



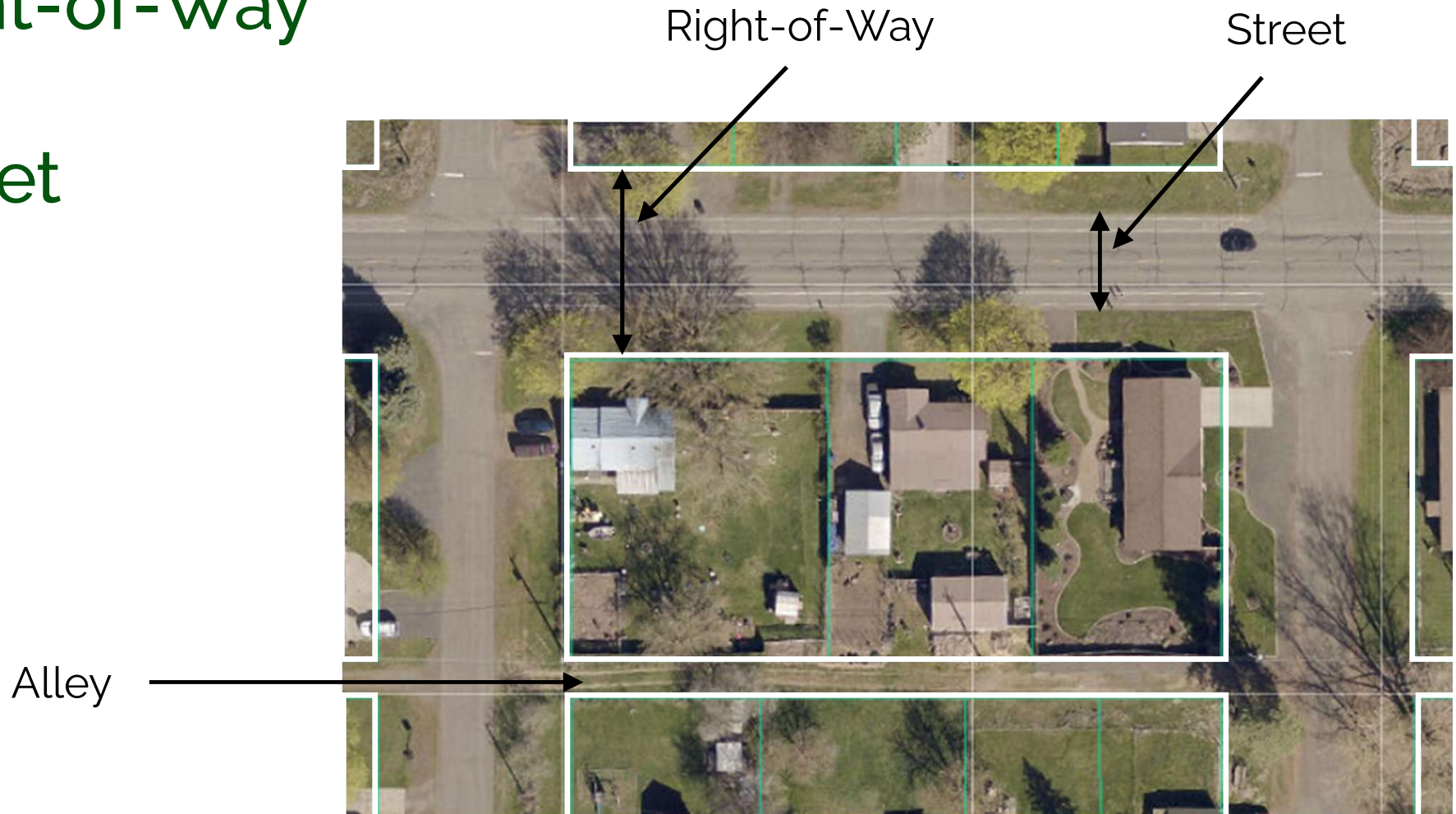
STREET VACATIONS

# What is a Street Vacation?

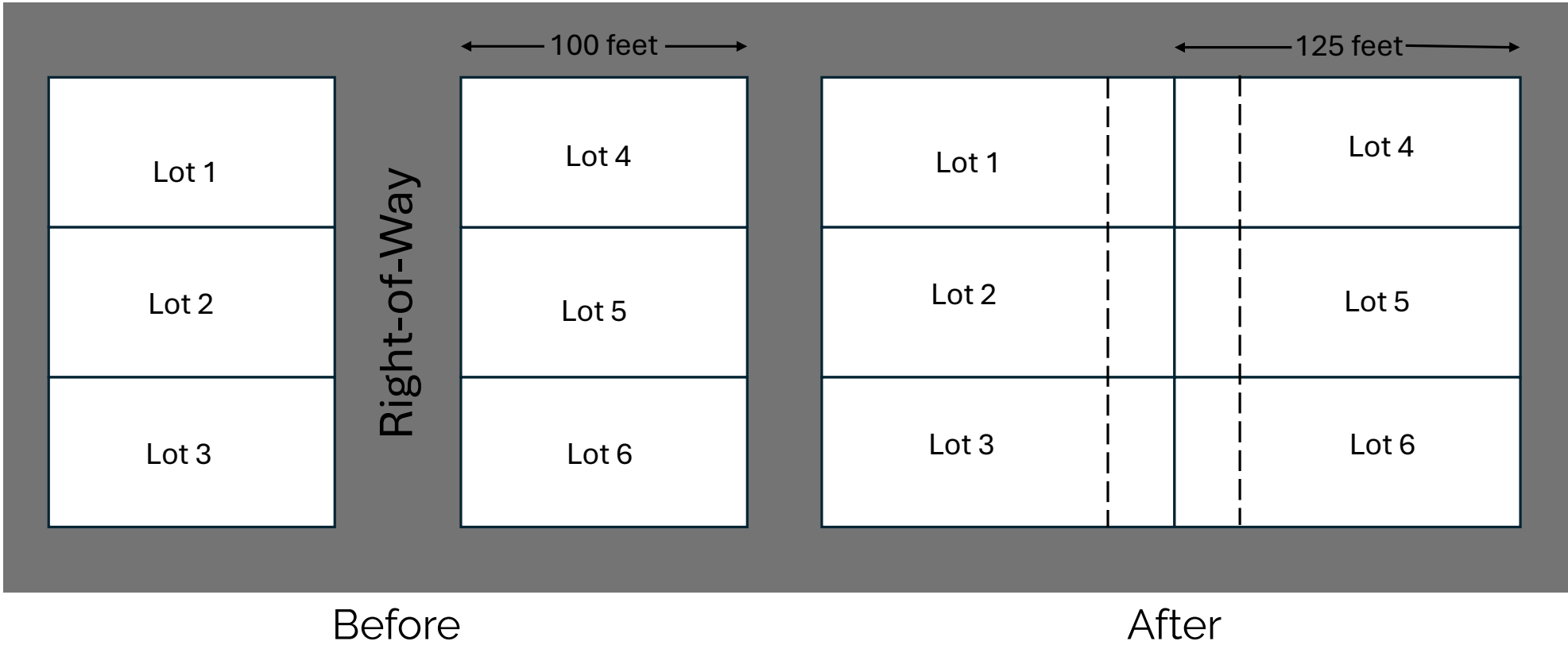
A street vacation is the formal legal process by which a city, county, or town relinquishes its public interest in a street, alley, or road (the right-of way).

The government terminates its easement for public travel, effectively closing the street or alley from public use.

# Right-of-Way vs Street

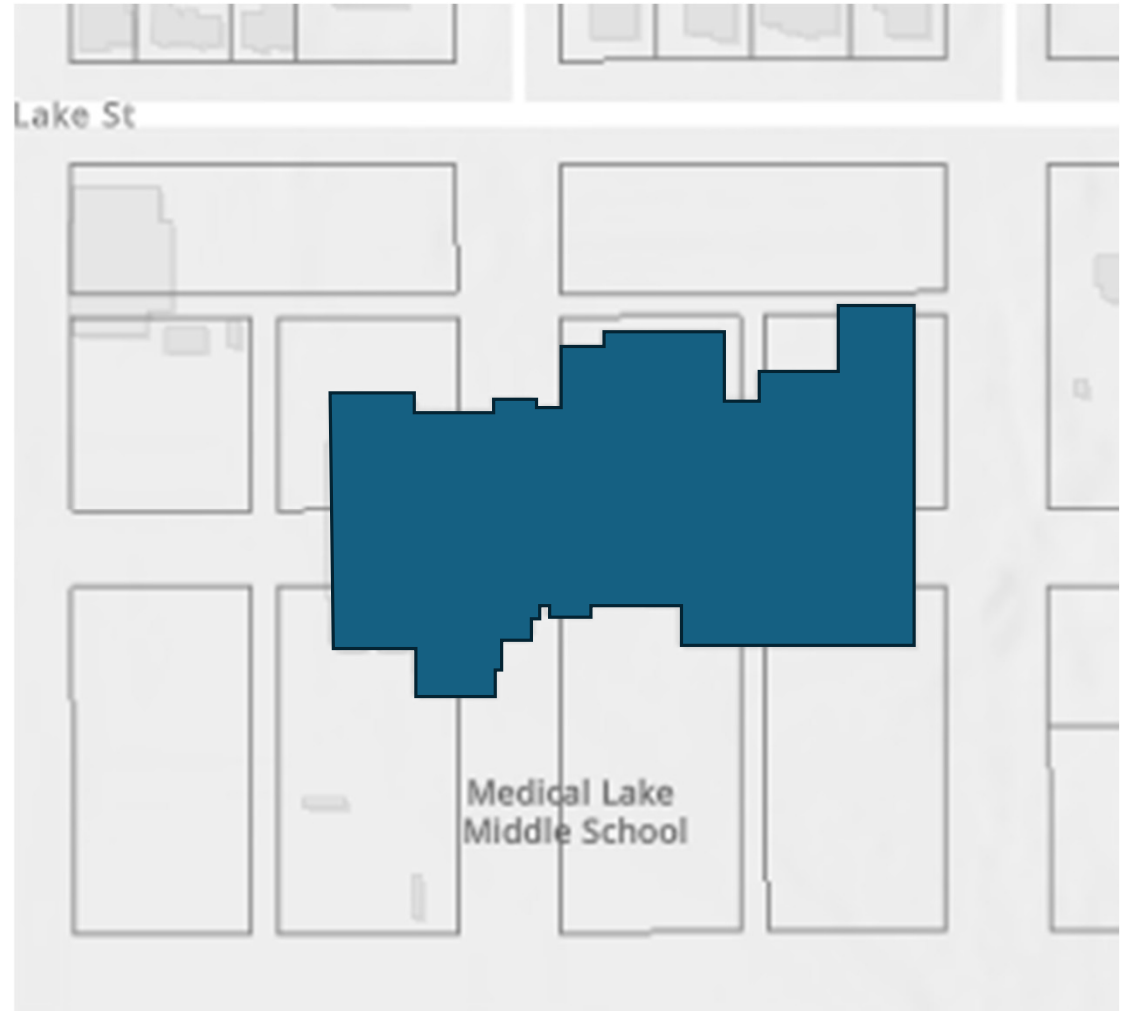
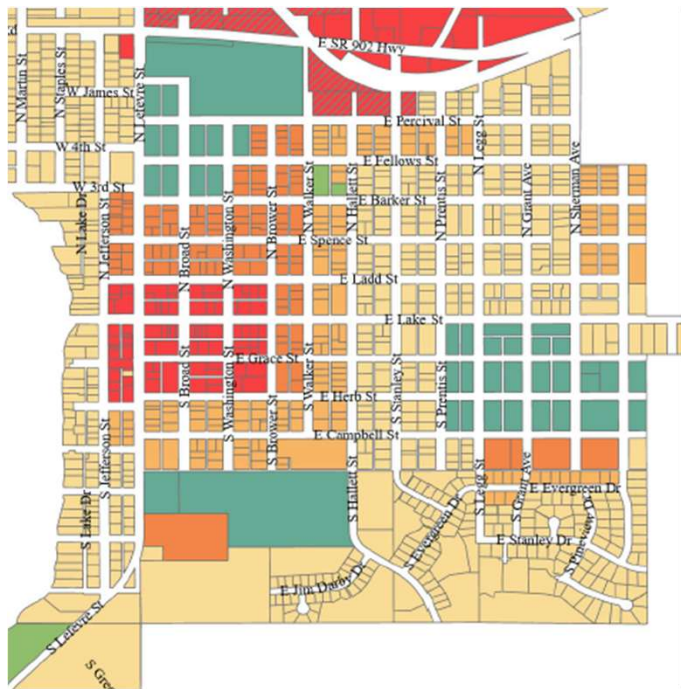


# Street Vacation (before and after)





# Rights-of-Way that should be vacated



## Current Code

Street Vacations are not addressed in the  
Medical Lake Municipal Code

RCW 35.79 outlines process

## RCW 35.79 – Vacation of Streets

Initiation – Petition by 2/3<sup>rds</sup> of the adjacent owners

City Council sets a date for a public hearing via resolution

Public notice in the newspaper and on site

Public hearing is held

City can require compensation

City can reserve easements

# What's Missing from State Law

Policy regarding best practices for the City

Criteria to evaluate a request

Policy regarding easements

Policy regarding compensation

## RCW 35.79.035

A city or town cannot vacate any street or alley abutting water unless one of the following conditions is met:

The vacation enables the city to acquire the property for:

- port development
- beach or water access
- boat moorage or launching sites
- park, recreational, public viewing, or educational purposes or other designated public uses