

Overgrown Vegetation:

A Simple Guide for Property Owners

Keeping Snohomish Safe and Clean for Everyone

The streets and sidewalks in Snohomish belong to everyone. To keep our community safe and healthy, we all need to help keep these areas clean and clear. This means making sure there are no obstacles, trash, or other items on our streets, sidewalks, and alleys.



When property is developed, part of the land is dedicated as "public right-of-way" for streets, sidewalks, utilities, and similar public uses. What some property owners may not realize is that they are responsible for maintaining part of the right-of-way next to their property, including the sidewalk and planting strip, or the roadway shoulder if unimproved. Property owners are also responsible for maintaining and keeping the alley next to their property clear of obstructions.



Street trees planted by the City will be maintained by the City. All other trees are to be maintained to approved standards by the abutting property owner.

Your Responsibility as a Property Owner

Many property owners may not know that they are responsible for taking care of the public right-of-way next to their property. This includes:



- **Sidewalks and Planting Strips:** You must keep the sidewalk and any grassy area between the sidewalk and the street clean and clear.
- **Alleys:** If your property is next to an alley, you must keep it free of anything that blocks the way.
- **Roadsides:** If there is no sidewalk, you are responsible for the shoulder of the road next to your property.

Taking Care of Trees and Plants

- City Trees: The City of Snohomish will take care of trees that the city planted.
- Your Trees: You must take care of all other trees and plants on your property. This includes trimming them so they do not block streets, sidewalks, or alleys. Overgrown plants can also be a fire danger.
- The "Visibility Triangle" at Corners
- It is very important to keep plants and bushes trimmed at street corners. Drivers need to be able to see clearly when they are turning or crossing an intersection. The clear area they need to see is called the "visibility triangle." Keeping this area clear helps prevent car accidents.
- What You Can Do to Help
- Trim Trees and Bushes: Make sure there is at least 9 feet of clear space above sidewalks and 12 feet of clear space above streets.
- Keep Corners Clear: Check the corners of your property to make sure drivers can see around them easily.
- Control Weeds: Keep grass and weeds cut short.
- Remove Trash: Do not let trash or garbage pile up on your property, the sidewalk, or the planting strip. You are responsible for cleaning it up, even if someone else left it there.

By taking these steps, you help keep Snohomish safe and beautiful for everyone. You also help make our sidewalks safe and accessible for people with disabilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



**Thank you for helping us
keep Snohomish a
wonderful place to live!**

**Do you have questions or
want to report a problem?**

