

SHERIDAN COUNTY **ENCROACHMENT POLICY**

General

Real property that is within the right-of-way boundaries of Sheridan County roadways is intended to be devoted to public road access and purposes. Right-of-way includes the property rights necessary to meet the needs of construction, operation and maintenance of the roadway. Sheridan County is responsible for preserving the right-of-way free of public and private installations or facilities that are not a part of the roadway facility and are not consistent with its safe operation, maintenance and use.

The purpose of this encroachment policy is to ensure safe conditions on the roadway facility to allow for efficient and effective maintenance and to protect the public investment in the original cost of the right-of-way and of the roadway facility.

Upon proper review and authorization, certain encroachments may be permitted to remain on the right-of-way. These must be under agreement with Sheridan County and are subject to removal if they subsequently interfere with the safe operation and maintenance of the roadway.

Encroachment Definition

An encroachment is any installation, device, object or occupancy that is located at, above or below the grade line of the roadway and within the right-of-way limits, and that is not installed as part of the roadway facility by Sheridan County.

Encroachments include, but are not limited to the following within the right-of-way:

- overhanging projections of signs, where the base is installed off the right-of-way;
- fences, walls and gates;
- abandoned vehicles and equipment;
- trails or pathways for use by off-road vehicles (e.g., ATV's, snowmobiles);
- advertising devices, including political banners;
- buildings or structures;
- projections from buildings (e.g., stoops, decks, porches);
- tree plantings or landscaping;
- grazing livestock;
- excavations or fill material; and
- private signs, emblems, symbols, posters, monuments, etc.

Sheridan County reserves the authority to remove any public or private installation on the public right-of-way without notice if it presents a hazard to public safety, or interferes with traffic operations.