Roadside Vegetation

Maintenance of roadside trees, bushes, and other vegetation growing in the road right-of-way and vegetation that grows into or hangs over the road, covers up signs, blocks valuable light from street lights or impairs sight visibility at intersections is the responsibility of the property owner or lawful occupant (ORS 368.256(b)).

Please, trim vegetation: (1) around signs and under street lights; (2) at corners and intersections so that you can see approaching vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians clearly in both directions; (3) over and adjacent to sidewalks and walkways so pedestrians do not have to duck under a tree or brush up against a bush; and (4) over the traveled roadway.

School busses and larger vehicles need additional height clearance so they can safely travel the roadway, too.

Trees and shrubs must be trimmed a MINIMUM of 12 feet directly over all portions of roadway and 2 feet in from the edge of the roadway, and 9 feet directly over all portions of sidewalks or walkways.

Appropriate vegetation must be maintained in open roadside ditches to ensure storm water filtration and to prevent erosion. Please do not use herbicide or otherwise eliminate vegetation in ditches.

The County may trim trees or other vegetation within the road right-of-way when it is identified as an immediate hazard or as having adverse impacts to the road or the traveling public.

Roadside shoulder spraying is a routine road maintenance activity, performed every year, to keep vegetation from encroaching into the roadway. If you do not want vegetation on the roadside adjacent to your property to be sprayed, submit a "No Spray" Program agreement. With an approved agreement and signage in place, your frontage will not be sprayed as long as you maintain the vegetation within the road right-of-way in compliance with the agreement. Signs are available for purchase from Washington County Operations.

For more information, please call (503) 846-ROAD (846-7623) or e-mail wc-roads@co.washington.or.us

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