



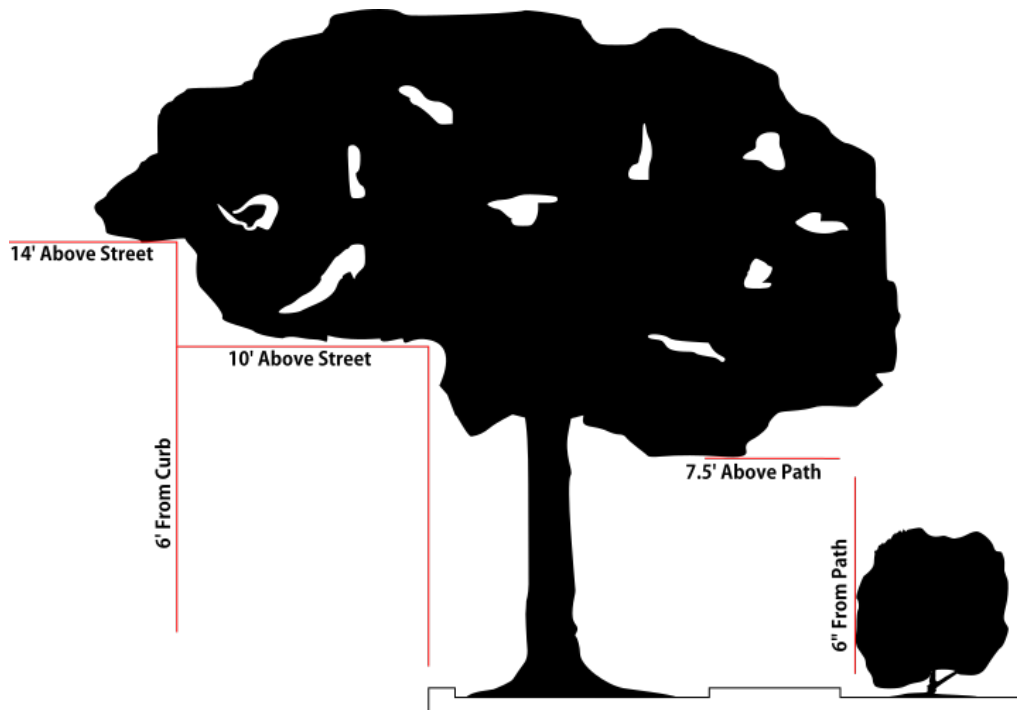
Best Practices – Landscape Trimming Clearances

Revised 10-1-2024

Pruning and trimming for clearances – Sidewalks, Paths, and Streets:

Clearances are to be maintained during normal scheduled maintenance by the Landscape Maintenance Company. The following clearances apply for all Serrano Park Community common areas.

- Turf and groundcover clearances are to be maintained:
 - Trim to paths, sidewalks, and other hardscapes.
 - Allow to grow to the edge of drainage hardscape.
 - Maintain circular and rectangular mower distances from trees and mulch these areas.
 - 3' minimum distance from all tree trunks.
 - Maintain clean edge at embankments and flowerbeds.
- Shrub clearances are to be maintained:
 - Below 6", trim to paths, sidewalks, and parkway edge of curbs
 - Above 6", trim to 6" from paths, sidewalks, and parkway edge of curbs.
- Tree clearances are to be maintained:
 - Young trees too small to prune properly are exempt.
 - 7.5' clearance above paths and sidewalks.
 - 10' street clearance for the first 6' from the street edge of curb.
 - 14' street clearance for 6' and further from the street edge of curb.



Best Practices documents serve as the Serrano Park Community Association reference standards for projects, area management, specifications, and procedural guides. They serve as the interpretation of industry standards as they apply to Serrano Park Community shared property.

Pruning, trimming, and added maintenance– Fire Hazard Embankments:

Clearances are to be renewed every fall on all embankments where there is an increased fire hazard. This includes the embankments above the tennis courts on Paseo Abeto and behind the homes along Paseo Amapola. This practice is encouraged by OCFA but not currently required. We have modified the high hazard practices slightly to reduce the seasonal fire hazard of this area while encouraging a micro-forest ecosystem.

- This area is considered a self-renewing micro forest.
 - Volunteer trees are encouraged.
 - Not next to V-ditches.
 - No palm trees.
 - Leaf mulch is needed to help stabilize erosion and soil nourishment.
 - Wild plants and grass is encouraged for erosion control.
- Shrubs:
 - Trim large shrub patches to 2' height maximum.
 - Remove large shrubs from under trees.
 - Remove dead shrubs.
- Trees:
 - Clear brush near volunteer trees.
 - Remove branches to 6' on large trees.
- Clean:
 - Remove debris from V-ditches.
 - Spread leaves as mulch.
 - Remove branches.
 - Trim wild plants and grass with weed-eater and scatter to contribute to the natural mulch.
 - Remove dead wood and branches.

Specification Development

Our research could not find any tree clearance ordinance for Lake Forest or Orange County. We learned that many US cities have ordinances for this and they vary widely for streets, with a 10' minimum being used by several. 7.5' is very common for sidewalk clearances. The standard minimum street clearance for the State of California for trucks is 14' on all major highways.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/legal-truck-access/height>

Logic used for this Serrano Park Landscape specification:

With narrow parkways, it is not reasonable to expect a 14' tree clearance at the curb, but a 10' clearance at the curb is usually doable. We should still expect 13.5' trucks to be able to access our streets, but we can also expect that tall trucks need not drive/park at the curb. 10' should allow parking for standard cars and trucks.

Fire Hazard Zone maintenance is based on OCFA guidelines and advice by an OCFA inspector.