Vision Clearance

Pullman City Code Subsection 17.35.020(3) regulates the establishment of vision clearance areas at intersections in all residential zones and in neighborhood commercial zones. This subsection reads as follows:

Except in C2, C3, I1 and I2 zone districts, vision clearance areas shall be established at the intersection of two (2) streets, or a street and an alley, or a street and a railroad. The distance establishing the size of a vision clearance area shall be a minimum of forty-five (45) feet measured at street grade along the curb line, except that the distance may be reduced to thirty (30) feet on both sides of a street which is controlled with either a stop or yield sign, and the distance may be reduced to fifteen (15) feet on the alley portion of intersections including an alley. When the angle of intersection between streets, alleys, and railroads is less than thirty (30) degrees, the distance for the street shall be increased by ten (10) feet each. A vision clearance area shall contain no structure, landscaping, or fence between the heights of three (3) feet and eight (8) feet as measured at street grade, provided, however, that vision clearance areas may contain street signs, traffic signs, utility poles and boxes, and retaining walls. Vision clearance areas may also contain buildings that have been constructed prior to July 1, 1991. Vision clearance areas may also contain tree trunks if the city planner determines that sufficient visibility is maintained between these tree trunks to allow motor vehicles, non-motorized vehicles, and pedestrians to safely enter and exit the intersection under normal conditions when observing traffic regulations. Where the curb lines at intersections have rounded corners, the curb lines will be extended in a straight line to a point of intersection. See Figures 17.35.1 and 17.35.2 [on back].

Planning Department
190 SE Crestview Street, Building A
Pullman, WA 99163
(509) 338-3220
Figure 17.35.1

Figure 17.35.2

EXAMPLE A: Vision clearance areas at intersection without stop or yield signs.

EXAMPLE B: Vision clearance areas at intersection with stop or yield signs at two corners.