

# SIDEWALK and STREET TREE MAINTENANCE

## 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.

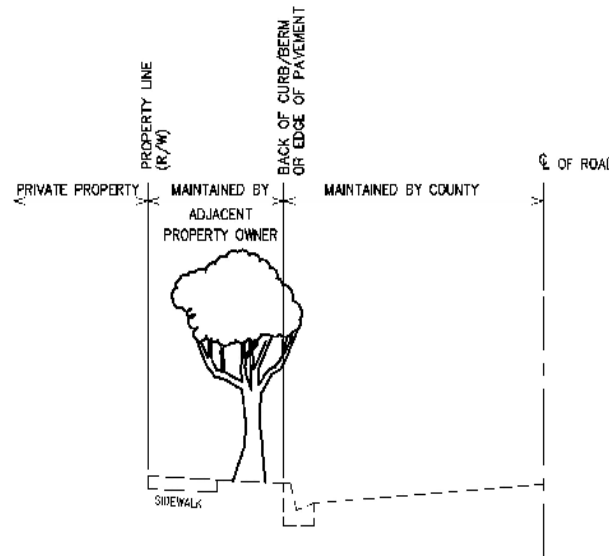
Property owners are responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks and street trees in unincorporated Ventura County per: Ventura County ordinance 4355, municipal Code section 12701-12703, California Streets and Highways Code (chapter 22, section 5600-5630), and the 1968 Ventura County Resolution Establishing Policy for Planting, Maintaining, Trimming and Removing Landscaping Encroaching Into County Road Rights of Way.

## DEFINITIONS

Encroachment – Any obstruction, structure or object of any kind or character that is placed in the road right-of-way (R/W). Per Ventura County Ordinance 2041, the County will approve and permit or deny encroachments in the road R/W

based upon a permit application. The County will also require removal of any encroachment that endangers the public or restricts public R/W use.

Road Right-of-Way – 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. The County only maintains to the back of the



curb or edge of pavement. A typical delineation is shown on the sketch above.

Sidewalk and parkway strip – The area between the property line and the back of curb/edge of pavement that 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.

Maintenance and Repair – Repair or removal and replacement of sidewalks; tree trimming, root pruning, trimming of shrubs and/or ground cover or other actions necessary to ensure the sidewalk is maintained in a safe and reasonable manner.

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

The County of Ventura, 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 to the limit of the R/W. 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. 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)

If you would like more information, please contact us at: (805) 654-2049 or through the "Contact Us" link at: <http://pwa.ventura.org/general/transportation>

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

**A.** A road encroachment permit is required. Please contact the permit desk at (805) 654-2055 for details. The permit application can be found on the County website at <http://pwa.ventura.org/transportation-department/road-encroachment-permit>

**Q.** Do I have to replace a tree?

**A.** No, current County regulations do not require you to replace a tree removed from the road R/W. If you do plan to replace the tree in the road R/W, an encroachment permit is required. Replacement trees should be from the approved tree list as they are beneficial to the environment. A recommended list can be found on page 37 of the Ventura County Landscape Design Criteria, which can be found at <http://pwaportal.ventura.org/ESD/ESD/docs/Landscape%20Design%20Criteria.pdf>

**Q.** I want to retain my old tree. May I use alternate repair methods or reroute the sidewalk?

**A.** No. If your tree has been identified for removal, it is a public safety or public access concern.

**Q.** I received a notice to repair. How long do I have to respond or repair my sidewalk?

**A.** The notice will give you a time frame to comply. In general, you will have 90 days from the date of notice to obtain an encroachment permit and substantially complete the repairs. Reasonable extensions will be considered when requested.

**Q.** What standards do I have to meet to replace a sidewalk?

**A.** Sidewalks must comply with County of Ventura Sidewalk Repair Standards. These can be viewed by clicking on the "[County of Ventura Sidewalk Repair Standards](#)" located in the FAQs on the PWA Transportation Department home page.

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