



City of Palo Alto

# VISIBILITY PROJECT

See and Be Seen!



Have you ever been at an intersection where you can't see what's coming because the bushes are overgrown? Is the sidewalk in front of your house dangerous to walk on because of low hanging tree limbs? Did you know there are rules that cover street and sidewalk visibility?

The City of Palo Alto is concerned about this public safety issue and needs your help. As parents, community members, and neighbors, we are all responsible for making sure that pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers can see and be seen. The City is asking every school safety committee, the PTAs, and each neighborhood association to get the word out about street and sidewalk safety.

## **What can you do to help kids see and be seen?**

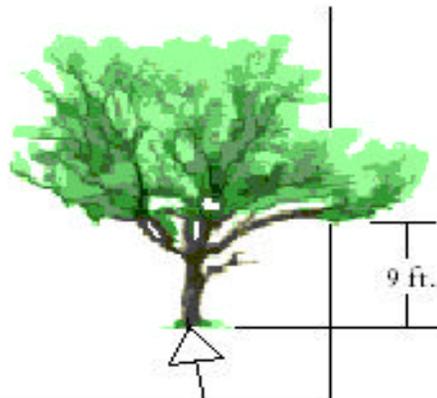
-  Look for visibility problems in your neighborhood and along your routes to work and school.
-  Share this flyer with the owners of the property where there is a potential safety problem.
-  Work with your neighbors to solve visibility problems on our streets and sidewalks.
-  If you cannot solve the problem on your own, call Code Enforcement at 329-2358 or 329-2276 and we'll respond.

## **What are the Visibility Rules?**

***There is a diagram on the back explaining how these rules work.***

-  At intersections without signs or signals, no tree limbs, shrubs, hedges or plants taller than 3 feet above the curb can be in the "visibility triangle" that runs 35 feet down each block from the curb intersection. Tree trunks are allowed, but branches must be trimmed up to 9 feet above the curb.
-  At intersections with signs or signals, the rule is the same, except it will be applied case-by-case to prevent safety hazards.
-  No shrubs or plants more than 2 feet high in the planting strip between the street and sidewalk
-  No fences or walls more than 4 feet high in the front yard setback (closer than 16 feet from the property line).

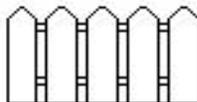
No branches or foliage that obstruct public vehicular or pedestrian travel on any portion of any street or sidewalk



9 ft.

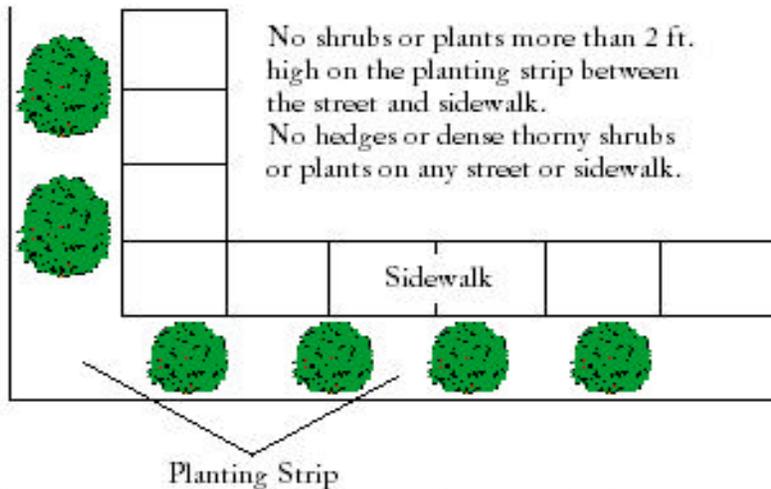
Sight Triangle

35 ft.



35 ft.

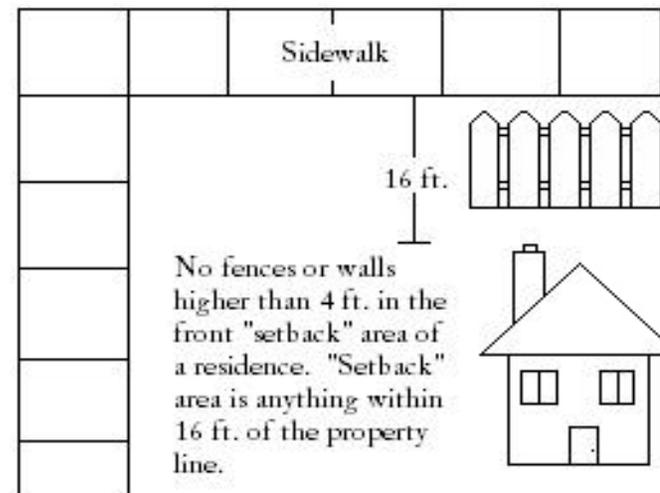
No tree limbs, shrubs, hedges, plants, or fences of a height over 3 ft. in the "sight triangle" of any intersection. Tree trunks are allowed as long as there are no branches below 9 ft.



No shrubs or plants more than 2 ft. high on the planting strip between the street and sidewalk.  
No hedges or dense thorny shrubs or plants on any street or sidewalk.

Sidewalk

Planting Strip



Sidewalk

16 ft.

No fences or walls higher than 4 ft. in the front "setback" area of a residence. "Setback" area is anything within 16 ft. of the property line.

