

City Ordinances

CITY OF MESA CODE 8.6.3 (D) STATES:

The responsible party of any property shall not allow or permit trees, shrubs, or plants on land adjacent to sidewalks or public places fronting or bordering their property to grow in a manner that impedes, obstructs, or interferes with the passage on any street, sidewalk, alley or other passageway within the city or that limits the visibility of any traffic control device or signal. Vegetation must be trimmed a minimum of 8 feet over the sidewalk and 14 feet over the street or alley. If you have any questions about vegetation and visibility, or if you have a traffic concern, contact our traffic studies staff at 480.644.2160.

Transportation

Driving Mesa's Future



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VEGETATION & VISIBILITY

What you need to know



Transportation

VISIBILITY OF SIGNS & SIGNALS

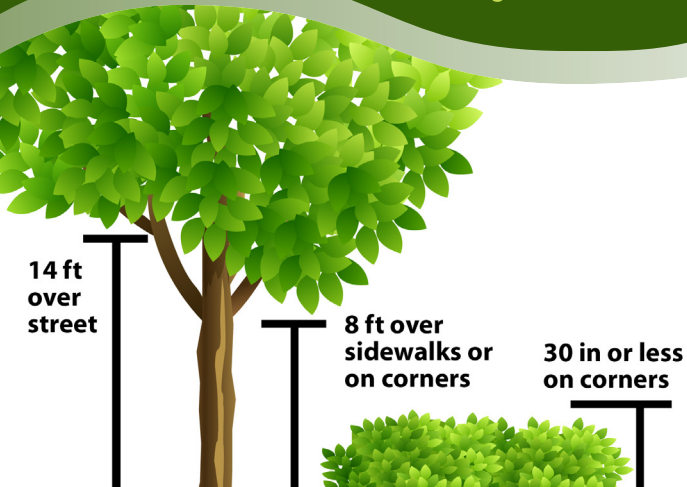
Stop signs, speed limit signs, yellow diamond-shaped warning signs and traffic signals are just a few of the many traffic control devices we rely on to keep traffic moving safely and efficiently.

For maximum visibility, traffic control devices need to be seen from a distance of at least 200 feet for 25 mph residential streets, and up to 600 feet for high speed arterial streets. For this reason, it is especially important to keep bushes, trees and other vegetation properly trimmed and maintained. Refer to City Code 8.6.3 (D) for more information.

STREET & SIDEWALK CLEARANCE

To ensure that visibility is not restricted, please trim and maintain all trees to at least eight feet over sidewalks and 14 feet over streets. See Figure 1 for an illustration. Refer to City Code 8.6.3 (D) for more information.

Figure 1



SIGHT OBSTRUCTIONS

Every year, the Transportation Department investigates hundreds of calls regarding sight obstructions. Sight obstructions occur when something is limiting the visibility of a driver to see oncoming traffic, a hazard in the roadway or a traffic control device. Most commonly, the obstruction is vegetation that is overgrown and limiting visibility. Vegetation that has grown to block the line of sight can dramatically limit or block the ability to see.

Keeping vegetation properly maintained is one of the most important things we can do to maximize visibility and improve traffic safety. The Department has provided residents with a few guidelines on this important issue.



VISIBILITY ON CORNER LOTS

Keeping bushes and trees trimmed and maintained on corners is especially important. If a corner is blocked or partially blocked by overgrown vegetation, it may be difficult to spot traffic, pedestrians and traffic control devices, such as stop signs, thus increasing the potential for crashes.

For this reason, bushes and shrubs within the 80-foot triangle on local streets (see Figure 2) should be trimmed and maintained to a height of 30-inches or less above sidewalks and curbs. In addition, trees within this area should be trimmed so that the lowest branches do not extend below eight feet. The best test is to check for visibility.

Although vegetation is the most common visibility limitation on corners, the 80-foot triangle also applies to fences, walls, signs and any other possible obstruction. The clear area needed on collector and major streets is larger. Contact the Transportation Department for more information.

Figure 2

