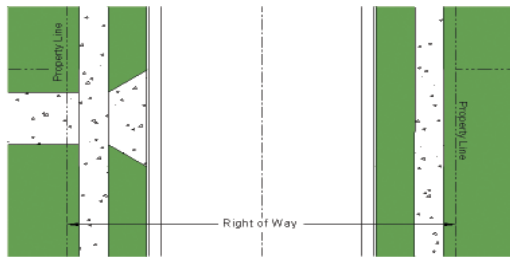


Right-of-Way Landscaping Requirements

Maintaining a safe and aesthetically-pleasing landscape in the right-of-way is important to the city. The appropriate landscaping improves the appearance and safety of the right-of-way as well as the appearance of adjacent properties. Sod, tame grass, and approved trees are the preferred landscaping for the right-of-way.

A City Ordinance makes the adjacent property owners responsible for maintenance of the right-of-way outside of the roadway. The ordinance ensures that any landscaping placed in the right-of-way does not interfere with snow removal, water drainage, public walking, site distances, repair of utilities, or contribute to the deterioration of streets.



Typical Right-of-Way



Prohibited Ground Cover

• Nonliving Materials

Rock, stone, brick, concrete, asphalt, and other similar, non-living ground covers are prohibited in the right-of-way.

• Tree Bark

Although not prohibited, the use of tree bark is discouraged. Tree bark—like rocks—will fill up with sand and debris and become weedy. Bark scatters and can easily be washed away with rain, which can result in premature sediment filling of drainageways and detention ponds.

• Berms

Whether covered with grass or other ground cover, berms should not be used in the right-of-way. Berms interfere with drainage, cause problems with sidewalk installation, and, potentially, sight distance.

Difficult Sites

Environmental factors may cause difficulty in maintaining grass in some right-of-way along arterial streets. Through the removal of salt and sand after snowmelt in the spring and the use of irrigation and fertilization, an acceptable quality of grass can be maintained.

• Exception

If grass cannot be maintained, please contact the City Engineering Division of the Public Works Department so they may assist you in determining proper, alternate ground cover.

Approval from the City Engineer is required for use of any ground cover other than grass.

Sprinkler Systems

Underground sprinkler systems may present special problems when installed in the right-of-way. Spray heads placed at the back of curb may be damaged by snow removal and street maintenance operations and may damage the curb and street due to leaks. Mist-type spray heads should be used in the area between the sidewalk and back of curb to avoid spraying over the sidewalk or into the street.

Trees

Trees in the right-of-way are a great benefit to the adjacent property and to the city. They provide an aesthetically-pleasing neighborhood, shade, and improved air quality. However, the wrong type of tree may damage the adjacent street and sidewalk, or cause hazardous sight problems for drivers. For a list of trees suitable for planting in the right-of-way, as well as spacing requirements, please call Sioux Falls Parks and Recreation at 367-8222.

Further Information

More information on landscaping can be found on the City's website at www.siouxfalls.org/parks/forestry.asp.

A copy of the *Landscape Design Manual* can be found there also.

City Ordinance Section 38-12

The portion of a dedicated public right-of-way between the street and the property line excepting the sidewalk shall be landscaped and maintained by the abutting property owner.

Landscaping shall be limited to sod, seed, or other living ground cover approved by the City.

Nonliving ground cover, including, but not limited to, rock, stone, brick, concrete, asphalt, or other like materials, shall not be used as landscape material except as provided herein.

The City may authorize the use of nonliving ground cover for landscaping a public right-of-way when it is determined that a location will not allow for adequate maintenance of sod or other living ground cover. This exception shall not include the use of loose rock or asphalt as landscaping material.



City of Sioux Falls
Public Works—Engineering Division
224 West Ninth Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: (605) 367-8601
Fax: (605) 367-4310
TTY/Hearing Impaired: (605) 367-7039
www.siouxfalls.org

The City of Sioux Falls

Guide To Right-Of-Way Landscaping



Prepared by
City of Sioux Falls
Public Works
Engineering Division

Issued April 2009

