



Vista Maintenance

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Goal: Ensure protection of important natural and cultural resources while clearing vistas to provide visibility to scenic views.

Guidelines:

- Taking advantage of compelling views and downplaying those that detract from the parkway or trail experience creates a sequence of visual events that enhances the visitor experience.
- Selective clearing and thinning of small trees, tree limbs and brush at historic vistas and overlooks will be required periodically to preserve dramatic views of significant historic and natural features and panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Vista maintenance should focus on areas already influenced by human activity.
- It is important to define which vistas are important to the parkway or trail experience, are part of the historic design intent and how to preserve them over time as part of the vegetative management program for the facility.
- Pruning and clearing will be unique to each location. In steep roadside areas, this work may be accomplished by the use of a bucket truck.
- Consult with a DCR Ecologist before conducting clearing or pruning work in Priority Habitat or regulated wetland resource areas. The extent of work is best determined in the field, informed by an awareness of rare species habitat, exemplary natural communities and wetlands.
- The potential for the spread of invasive species that could colonize these disturbed areas is a threat to surrounding natural communities. Scenic vistas should be monitored and treated for invasive species on a regular basis.
- Retain selected trees to frame or enhance views, or for bird habitat. Avoid clear cutting by removing understory limbs from large trees.
- Side branches extending into the vista should be cut flush with the parent branch, leaving no stubs. This lasts longer and allows the wound to heal naturally.