

Understanding rights-of-way and your property

Did you know that part of your yard is made up of rights-of-way, and your property line doesn't begin at the edge of the road or sidewalk closest to your home?

Road right-of-way

All City streets contain what is called a *road right-of-way*. The road right-of-way is an area that gives The City space to do things like install street light poles and plant trees. This space also gives shallow utilities (like gas, power, and telecommunications companies) a place to build and maintain their critical infrastructure.

Depending on the community you live in, the space the right-of-way takes up in your yard will vary. As a homeowner, you are still responsible for mowing and general maintenance (thank you), but it is technically the road right-of-way and is considered public land. This means shallow utilities can request a City permit to access this space.

Utility right-of-way

A *utility right-of-way* is an easement granted to The City, by a property owner, which gives shallow utilities a place to put their infrastructure – both above and below ground. All properties contain a road right-of-way, but only some properties have a utility right-of-way on them. In most cases, the utility right-of-way starts at your property line and extends inward, toward your home. The location varies between properties and can also be located along the side of your home or at the back.

