Roadsides contribute significantly to the rural, historic character of Lincoln. To raise public awareness of the problems and how residents can help, the Lincoln Garden Club offers this brochure with information, suggestions, and links to additional resources.

www.lincolnroadsides.org/report

Who to Contact?

Roadside tree questions and care
Lincoln Dept. of Public Works (DPW): 259-8999
Lincoln Tree Warden: call DPW for contact info.

Right-of-way & Town road maintenance questions
Lincoln DPW: 259-8999

Plant identification and questions
Lincoln Conservation Commission: 259-2610

Invasive species
Lincoln Garden Club roadside report website
New England Wildflower Society: www.newfs.org/protect/invasive-plants

Fences, signs, lighting regulations
Lincoln Planning Board: 259-2610

Utility lines and poles
NSTAR: (800)992-2000

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Our full report for the Town can be found online at www.lincolnroadsides.org/report.

Lincoln roadsides contribute significantly to the Town's rural, historic character. Some of these roadsides have become overgrown and unsightly, and the Town and residents can join together to restore and preserve their rural character.

Roads are the public face of Lincoln, the threads that tie the community together and the corridors from which the landscape is viewed. —Lincoln Reconnaissance Report 2006

Resources and Regulations

• Lincoln Garden Club’s Roadsides Report: www.lincolnroadsides.org/report

• Relevant regulations: www.lincolnroadside.org/parameters

• Mass. Public Shade Tree Act: General Laws Chapter 67-A

• Lincoln Fence Bylaw: Lincoln General Law Article XVII

• Lincoln Historic District Bylaw: Lincoln General Law Article XIV

• Lincoln Dark Sky Guidelines: contact Planning Board

• Other resources: www.newfs.org/protect/invasive-plants

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What type of road is yours?

Lincoln's roads are not all alike. We have five different types of roadsides, each with different characteristics and maintenance needs.

- **Natural**: stretches of road bordered by woods
- **Agricultural**: roads bordering fields used for farming or conservation, often with mature trees and farmers' stonewalls at the roadside
- **Historic**: roads alongside historic buildings with associated stonewalls, fences and mature trees
- **Suburban**: roads in newer residential areas with more lawn and less mature trees at roadside
- **Commercial**: Lincoln Road at Lincoln Station, from Lincoln Woods to Codman Farm

Within each road type there are two zones:

- **The public right-of-way (ROW)**: the pavement and a strip of land on either side, which can vary in width. The Town is responsible for the ROW. Property owners can maintain lawn and ground covers in the ROW.
- **The bordering landscape**: the landscape beyond the public right-of-way which impacts the rural character of the roadsides and is the responsibility of property owners.

How can we improve our roadsides?

To preserve and enhance our roadsides' historic, rural character, we can:

1. Reveal and maintain stonewalls by removing plants that are damaging their integrity
2. Remove invasive plants that choke native trees, shrubs and ground covers
3. Open up views into agricultural and historic landscapes
4. Protect the rural road character when dealing with traffic and utility needs
5. Use native plants materials along roadsides and when replacing street trees

What does the Town do?

The Town maintains our roadsides by mowing, plowing and removing invasive species and dangerous plantings within the public right-of-way (ROW).

The Town is responsible for maintaining safe intersections; installing and maintaining drainage, pedestrian paths, crosswalks and guardrails; and enforcing regulations related to roadsides. The Town also removes dead or dangerous trees, except those near utility lines that are managed by the utility companies.

A program of new tree plantings for the public ROW and Pierce Park is managed by the Tree Warden.

What can you do?

As a property owner in Lincoln you can help to restore and maintain your roadside and bordering landscape.

The Lincoln Garden Club report and website on roadsides can help you identify your road type and its needs. It also includes guidelines for stonewall maintenance, plantings, fences and lighting.

Recommended actions:

- Clean up invasive plants and trash
- Clean out and repair stonewalls
- Use native plants and replant any ground disturbed by clean up
- Work with your landscape and home contractors on appropriate maintenance
- Meet with your neighbors and work together to improve your neighborhood roadsides

And remember to contact the listed Town departments if you have questions, particularly if you are unsure about how to treat the public right-of-way.

Suggested roadside plantings

Property owners and the Town share responsibility for roadway plantings. The Town plants and maintains trees, shrubs and ground covers within the ROW.

Property owners can plant grasses, groundcover and perennials in the ROW, subject to town mowing and plowing effects. No-mow grasses and hayseeded ferns are examples of good ground covers and perennials.

Property owners can plant in their bordering landscapes such native trees and shrubs as winterberry, common witchhazel, red maple, swamp white oak, and white spruce.

See the Roadside Report and website for a detailed list of plantings.