HELP IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF CITY SIDEWALKS AND INTERSECTIONS AND AVOID MAKING THESE MISTAKES!

City of Bayport
294 North Third Street
Bayport, MN 55003

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Landscaping and Yard Maintenance for Safe Sidewalks and Intersections

Phone: 651-275-4404
Fax: 651-275-4411
www.ci.bayport.mn.us

HOW DO I IMPACT THE SAFETY OF CITY SIDEWALKS AND INTERSECTIONS?

Residents may not realize that how they landscape and maintain their yard can have a big impact on the safety of city streets and intersections. Tall plantings, fences, landscape features, and snow piles placed too close to a city street or sidewalk, especially on corner lots, can obstruct visibility at intersections for both pedestrians and drivers.

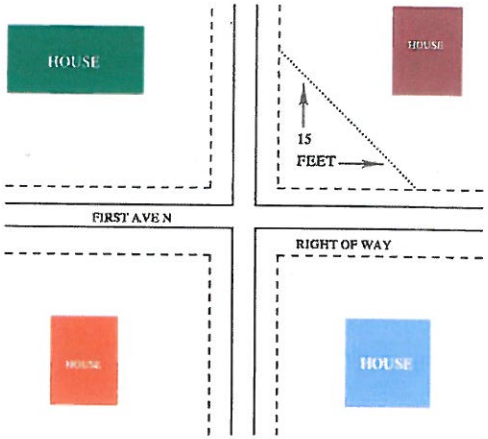
Grass clippings, overgrown vegetation, leaves, snow, or ice accumulation can make sidewalks not only difficult to navigate, but also create overhead obstructions and trip hazards. By taking a little extra time and care with plantings and maintenance, you can make a positive impact and improve the safety of city sidewalks and intersections!

DOES THE CITY HAVE GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPING AND PLANTINGS?

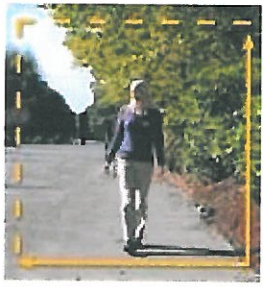
Yes! The city appreciates a green thumb and certainly recognizes the care and pride that residents take in creating an aesthetically appealing yard and landscape.

However, in order to help improve the safety for pedestrians and drivers in the community, the city has developed specific ordinances to manage plantings and landscaping on corner lots and properties adjacent to sidewalks and intersections.

On corner lots, plantings and landscape features must be less than 2.5 feet in height within 15 feet of intersecting street right-of-way lines. To help illustrate how this may affect your property, please refer to the diagram below *(it should be noted that the solid line refers to the edge of the street pavement and the dashed line refers to the right-of-way line).*



Residents on both corner and interior lots should also keep in mind that larger shrubs and tree limbs may need to be pruned throughout the growing season to avoid creating unsafe conditions. Vegetation should not encroach on to the paved walking surface of a sidewalk and overhead vegetation should be trimmed to provide at least 8 feet of clearance above the surface of the sidewalk. This diagram helps illustrate the desired "clear zone" for sidewalks.

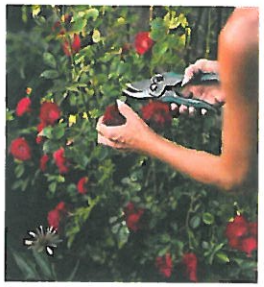


DOES THE CITY HAVE GUIDELINES FOR SNOW STORAGE AND REMOVAL?

Yes! Many school children and citizens rely on our sidewalks to make their way around the community. As such, residents should be sure to remove snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property within 24 hours of accumulation.

Large snow piles can also impede visibility or limit accessibility. To avoid creating a safety hazard, snow piles should be maintained similar to plantings adjacent to intersections and hydrants *(see diagram).*

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT THESE MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES?



Unfortunately, overgrown vegetation and lack of snow removal tends to not only generate complaints, but also can a ripple effect in the community. Set a positive example and inspire your neighbors to do the same by making sure your property complies with the city's ordinances. Together, we can work to create a safer community!

WHO CAN HELP DETERMINE IF MY PROPERTY IS IN COMPLIANCE?

Property owners are encouraged to use this brochure to assess their property and make the necessary corrections. Residents still unclear or needing assistance may contact Public Works at 651-275-4410.