

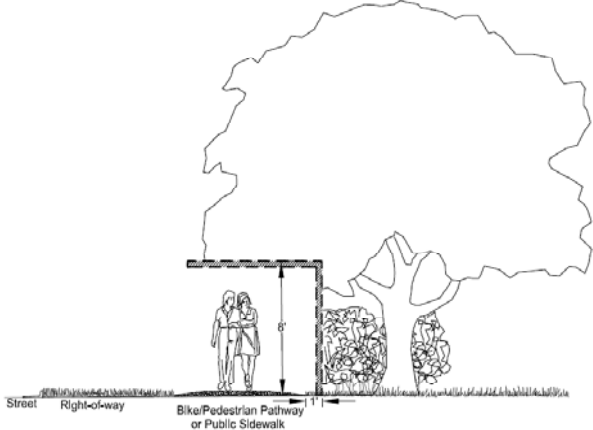
Keep our Public Pathways Safe

There are nearly 150 miles of asphalt pathways and sidewalks located on public road right-of-way in the City of Rochester Hills. The city's Forestry Division handles the maintenance of trees and shrubs growing on these right-of-ways that encroach onto pathways and sidewalks. However, all encroaching vegetation originating from adjacent private property is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain.

Many property owners have trees and shrubs planted close to pathways and sidewalks for screening and other purposes. Although the majority of property owners keep their vegetation maintained, some do not. To provide safe use by pedestrians and bicyclists, all vegetation must be cleared from at least 1 ft. off the edge of the pavement, to a height of at least 8 ft.

When encroaching vegetation compromises public safety, the City may notify the property owner to trim back their trees and shrubs by a specified date. If the required trimming is not completed by that date, a violation notice may be issued and a work order initiated for the Forestry crew to clear the vegetation. Should this happen, the cost of the work may then be assessed to the property owner.

City of Rochester Hills
Bike Pathway and Sidewalk Vegetation Maintenance



- Property owners must maintain private trees/shrubs at least 1' off the edge of the bike path or sidewalk to a height of 8'. If not maintained by the property owner, city crews are authorized to trim to a distance of 3' off the edge to a height of 10'. The city may assess the cost of the work to the property owner.
- New plantings can be no closer to a bike path or sidewalk than the following distances:
 - 5' for high-branched trees (shade trees) and shrubs.
 - 10' for low-branched trees (evergreens and ornamentals).
- A permit is required for planting in the city right-of-way (available free from the Forestry Division).

Over the last 20 years, miles of pathway and sidewalk have been added in the city, with no corresponding increase in maintenance staff. Our citizens regularly use these pathways and their safety is a priority. Therefore, we are advising all property owners with vegetation adjacent to these pathways and sidewalks to maintain the safety standards as shown in the diagram.

Properly maintained pathways are an asset for the entire community. Please be a responsible citizen and help keep our sidewalks and pathways safe.

Please contact the Forestry Division at 248-656-4673 for further information.