

SECTION 201: CLEARING AND GRUBBING

201.1 DESCRIPTION

This work shall consist of clearing, grubbing, scalping, removing, and disposing of vegetative and surface debris within the construction limits, unless otherwise designated to remain by the contract or directed by the City Engineer or designee. It also includes removal and/or control of all State-listed noxious weed species either identified in the contract or encountered at the construction site. Vegetation and objects designated to remain shall be preserved free from injury or defacement. All work shall meet the environmental commitments for the project.

Definitions are provided below for clarity:

1. "Clearing" is cutting down all the trees and brush.
2. "Grubbing" is clearing by digging up roots and stumps.
3. "Scalping" is removing the remaining roots, sod, grass, agriculture crops and residue, sawdust, and other vegetation so that the soil is completely exposed.

For removals of non-vegetative obstructions, refer to Section 601 Removal of Structures and Obstructions of these specifications.

201.2 MATERIALS

201.2.1 Suitable Materials

Suitable materials are those materials which can be compacted to the required embankment densities and meet all other contract requirements for embankment materials.

201.3 CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

201.3.1 Sequencing

Clearing, grubbing, and scalping shall be performed in advance of excavation and embankment operations.

201.3.1.1 Marking of Clearing and Grubbing Limits

Prior to work on the site, the Contractor shall establish the right-of-way lines and construction limits confining the clearing and grubbing operations, and shall designate those trees, brush and other vegetative items for removal and those for preservation. The City Engineer or designee shall be offered the opportunity to review the clearing and grubbing limits before work commences.

201.3.1.2 Temporary Erosion Control

Ensure all erosion control requirements and all necessary temporary sediment and erosion control protection (TESCP) devices are installed prior to initiating clearing and grubbing activities on the construction site. The TESCP items shall be paid for under the SWPPP pay item.

201.3.2 Protection of Site Features

Preserve and protect all existing improvements, adjacent property, utilities, and trees and plants not to be removed from injury or damage resulting from the Contractor's operations. This may require the Contractor to install temporary signing, temporary fencing, or other temporary features at their expense. Should any damage occur to these site features due to the Contractor's operations, the City Engineer or designee may withhold payment until the damage is remediated, or may require the damaged items to be replaced at the Contractor's expense.

201.3.3 Clearing Operations

Remove and dispose of all trees, brush, and other plant life and vegetative debris as required to facilitate the proposed improvements. In addition, remove and dispose of all refuse and non-organic surface debris. For removals of non-vegetative obstructions, refer to Section 601 Removal of Structures and Obstructions of these specifications.

201.3.3.1 Pruning of Trees, and Trimming Brush and Plant Life

Prune all trees designated to remain within the construction site and trim all brush and plant life to accommodate the following in accordance with the plans: (1) for pedestrian, vehicle, and/or infrastructure clearances; (2) to reduce risk of tree branch failure; (3) to improve and/or provide for required site lines and sign visibility; and, (4) to maintain tree health.

Pruning of trees and shrubs shall be performed in accordance with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 Standard Part 1 Pruning.

201.3.3.2 Noxious Weeds

The Contractor shall remove or control all State-listed Class A noxious weed species within the Right of Way project limits, whether identified in the contract or not, in a manner that prevents their re-growth and spread. Herbicide use shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, County and City of Rio Rancho regulations and ordinances. The current New Mexico Noxious Weed List is available at (Contractor is responsible for obtaining the current list):

<https://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious?rptType=State&statefips=35>

In addition, for herbicide application, the Contractor shall comply with the Section 620.3 Construction Requirements of Section 620 "Selective/Non-Selective Herbicide Application" in the current New Mexico State Department of Transportation Standard Specifications for Highway and Bridge Construction.

201.3.4 Grubbing Operations

Completely remove and dispose of the brush, stumps, roots, and other vegetative debris in the areas designated for grubbing operations in the contract, or as directed by the City Engineer or designee.

In an embankment area when approved by the City Engineer or designee, the Contractor may leave undisturbed stumps and other vegetative matter within the roadway excavation areas that will be at least four (4) feet below the finished subgrade elevation. The Contractor shall remove organic material under pipe culvert bedding, regardless of embankment height, to a minimum depth of two (2) feet below the bedding material.

Fill depressions resulting from the grubbing operations with suitable material and compact the material until there is no further evidence of settlement, except in those areas to be excavated as part of the work.

201.3.5 Scalping

The Contractor shall remove remaining surface debris following clearing and grubbing operations so that the soil is completely exposed. The project site shall have a neat and finished appearance, except for areas where construction activities are planned.

201.3.6 Disposal

Dispose of all clearing and grubbing materials including: trees, brush, stumps, roots, vegetative debris, and surface debris outside the project limits, unless otherwise approved by the City Engineer or designee. A disposal plan, including written permission from the owners of the property used for debris material disposal, shall be submitted to the City Engineer or designee at the preconstruction conference.

Surface debris, trees, stumps, roots, organic matter, and other obstructions that can be chipped or broken down to an appropriate size and readily blended into the topsoil during final stabilization may remain within the Project limits.

Native topsoil shall be preserved where vegetation is intended to remain after construction as specified in Section 202, Excavation, Embankment, and Borrow. Native topsoil should be stockpiled on the project site for later use, but may be stockpiled at off-site locations or transferred to other locations as approved by the City Engineer or designee in accordance with Section 202 of these specifications.

201.3.6.1 Burying

No burying of any clearing or grubbing debris shall be allowed on the project site.

201.3.6.2 Burning

No burning of any clearing or grubbing debris shall be allowed on the project site. In addition, combustible materials shall not be accumulated on the project site near property lines or areas where an unexpected fire could cause damage to existing site features.

201.4 METHOD OF MEASUREMENT

No measurement shall be made for lump sum clearing and grubbing. All trees designated for removal in the plans are included in the lump sum measurement, regardless of tree diameter.

201.5 BASIS OF PAYMENT

Pay Item	Pay Unit
Clearing and Grubbing	Lump Sum

When the contract includes an item for Clearing and Grubbing, payment shall be considered all-inclusive of the costs of the work including: marking the limits, installation of temporary features to protect the site, pruning trees and trimming brush, herbicide applications for noxious weeds, filling depressions associated with the work, and obtaining disposal locations and disposing of debris.