

Boulevard Landscape Maintenance Guidelines and Policies



What is a Boulevard?

Boulevards are the area between the edge of roadways and adjacent private property lines.

Although boulevards are a public space, the adjacent property owners have certain rights and responsibilities, as outlined in this brochure and in the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw No. 4853, 2018.

Boulevards are important features because:

- ❖ Their landscaping and maintenance affects the overall look and feel of the street
- ❖ Overgrown vegetation can cause sight-line issues
- ❖ Obstacles can restrict pedestrians and people in wheelchairs or with strollers
- ❖ There can be an increase in peak flows in creeks and ravines if there is overuse of impervious materials and
- ❖ Invasive plants in boulevards can spread to other areas.

Public facilities such as water, storm and sanitary mains, hydro and gas lines, street trees, street signage and sidewalks lie within boulevards, and City staff and other agencies require access for maintenance, or to build new facilities.

Residents have options regarding how their boulevards are landscaped, but need to ensure that:

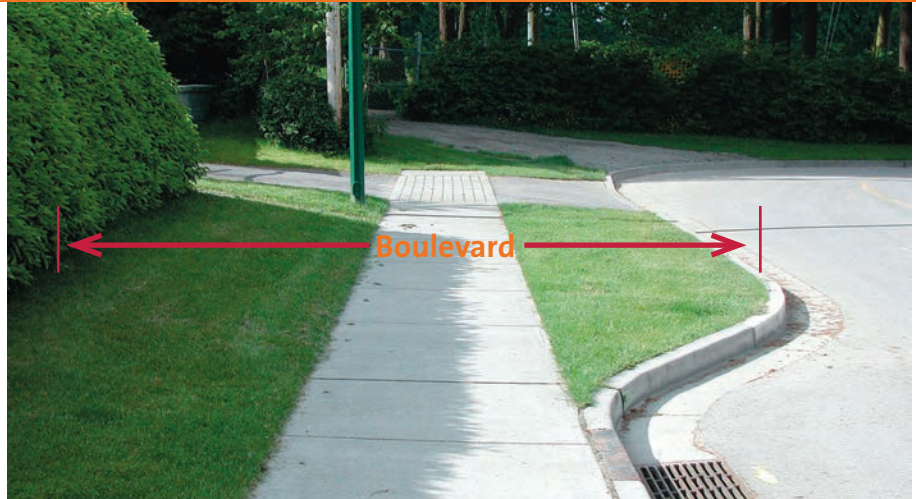
- ❖ Sight lines are protected
- ❖ Pedestrians have safe access
- ❖ Universal accessibility will be considered
- ❖ Parking is not impacted
- ❖ Street trees are protected
- ❖ Impervious areas are limited and
- ❖ Aesthetics are preserved.

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General Guidelines

Plantings in boulevards (trees, shrubs, flowers, and grass) are valuable amenities that greatly enhance the aesthetics and health of our neighbourhoods. However, certain policies need to be followed for safety, environmental and aesthetic reasons:

- ❖ Invasive plants and noxious weeds are not permitted.
- ❖ No pesticides are permitted.
- ❖ No food crops, berries, fruit, vegetables or other attractants for bears.
- ❖ Landscaping should be drought resistant and be watered enough to maintain plant health.
- ❖ Sidewalks and multi-use pathways must be kept clear.
- ❖ Grass must not exceed 15 centimetres in height.
- ❖ Sightlines for pedestrians and drivers must be kept clear at crosswalks, roads, lanes, and driveways.
- ❖ Shrubs should be maintained at a maximum height of 0.9 metres.
- ❖ Where shrubs are within 3.0 metres of the edge of a roadway or 2.0 metres from a driveway, the maximum height is 0.6 metres.
- ❖ A distance of 0.3 metres beside the roadway must be clear, to allow people to open doors to exit vehicles.

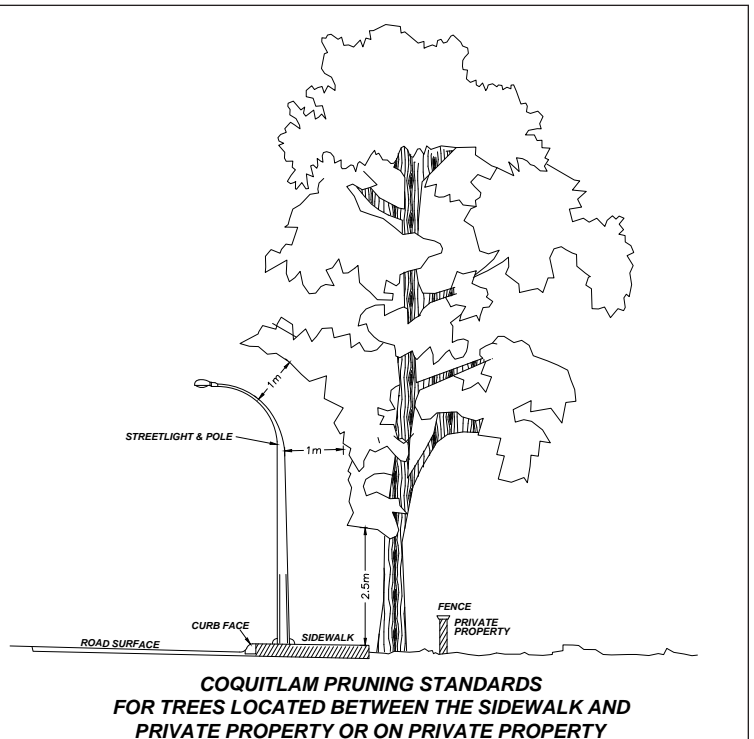
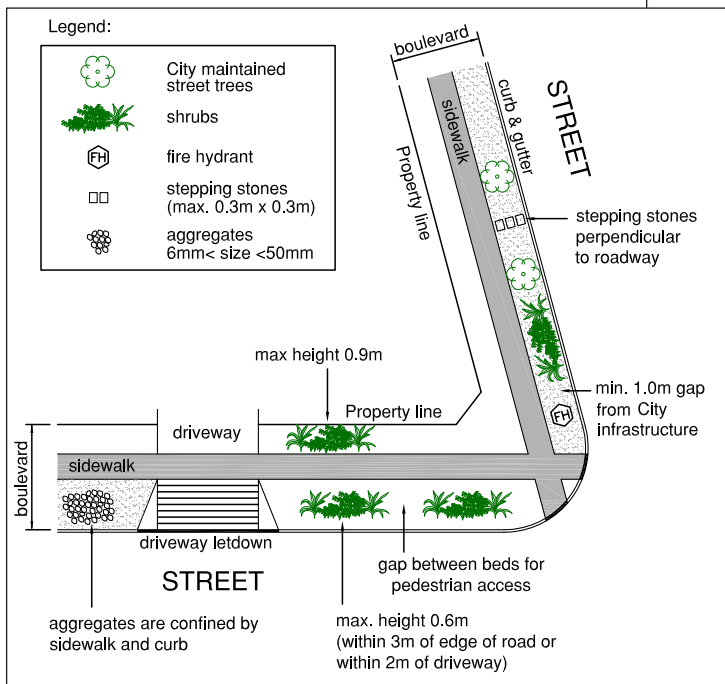


Trees

- ❖ No one can cut down or remove a tree on any boulevard without permission from the City Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.
- ❖ No trees can be planted without written permission of the City Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.
- ❖ City-maintained trees should only be pruned by City Parks, Recreation and Culture Department staff. Where a non-City-maintained tree or hedge is overhanging a sidewalk, or a multi-use pathway, the property owner is responsible for providing a vertical clearance of 2.5 metres for pedestrians and other users.
- ❖ Trees need to be trimmed in lanes to provide a vertical clearance of 4.5 metres to allow access for service vehicles.

Please phone the City Parks, Recreation and Culture Department at 604-927-6300 for any tree-related enquires.

Examples of Boulevard Treatments on Improved Streets





Rocks and Aggregates

Rocks, gravel, pebbles, bark mulch or other loose landscaping or surfacing materials on a boulevard must be contained and kept off any adjacent sidewalk, multi-use pathway, walking path or roadway. Please refer to Schedule A in the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw No. 4853, 2018 for specific details.

Construction on Boulevards

- ❖ Construction of any structures is not permitted, including fences, new retaining walls, rails, stairs, planters, raised garden beds, rockeries and irrigation systems. Please refer to Schedule A in the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw No. 4853, 2018 for specific details.
- ❖ No paving with asphalt, concrete or any other impervious surface is permitted, other than for driveways, walkways and some shoulder areas, and only with written permission from the City Engineering and Public Works Department.
- ❖ No signage on the boulevard is allowed except as outlined in the City of Coquitlam Sign Bylaw.

Rubbish Removal

Do not dispose of any vegetation cuttings, debris, discarded materials or any liquid or solid waste. The following must be removed from the boulevard:

- ❖ Litter of any kind (including debris around a bus stop).
- ❖ Garbage, other than garbage carts, etc. correctly placed at curbside for weekly or bi-weekly garbage, recycling and organic waste pickup.
- ❖ Accumulations of soil, leaves, grass clippings, branches and twigs, and other vegetation or landscape materials.
- ❖ Vegetation that grows between the cracks on the top of the sidewalk.
- ❖ Any other objects that would pose a hazard to anyone using the adjacent sidewalk.

Boulevard Access

City staff or other agencies may require access to a City boulevard to view, repair or construct infrastructure. In such cases, boulevard landscaping may not get restored with the original materials, where materials other than grass have been installed.

Chafer Beetle

Visit coquitlam.ca/chaferbeetle for information on how to deal with European Chafer beetle, an invasive insect that can cause damage to lawns.



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Before After



Before After

Utilities

- ❖ Keep plants and soil clear of utility covers so work crews can easily locate and access them.
- ❖ Vegetation must be kept clear of any utility pole, traffic signal, street light, fire hydrant, City sign or other structure. A minimum clearance of 1.0 metres must be maintained so the structure is visible and accessible from the street and sidewalk.



Care of sidewalks during a snow and ice event



Snow and ice must be removed from the sidewalk within 10 hours of the end of a snowfall or ice forming.

Please visit coquitlam.ca/winterwise for further information regarding resident responsibilities and to report an area of concern.

- ❖ Please call your local utility company for vegetation growing around power, cable, telephone or any other utility wires, for advice.
- ❖ Do not dig down more than 15 centimetres to avoid utilities.
- ❖ Call before you dig! **BC One Call 1-800-474-6886**, www.bconecall.ca.

Contact Us

City of Coquitlam
3000 Guildford Way
Coquitlam, BC, V3B 7N2

**Engineering and Public Works
Customer Service**
604-927-3500
epw@coquitlam.ca

To report any boulevard maintenance or sightline infraction, call **604-927-3500 (24/7)**.