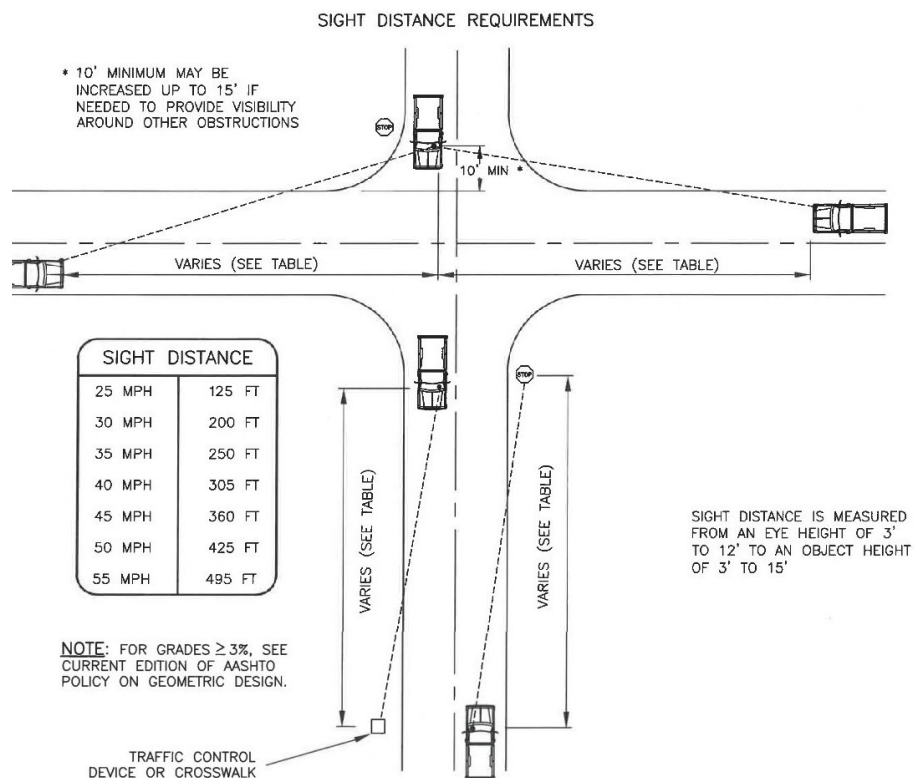
8 feet minimum vertical clearance on sidewalks



15 feet minimum vertical clearance for streets & alleys

Keep plants and vegetation trimmed back to the inside edge of the sidewalk

Sight Distance Requirements



Need a permit?

*A Street Tree Permit is required before performing major pruning or removing trees in planting strips, improved rights-of-way, or other public spaces, or when planting trees or shrubs in improved rights-of-way. This free permit can be obtained from the City's Permit Center in City Hall, 210 Lottie Street.
Call (360) 778-8300 or visit cob.org/street-trees to learn more.

Questions?



(360) 778-7700



askpw@cob.org

