

# SIDEWALK AND STREET TREE MAINTENANCE

**Public Works Agency  
Transportation Department**  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009-1620



## INTRODUCTION

Sidewalks and trees benefit communities. Sidewalks provide a safe path for pedestrians, and trees are recognized as contributing to the environment and improving air quality.

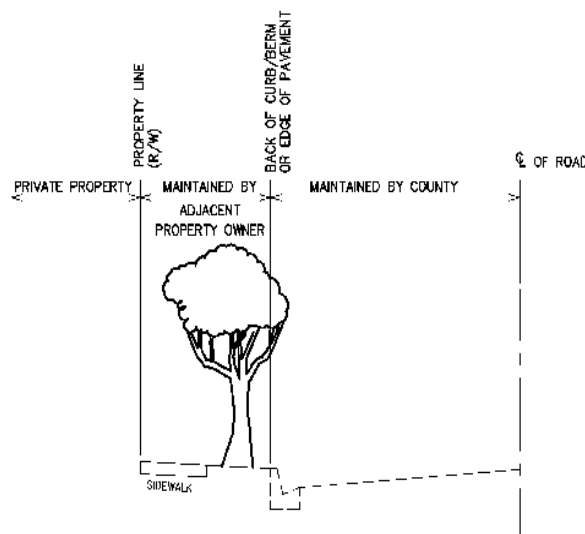
Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks and street trees in unincorporated Ventura County per Ventura County Ordinance Code Sections 12701-12703, California Streets and Highways Code (Chapter 22, Sections 5600-5630), and the 1968 Ventura County Resolution Establishing Policy for Planting, Maintaining, Trimming and Removing Landscaping Encroaching Into County Road Rights of Way.

## DEFINITIONS

**Encroachment** – An encroachment is any obstruction, structure or object placed in the road right-of-way (R/W). Sidewalks and trees are considered encroachments. Per Ventura County Ordinance Code Division 12 the County may permit or deny encroachments in the road R/W. The County may require removal of any encroachment that endangers the public or restricts public R/W use or access.

**Road Right-of-Way** – The width of the R/W varies. Generally, the County road R/W extends 30 feet to each side of the road center line for a two-lane road. The R/W generally includes more than the area covered by asphalt or concrete. To find out the width of a road, use the county's software located here:

<http://gis.ventura.org/PWA-Transportation/>.



The County only maintains to the back of the curb. A typical delineation is shown on the sketch above.

Road Right-of-Way – The sidewalk and parkway strip is the area between the property line and the back of curb and may include trees, bushes, other vegetation, sidewalks, curbing, or retaining walls. Placement of any vegetation must allow adequate sight distance. Please refer to the [brochure](#) titled “Sight Distance – A Clear View” for more information.

Sidewalk and Parkway Strip – The sidewalk and parkway strip is the area between the property line and the back of curb and may include trees, bushes, other vegetation, sidewalks, curbing, or retaining walls. Placement of any vegetation must allow adequate sight distance. Please refer to the [brochure](#) titled “Sight Distance – A Clear View” for more information.

Sidewalk and Street Tree Maintenance – Sidewalk maintenance can be done by repair or replacement of the sidewalks and is required to ensure safe pedestrian access. Maintenance of vegetation includes tree trimming, root pruning, trimming of shrubs and/or ground cover or other actions necessary and required for safe pedestrian access and safe sight distance for all users.

Property Owners – The legal owner of lots or portions of lots adjacent to or fronting on any portion of sidewalk between the property line and the street line.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Public Works Agency Transportation Department – Periodically inspects R/W and notifies property owners if sidewalks or parkway strips require repair or maintenance.

Property Owners – Maintain and repair the sidewalk and parkway strip. If a property owner is issued a written notice and fails to complete the sidewalk repair or vegetation maintenance in the allotted time, the County will cause the repairs to be completed and the property owner will be billed for all costs incurred by the County to complete the maintenance or repair action.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ’S)**

**Q.** Do I need a permit to trim or remove a tree in the parkway or repair the sidewalk in the R/W?

**A.** Yes. The permit application can be found at <http://vcpublicworks.org/transportation-department/road-encroachment-permit>

**Q.** Do I have to replace a tree removed from the road R/W?

**A.** No, although trees are beneficial to the environment, current County regulations do not require you to replace the tree. If you want to plant a tree, the tree must be from the approved tree list on Page 37 of this document:

<http://pwportal.ventura.org/ESD/ESD/docs/Landscape%20Design%20Criteria.pdf>.

More information regarding protected trees and permits for trees in the R/W or on private property can be found here:

<http://vcrma.org/planning/permits/tree/tree.html>.

**Q.** My tree has been identified for removal by the PWATD. Can I keep my tree by using alternative repair methods or rerouting the sidewalk?

A. Any tree in the R/W that is deemed a public safety or public access concern must be removed. Sidewalks cannot be rerouted. Any deviation from this policy would require evaluation by an Arborist and acceptance of liability for the tree by the property owner.

Q. If I receive a Repair Notice from the PWATD, then how much time do I have to respond and repair the sidewalk?

A. Corrective work should be completed within the time specified on the Notice and no later than the Completion Date on the Encroachment Permit.

Q. What happens if I receive a Repair Notice from the PWATD and I do not comply with the Notice?

A. The PWATD will perform the work and bill the property owner. For unpaid bills, the County will pursue a lien on the property to recover the costs associated with the repair.

Q. Are there sidewalk repair standards?

A. Yes. Repair work must comply with the Repair Standards found here: [http://pwaportal.ventura.org/td/Residents/Streets\\_and\\_Transportation/Standard\\_Policies\\_and\\_Guidelines/COVSidewalkStandards.pdf](http://pwaportal.ventura.org/td/Residents/Streets_and_Transportation/Standard_Policies_and_Guidelines/COVSidewalkStandards.pdf).

### **REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES**

If you have questions, contact the Permits Section.

Phone: (805) 654-2055

Email: [PWA.TransPermits@ventura.org](mailto:PWA.TransPermits@ventura.org).

[PWATD Home](#)