



Suggested Standards and Guidelines for the Placement of Materials and or Landscaping Within the Right of Way of Roads in Yellowstone County

October 2023

The purpose of the road right of way is for the movement of vehicles and other related items, as follows:

- road drainage,
- maintenance activities for the road,
- conveyance of storm water,
- maintenance of the swales for storm water (if maintenance is necessary),
- storage for snow removal,
- recovery area for errant vehicles,
- parking for residents and visitors,
- and other related uses (like public utilities, etc.).

Any work done in the road right of way should be done by obtaining a permit from Yellowstone County Public Works Department. The placement of boulders and other landscaping materials should be minimal and not impede the intended uses of the right of way.

The placing of boulders creates potential hazards. The use of larger boulders modifies the movement of drainage, discourages parking off the road travel way, and creates potential damage to private property from snow plowing. Many times, the plowing equipment cannot see the edge of the roadway when snow is present. When larger boulders are placed near the edge of the road, and are higher than the slope of the road, they can be “launched” in the air by the plowing equipment.

Typically, a roadway is 28 feet wide. For paved roads this is 14 feet of paving and 2 feet of gravel shoulder on each side of the center of the roadway. For gravel roads this is 14 feet gravel on each side of the center of the roadway.

Acceptable or Recommendable landscaping practices would be as follows:

- seed or sod the existing slopes as they were designed and built by the developer, or their authorized contractor,
- placing smaller diameter (or size) bark (suggest 2-3” in size), or decorative rock (suggest less than 2” in diameter) in a manner as to not modify the existing slopes as they were designed or built by the developer, or their authorized contractor,
- other vegetative planting that is short in size and easy to cut, mow or maintain (keep in mind the preservation of sight for travelling vehicles – especially along corner lots).

Not Acceptable or Not Recommendable practices would be as follows:

- modification of the existing slopes by seed or sod, or other materials,
- placing larger diameter materials over 2” in diameter, such as boulders,
- placing any materials over the elevation of the slope of the road.