

COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19

Our Mission - To create desirable rural experiences

PW-4 Vegetation Maintenance/Brushing Policy

Department: Public Works

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

The County of St. Paul desires to engage in vegetation and tree removal to improve safety and allow for easier maintenance of County roads and County-owned property.

POLICY STATEMENTS:

1.0 Definitions

1.1 The following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) "Vegetation" means all plants and tree life, taken as a whole.

2.0 Guidelines for Brushing

2.1 The County will consider removing Vegetation from roadways, road rights-of-way, and County-owned property and will initiate maintenance activities as necessary in a manner consistent with environmental regulations.

2.2 County staff will inspect areas that are difficult to maintain and are known to have limited visibility due to an overabundance of Vegetation. Staff will then create a priority list based on the inspection.

2.3 Problem areas will be prioritized within divisions. Maintenance will be carried out division-by-division as to optimize the efficiency of the crews. The Director of Public Works or designee will determine where crews will be deployed based on priority and efficiency.

2.4 All Vegetation removal will be performed only after meeting environmental regulations. Maintenance priority will be based on budgetary, equipment, staffing, and per the discretion of the Director of Public Works or their designee(s).

2.5 The Director of Public Works or their designee(s) will update Council on maintenance activities during the monthly Public Works meeting.

2.6 If it is determined that more Vegetation is required to be removed due to a safety issue, and the Vegetation is on private land, Public Works will obtain the necessary easement prior to removal of any Vegetation on private land.

3.0 Guidelines for Private Roadside Vegetation Removal

- 3.1 If a landowner wants to clear Vegetation on their land and this positively affects the County's Right-of-Way (ROW) the work may be eligible for the ROW Brushing Compensation Program.
- 3.2 Landowners must contact the Agricultural Fieldman and Public Works designee prior to commencing any clearing of Vegetation to be eligible under this program.
- 3.3 If the area in question meets the requirements on the ROW Vegetation Removal Compensation Program, an ASB representative and a Public Works representative will inspect the proposed area.
- 3.4 The inspection team will determine what amount the County will pay per the Vegetation Removal Compensation Program. The level will be determined by the amount of brush, terrain encountered, and rocks and debris to be removed in order to complete the brushing.

Level 1 - \$500 – the removal of sparse brush, timber generally under 6 inches in diameter, with little encroachment and benefit to the County roadway

Level 2 - \$1,000 - the removal of sparse brush, timber generally under 12 inches in diameter, with moderate encroachment and benefit to the County roadway

Level 3 - \$1,500 - the removal of sparse brush, timber generally over 12 inches in diameter, with moderate encroachment and benefit to the County roadway

Level 4 - \$2,000 - the removal of dense brush, timber generally over 12 inches in diameter, with significant encroachment and benefit to the County roadway, or if considerable amounts of rock and debris are present

Level 5 - \$3,000 - the removal of dense brush, timber generally over 18 inches in diameter, significant encroachment and benefit to the County roadway, or if considerable amounts of rock and debris are present

Funding may not be approved if the road along which the brushing is proposed, is on the three-year construction plan.

As per Sections 7 and 10 of the Forests Act, a landowner may require a permit from Alberta Forestry.

- 3.5 In all cases, the landowner will confirm that they accept the terms and level of payment indicated by signing a Brushing Application. Any additional terms not discussed in this Policy will be clarified in the Application.
- 3.6 The applicant will be given two years to complete the agreed upon work.
- 3.7 The inspection team will inspect the area in the Brushing Application after work is said to be complete by the applicant. Payment will only be sent after a satisfactory final inspection.
- 3.8 Applications and scopes may be limited due to budget constraints.

3.9 Landowners are prohibited to perform any Vegetation control within the ROW or on County property except as per the Vegetation Removal Compensation Program.

4.0 Guidelines for the Spraying Program

4.1 The Agricultural Fieldman or designee will be responsible for the Spraying Program.

4.2 Application of Pesticides will follow all Provincial and Federal Legislation requirements.

4.3 The County will spray any municipal road allowance as deemed necessary for Vegetation control.

4.4 Maintenance of the municipal road allowance will permit the County to allow for over spraying onto private lands up to 3 feet in order to provide ongoing weed control for newly brushed right of ways.

4.5 Areas that have been recently maintained (brushed or mulched) will be sprayed for any regrowth in subsequent years.

4.6 No spray zones must be applied for on a yearly basis by landowners. This will be in accordance with the *Do Not Spray Policy*.

4.7 ROW's shall not be used as a non-pesticide buffer zone required for Organic Farming Operations.

Related Policies:

- Do Not Spray Policy

Council Approval: September 14, 2010
Amended: December 8, 2015
Amended: May 12, 2020
Amended: March 14, 2023