



## Landscaping

### Definition

The use of plantings and landscaping elements in the public ROW to provide separation between motorists, pedestrians, and/or cyclists, reduce vehicle speeds or volumes, and provide a more pleasant street environment for all.

### Objective

To slow traffic by creating the appearance of a narrower roadway and to enhance the roadway environment for all users, especially pedestrians.

### Advantage

Improved safety through slower motor vehicle speeds.

Can provide much needed shade for active travelers on hot days.

Enhanced environment for roadway users and for adjacent businesses and/or residences.

Can create opportunities for, and be used in conjunction with, other safety and operational treatments and/or traffic calming measures.

Can be of use for stormwater management and biodiversity efforts, and can help mitigate heat-island effect and improve air quality.

Can help create community or neighborhood identity.

### Challenge

Cost of installation and maintenance responsibility.

Encroachment of plantings on sightlines, which can create safety issues for traffic and in terms of crime.

### Resources

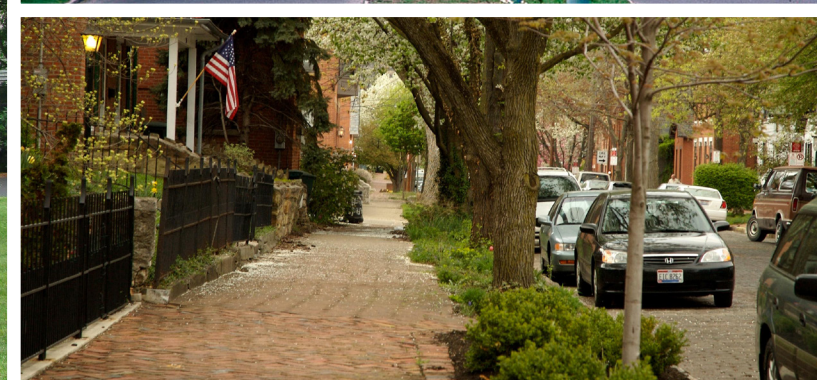
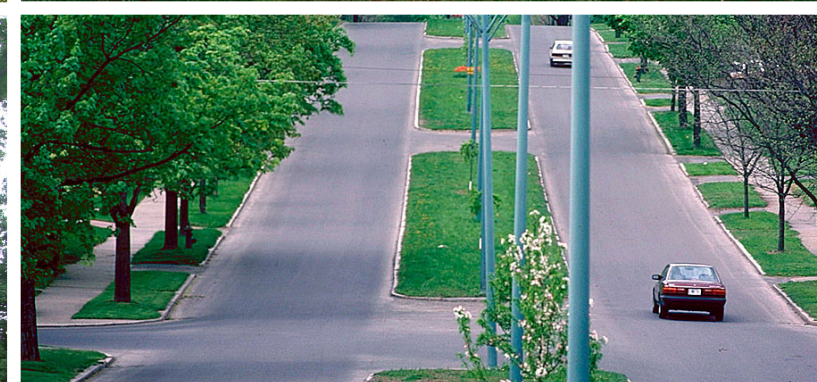
PedSafe — Landscaping [http://www.pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/countermeasures\\_detail.cfm?CM\\_NUM=38](http://www.pedbikesafe.org/PEDSAFE/countermeasures_detail.cfm?CM_NUM=38).

University of Washington, Green Cities: Good Health — Safe Streets [http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm\\_SafeStreets.html](http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/Thm_SafeStreets.html).

Landscape Design in the Clear Zone: The Effect of Landscape Variables on Pedestrian Health and Driver Safety (Texas A&M University, 2002) <http://d2dtlgnlpfror.cloudfront.net/swuttc.tamu.edu/publications/papers/167425TP2.pdf>.

City of Seattle, Streetscape Design Guidelines, 6.5.10 — Landscaping for Traffic Calming [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rowmanual/manual/6\\_5.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/rowmanual/manual/6_5.asp).

Landscape Ecology and Rural Roads: Traffic Calming for improving both landscape and wildlife? <http://swuttc.tamu.edu/publications/papers/167425TP2.pdf>.



Images (clockwise from main image):

Landscaping example, Mole Hill, Vancouver, BC.  
Source: Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org.

Additional examples:

Sources: Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org; Dan Burden, pedbikeimages.org;  
Eric Lowry, pedbikeimages.org; Laura Sandt, pedbikeimages.org; Dan Burden.