

TREE PRUNING TIPS

Many property owners can safely trim lower branches. For large limbs and those that cannot be reached safely, consider hiring a professional arborist.

- Use proper tools and keep them clean and sharp.
- Remove any branches that interfere with streets, sidewalks or routine maintenance (such as mowing).
- Try to maintain a trunk without branches for the first 10–15 feet off the ground.
- Prune any broken or diseased branches.
- When making your final cut on a branch, cut on the outside edge of the branch collar so that proper compartmentalization occurs.
- Remove any branch sprouts or suckers that are growing from the base of the tree in the late summer.
- Prune in late winter when trees are dormant.
- Dressing a wound is not recommended, except in the months of April, May and June to prevent oak wilt infection.

HIRING AN ARBORIST

It is best to hire a professional arborist if:

- Tree limbs are large and cannot be safely reached
- Pruning involves the use of power equipment, or is needed over the roadway, sidewalk or near powerlines.

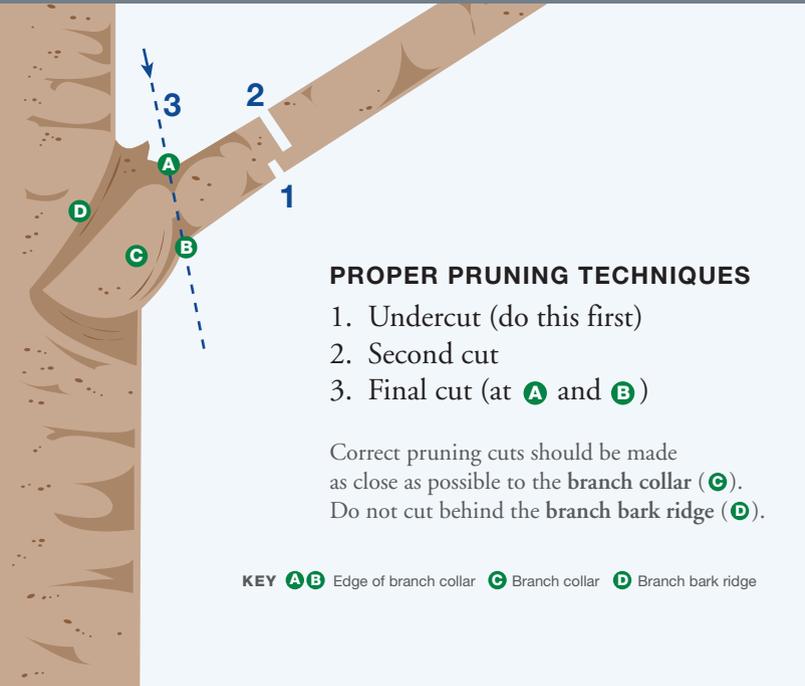
When selecting an arborist, consider their credentials:

- Certification and/or membership through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), National Arborist Association or American Society of Consulting Arborists.
- Proof of insurance
- List of references



Residents are responsible for the care and maintenance of all trees, shrubs, and vegetation in the City's Right of Way.

The City recommends checking all vegetation (trees, shrubs, etc.) at least quarterly to ensure proper clearance requirements are maintained. Note that you may be assessed a fee (min. \$150) after being issued a warning for vegetation obstructing signs, sidewalks and visibility at intersections.



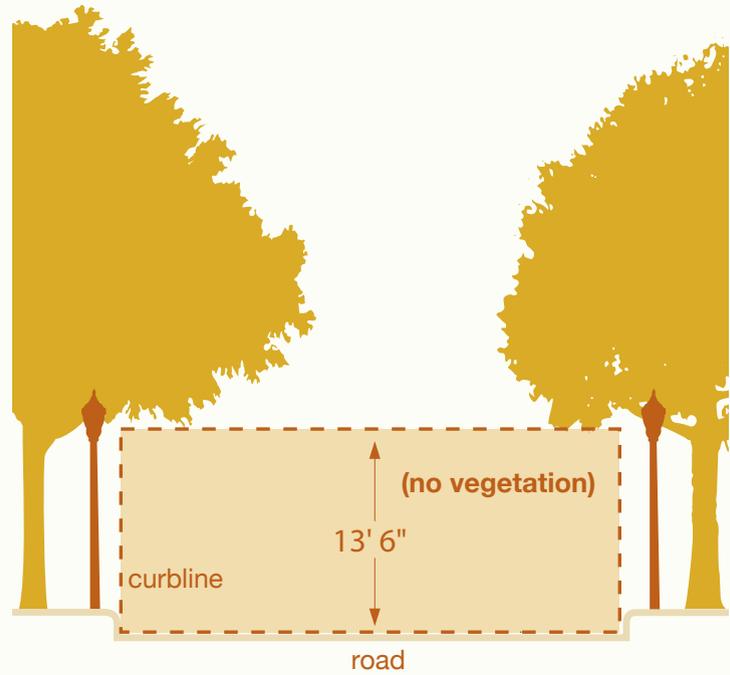
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact one of the following:

Traffic Control Division
(713) 662-5844

City's Urban Forester
(713) 662-5313

Public Works Department
(713) 662-5839
pwinfo@westutx.gov
www.westutx.gov

STREET

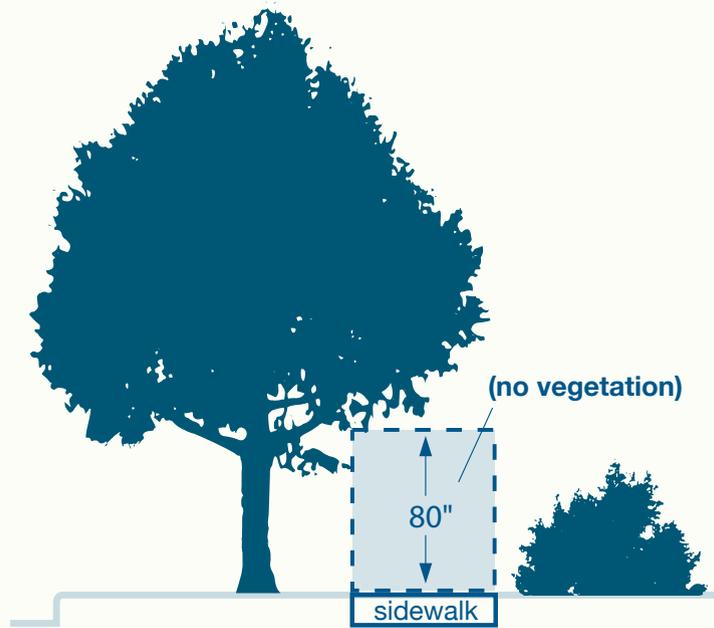


Clearance over Streets

The City requires that vegetation over the roadway be maintained at a minimum height of 13 feet 6 inches, extending from curb to curb. This ensures adequate clearance for all types of vehicles (fire trucks, ambulances, garbage trucks, street sweeper, etc.) that are on the road daily providing essential City services.

Property owners may be held liable for any damages to vehicles caused by low-hanging tree limbs/vegetation over roadway.

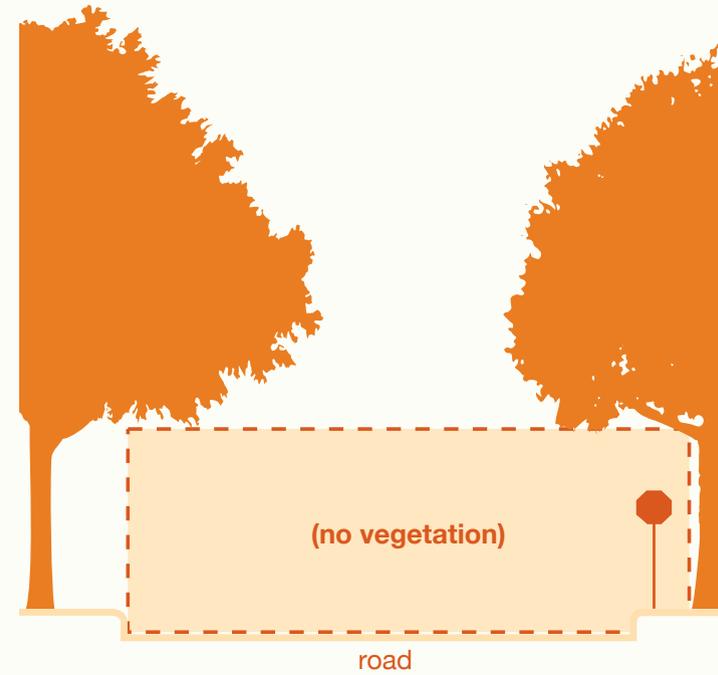
SIDEWALK



Clearance over Sidewalks

The City requires that all vegetation over sidewalks be maintained at a minimum height of at least 80 inches (6 feet 8 inches). This ensures adequate clearance for pedestrians utilizing the sidewalks.

TRAFFIC SIGNS

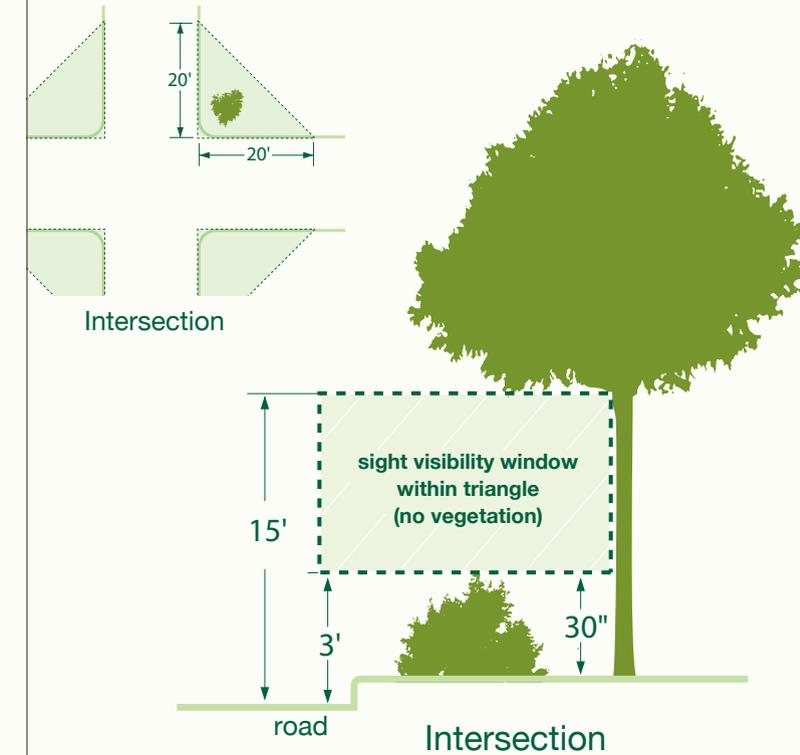


Traffic Sign Obstruction

A good way to verify if vegetation needs to be trimmed near/around regulatory signs is to look at the sign from four property lots away (approx. 200 feet). If the full sign cannot be seen, trimming of the vegetation is needed.

Property owners can be held liable for contributing to an accident when vegetation obstructs a regulatory sign

INTERSECTIONS



Sight Visibility Obstruction

The sight visibility triangle exists at every intersection throughout the City. The visibility triangle is a 20 feet by 20 feet triangle at every intersection that is designated by the City to be free of vegetation with the exception of grass.

All vegetation within the sight visibility window should have growth below 3 feet from the road (30 inches from ground level) or have a canopy above 15 feet.