



**CITY OF
TALLAHASSEE**

SUBJECT:	Street Tree Planting Standards
DATE:	January 2021

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard is to establish a set of standards for planting street trees within the public right-of-way. This document shall be used for the design and installation of street trees within the public right of way. A street tree shall be defined as any tree along a street or multi-use trail that is within the public right-of-way.

II. SCOPE

This standard shall apply to all design and construction projects that include the placement of trees within the public right-of way and shall apply to both public and private entities.

III. TREE SPECIES SELECTION

Proposed tree species shall be selected using guidance from the City of Tallahassee Tree Matrix 'The Right Tree in the Right Place' (Exhibit A). Alternative species may be considered but will require approval from the Community Beautification & Waste Management Services (CBWMS) Department. During Construction, the contractor shall not substitute any tree without prior written approval. Native species are strongly encouraged for use and must comprise 75% of proposed species. The street tree selection shall account for the presence of overhead utilities, proposed planting strip width, proximity to structures and other hardscapes, and sight distance. The species shall also be appropriate for the planting site conditions such as soil, sunlight, and the planting area available as outlined in Exhibit A, City of Tallahassee Tree Matrix 'The Right Tree in the Right Place.'

If the proposed project is along a corridor with an existing planting palette, tree selection shall match or complement the existing species. Coordination with CBWMS shall occur for specification of existing plantings and verification that the existing planting species are not being phased out.

IV. LOCATION

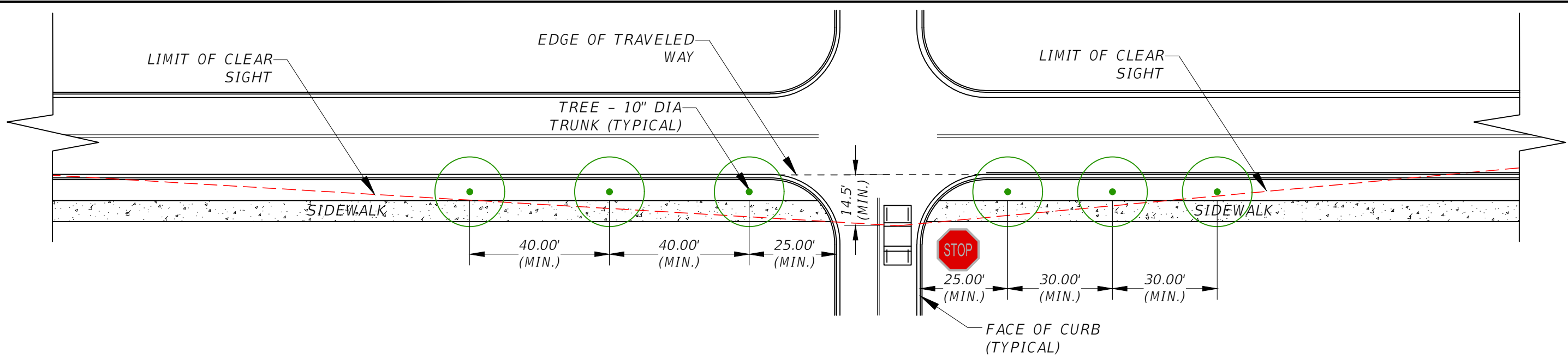
- a. **General.** Street tree locations shall be approved by the City of Tallahassee Underground Utilities & Public Infrastructure Department. Street Trees shall be planted in accordance with the MMTD Standard Section 10-283.3 of the Land Development Code.
- b. **Clear Zone & Lateral Offset.** Street trees shall be planted to meet clear zone and lateral offset criteria as listed in the Florida Manual of Uniform Standards for Design, Construction, and Maintenance for Streets and Highways (Commonly known as the Florida Greenbook).
- c. **Sight Distance.** Sight distance triangles for all existing and proposed commercial driveways and intersections shall be shown on the proposed landscape plan for review. Commercial driveways shall include multi-family dwellings with over 4 dwelling units. Any trees proposed within existing or proposed sight distance triangles shall meet the spacing standards shown in Exhibit B. Trees planted within the sight distance triangle must be on the tree matrix (Exhibit A) as approved for use within the sight distance triangle. Alternate species may be considered but must be approved by Public Infrastructure Engineering and the Urban Forester. Trees planted within the sight distance triangle must be large enough to trim in accordance with Exhibit C at the time of planting.
- d. **Traffic Signals and Signs.** Street trees must not be planted where they will obscure the view of traffic signals or street signs.
- e. **Clearances to other objects.** Tree placement shall meet the following clearances:

Fire hydrant _____	20'
Water Meter, Valve Box, or Gas meter _____	5'
Stormwater Structures _____	20'
Electric Pad Mounted Transformers and Terminating Cabinets	
Front _____	10'
Back and Sides _____	3'
Electric Pad Mounted Switch Gear/Metering Cabinet/Reclosures	
Doors _____	10'
Sides _____	3'
Electric Pedestals _____	3'
- f. **Root Barriers.** Proposed root barriers shall be shown and specified in the landscape plan and shall be a minimum of 24" deep. Root barriers shall be approved by UU&PI-Public Infrastructure Engineering. Root barriers shall be required when any street tree is proposed to be planted within 10' of any underground utility (water, sewer, stormwater pipe, gas, and electric) or hardscape (concrete, asphalt, and other surfaces) that could be damaged by root movements.

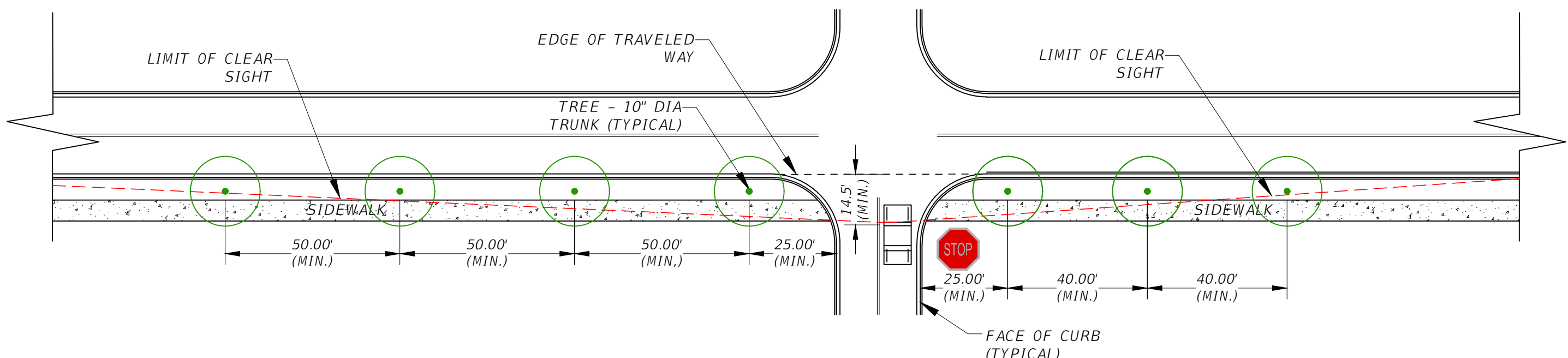
Exhibit A

Please follow the below link to the City of Tallahassee Tree Matrix

[The Right Tree in the Right Place](#)



DESIGN SPEED 30 MPH AND UNDER



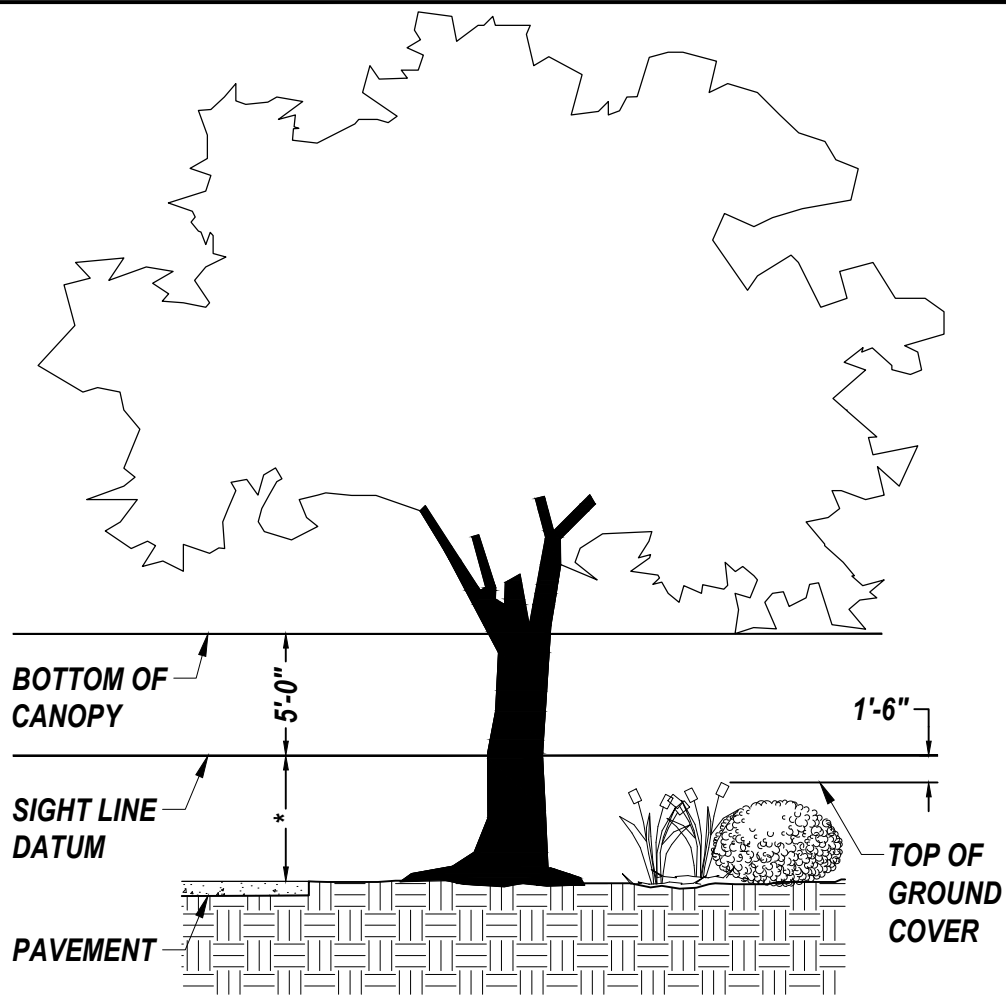
DESIGN SPEED 35-40 MPH

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EXHIBIT B

STREE TREE SPACING DIAGRAM FOR INTERSECTION SIGHT DISTANCE



* **SINCE OBSERVATIONS ARE MADE IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, THE LINE OF SIGHT DATUM BETWEEN ROADWAYS IS 3.5 FEET ABOVE BOTH PAVEMENTS.**

THE HORIZONTAL LIMITS OF THE WINDOW ARE DEFINED BY CLEAR SIGHT TRIANGLES. WITHIN THE LIMITS OF CLEAR SIGHT TRIANGLES, THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS APPLY:

- **CANOPY OF TREES AND TRUNKED PLANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 5 FEET ABOVE THE SIGHT LINE DATUM.**
- **THE TOP OF THE GROUND COVER PLANTS MUST BE AT LEAST 1.5 FEET BELOW THE SIGHT LINE DATUM.**

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UNDERGROUND UTILITIES &
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

EXHIBIT C

CLEAR SIGHT WINDOW DIAGRAM