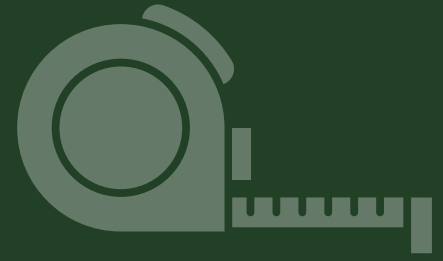


Manageable vegetation width



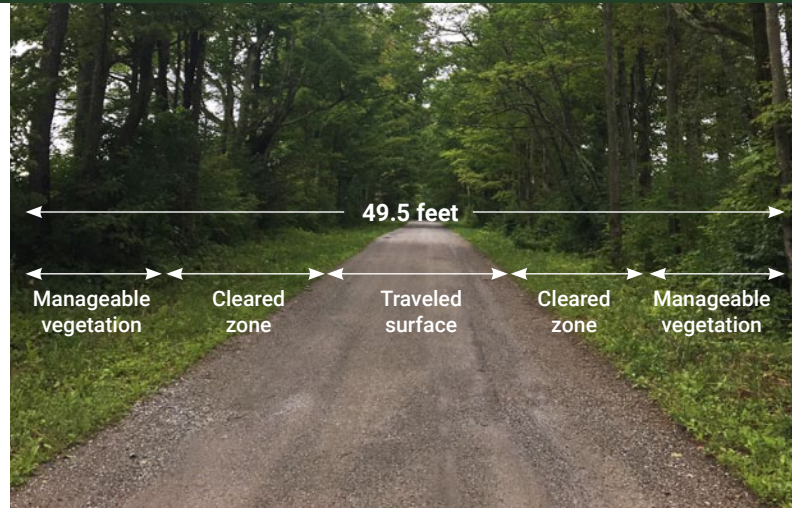
In most towns, the right-of-way spans 49.5 feet, or 24.75 feet in each direction from the centerline of the road.

The traveled width of an unpaved road and the cleared zone adjacent to the road can vary depending on topography, road erosion, road entrenchment, or neighboring land features. As such, the actual width of vegetation that the town can manage alongside its roads is often what is left over after the town has utilized the right-of-way land for the traveled road and its associated infrastructure.

Planning for the health and resilience of the corridor of vegetation within the town right-of-ways involves challenges not found in other types of land management plans. Manageable vegetation width can be roughly calculated in the field through a four-step process.

1. Measure the road width from traveled edge to traveled edge using a 25-foot tape measure.
2. Measure the cleared zone of the right-of-way (whether mowed, ditched, or bare) from the traveled road edge to the extent of the clearing.
3. Divide the right-of-way width in half (usually $49.5 \text{ feet} \div 2 = 24.75 \text{ feet}$).
4. On each side of the road, subtract half of the road width and the width of the cleared zone from the value calculated in step 3. This remaining number is the width of the vegetation strip managed within the town's right-of-way on one side of the road. See equation below.

Measuring the width of the road, the width of the cleared zone on each side, and calculating the



The typical municipal right-of-way spans 49.5 feet. All right-of-ways include a traveled surface; most also include a cleared zone that is mowed or hardscaped, and a zone of manageable trees, shrubs, or grasses that extend to the border with privately managed land.

manageable vegetation width on each side of a rural road tells us:

- where opportunities exist to perform recommended forestry practices on significant swaths of publicly managed roadside forest in conjunction with neighboring public or private land uses.
- where wide roads and ditches or cleared zones are impacting right-of-way vegetation, allowing the town to evaluate if these road widths are necessary or desired.
- where forest regeneration or replanting may be helpful to demarcate road edges, improve tree canopy, or increase a desired aesthetic (more trees, more fields, or selected trees) along designated scenic routes.

→ EQUATION:

Manageable vegetation width = (right-of-way width \div 2) - (road width \div 2) - cleared zone width