

Sight Triangle Exceptions

Section 11.22.020 provides allowable exceptions to the City's Sight Obstruction Ordinance. It provides the following exceptions for objects located within the "sight triangle" area:

1. Fences not exceeding 4 feet in height, and with a ratio of the solid portion not exceeding one-to-four. (i.e., a split rail or some equivalent fence would be permitted, while a solid stockade of board fence would not.)
2. All shrubs, hedges, spreaders, etc., not exceeding a height of 33 inches above the street gutter level. (See Figure 3.)
3. Trees that are trimmed of limbs and sucker growth to a height of at least 6 feet above the street gutter level.



Figure 1. Clearances

Report Sight Obstructions

If you have a sight obstruction on your property, please take corrective measures to remove it. Properties that have sight obstructions are sometimes reported to Traffic Engineering. If you need to report a possible sight obstruction or need additional information concerning sight obstructions, please contact us at 268-4501, or www.wichita.gov and your request will be treated with confidentiality.



If it is determined that a sight obstruction exists, the property owner will be sent a letter explaining what obstruction needs to be removed or trimmed and is given 10 days to comply.

Tips on Compliance Methods

- Regularly cut/trim bushes, plants, etc. that grows within the sight triangle to less than three feet in height.
- Physically remove large bushes, trees, etc. from the sight triangle.
- Landscape the sight triangle with low growing plants, rocks, etc.

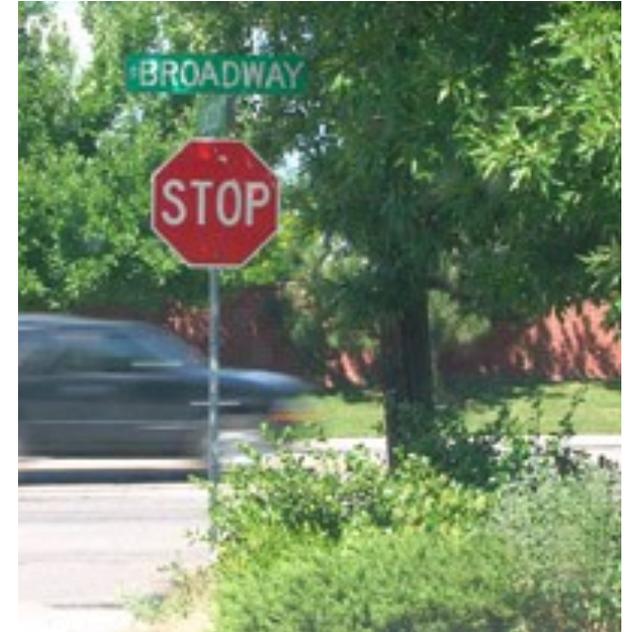


Traffic Engineering

Department of Public Works
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455 W Main, 7th Floor

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Sight Obstructions: Seeing Is Safer



Traffic Engineering

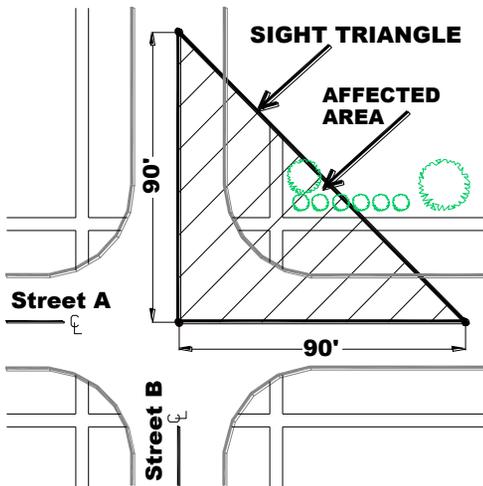
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What Is A Sight Triangle?

When approaching an intersection, motorists should have a clear and unobstructed view of approaching traffic at intersections. The minimum area to provide this view of approaching traffic is called a “sight triangle.” By having this area clear of visual obstructions, motorists should have enough time to see each other, react and take appropriate action. In order to help ensure traffic safety, the City of Wichita has adopted ordinances regulating objects in this area.

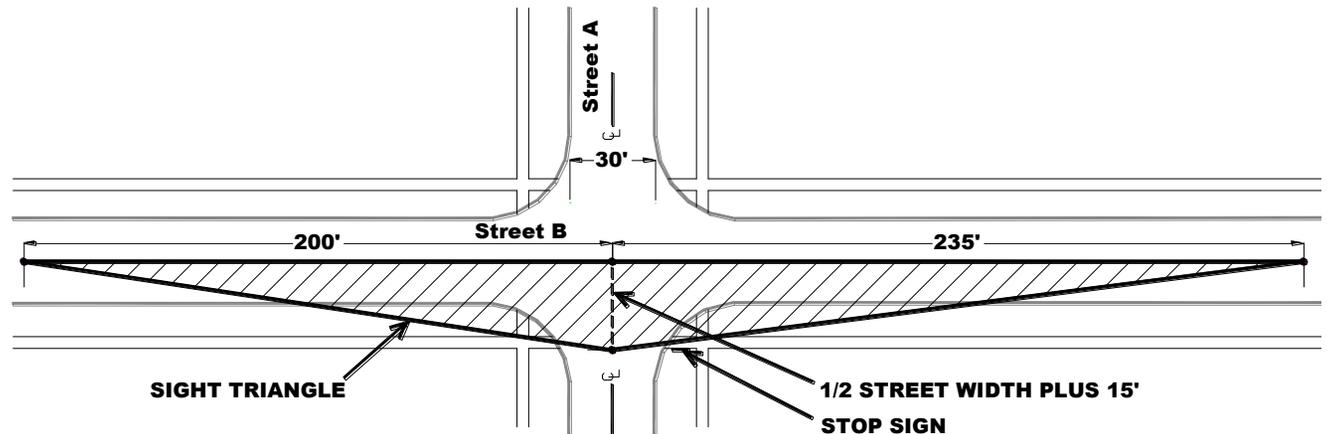
Figure 1. Sight Distance at Uncontrolled Intersections.



UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

Uncontrolled intersections are generally in residential areas and have no signs or signals to assign motorist right-of-way. In these areas, it is unlawful to install, set out, maintain or allow the installation, setting out or maintenance of any sign, fence, hedge, shrubbery, natural growth or other obstruction to view within the vision triangle as determined by a triangle whose sides are ninety feet measured along the centerlines of the approach streets from their point of intersection, as shown below. § 11.22.010.

Figure 2. Sight Distance Controlled 30 mph Intersections.



CONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

Controlled intersections have stop signs, yield signs, or traffic signals to assign traffic right-of-way. Here, the shape of the “sight triangle” varies, depending upon the speed limit on the intersecting streets—the greater the speed limit, the larger the sight distance required for a motorist to see and react to oncoming traffic. On these controlled intersections, it is unlawful to install, set out, maintain or allow the installation, setting out or maintenance of any sign, fence, hedge, shrubbery, natural growth or other obstruction to view within the sight triangle. This vision triangle shall have its shorter side equal to one-half the major street width plus fifteen feet and the longer side equal to distance determined in the tables below. § 11.22.010.

Table 1. Sight Restriction to the Left.

Width of Major Street (ft.)	Number of Lanes Major Street	Parking on Major Street	Major Street Speed Limit (mph)						
			25	30	35	40	45	50	55
30	2	No	165	200	230	265	300	330	365
40	2	Yes	185	220	260	295	330	365	405
50	4	No	185	220	260	295	330	365	405
44	2	Yes	190	225	265	300	340	375	415
44	4	No	190	225	265	300	340	375	415
48	2	Yes	190	230	270	305	345	380	420
48	4	No	190	230	270	305	345	380	420
64	4	Yes	200	240	280	320	365	405	445
64	4	No	200	240	280	320	365	405	445

Table 2. Sight Restriction to the Right.

Width of Major Street (ft.)	Number of Lanes Major Street	Parking on Major Street	Major Street Speed Limit (mph)						
			25	30	35	40	45	50	55
30	2	No	195	235	270	310	350	390	430
40	2	Yes	205	245	280	325			445
50	4	No	215	255	300	340	385	425	470
44	2	Yes	210	250	295	335	375	420	460
44	4	No	220	265	310	350	395	440	485
48	2	Yes	215	255	300	340	385	425	470
48	4	No	230	270	320	365	410	455	500
64	4	Yes	255	305	355	405	455	505	560
64	4	No	265	320	370	425	475	530	580