

# ENHANCING NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY BY CREATING A SAFE PATHWAY

## KNOW THE RIGHT OF WAY, CLEAR THE RIGHT OF WAY

To protect public health and safety, it is important to keep streets, sidewalks, and other public areas free of overgrown vegetation. Green spaces transform the City and provide many benefits that influence the health and well-being of our community. Property owners, both public and private, need to be conscious about managing vegetation on their property to address visibility and safety concerns.

It is important to meet the standards below and keep the following areas free of obstructions:

Sidewalks	Streets/Alleys
For a clear pathway, keep tree limbs and vegetation trimmed back from the edge of the sidewalk and at least <b>8 feet above sidewalks.</b>	Keep tree limbs and vegetation trimmed back from the edge of the street or alley and at least <b>14 feet above streets and alleys.</b>

- Effective ways to enhance neighborhood safety:**
- Trim trees and vegetation to increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.
  - Maintain care and health of the trees on your property. Well-maintained trees provide shade, improve air quality and keep Payette looking beautiful!

### KNOW THE RULES

**Property Owner Responsibility**  
 Property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of trees, plants and grass on private property. Overgrown trees and plants can pose a threat when they block the path or view of traffic signs, signals, fire hydrants, vehicles and people. Prune trees and trim or remove any vegetation that blocks the pathway of sidewalks, streets, alleys, bicycle lanes and trails. Keep in mind, the strip of land between the street and sidewalk is public property but the maintenance of vegetation and trees are the property owners' responsibility.

**City Responsibility**  
 The public right of way includes streets, sidewalks and alleys. This land is public property and is owned by the City of Payette. It typically extends 10 feet back from the edge of a street, but can vary across the City. Property owners are responsible for mowing the grass, maintaining vegetation and trimming trees that grow in the public right of way.

*Promoting a safe, clean, visible, walkable, rideable and healthy community.*

# CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PLACES

Whether by foot or by wheels, let's keep public pathways clear of obstructions and available for everyone's use.



## KNOW THE RULES

- Keep pathway cleared to at least **8 feet above sidewalks** and **14 feet above streets, and alleys**. Trim vegetation back from the edge of the sidewalk and street.
- It is a **violation of City Code** to allow trees and other vegetation to overgrow or obstruct the public right of way. The City of Payette identifies overgrown vegetation and trees as an accessibility barrier for people with disabilities, making it noncompliant with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*.

## BIG PICTURE

- **Did you know?** We could **double the amount of usable sidewalks** if residents trimmed the low-hanging branches and overgrown vegetation blocking sidewalks, and streets.
- **Keep in mind**, if the path is blocked, people will often go around and into the street, making for an unsafe environment.
- **Trees provide many benefits to our community**. Be sure you care for them properly!

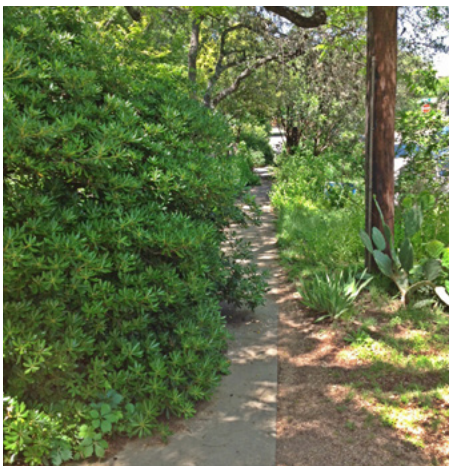
## QUESTIONS?

- Please call City Hall at 208-642-6024

### REPORT AN ISSUE

Contact either City Hall at 208-642-6024 or the City Ordinance Officer at 208-739-5994

**BEFORE** | Overgrown Vegetation



**AFTER** | Cleared Pathway



### Right of Way Tree Ordinance

*Did you know?*

You are responsible for maintaining the right-of-way abutting your property. This includes keeping the sidewalks free of debris and making sure trees meet clearance standards and are safe for passersby. Trees need to be pruned to eight (8) feet above the sidewalk and fourteen (14) above the street.

