

Developed Road Allowance Brush Control Policy

C-4A.013

Section: 4.0 Infrastructure Services
- A. Roads

Authority: Council

**Administering
Department:** Infrastructure Services

Statement

The Municipal District of Bonnyville (M.D.) is the road authority responsible for the direction, control, and management of all municipal roadways within its boundaries. The control of trees and/or brush on developed road allowances is necessary for public safety and structural integrity as it relates to site distance requirements, snow removal, drainage maintenance, and other general roadside maintenance activities.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to ensure adequate control of the removal of trees and/or brush along developed road allowances for the purpose of:

- (a) reducing site line obstructions that may affect the travelling public;
- (b) facilitating proper maintenance of municipal roadways within the M.D.; and
- (c) improving the structural integrity of the road.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- (1) “Brush” means woody vegetation with a diameter of 10 centimetres and less;
- (2) “Brushing” means the mechanical or manual removal of trees and shrubs;
- (3) “Chief Administrative Officer” (CAO) means the Chief Administrative Officer of the M.D. appointed by Council, or their authorized delegate;
- (4) “Council” means the duly elected Council of the M.D.;
- (5) “Trees” means woody vegetation with a diameter of more than 10 centimetres.

Policy

- (1) The M.D. will establish a plan for road allowance brush control. This plan will be evaluated and updated as required, taking into consideration such factors as safety, cost and budget, ecological function, aesthetics, long-range road network upgrade plans, and legislative and regulatory requirements.
- (2) Trees and/or brush that create site line obstructions along developed road allowances within the M.D. will be controlled by the municipality within annual budget limitations.
- (3) The M.D. will schedule brushing annually based on a maintenance needs assessment, with the exception of areas that are deemed a priority by the CAO.

- (4) All landowners along scheduled brushing routes will be notified in writing prior to work commencing.
 - (a) Included with each notification will be a Property Brushing Request Form giving the landowners an opportunity to request additional brushing on their property for a fee, in accordance with the M.D. Master Rates Bylaw. The deadline for submitting this request will be specified in the notification letter.
 - (b) When access to, and use of, private property by the M.D. is seen as beneficial for the purpose brush control and clean-up, a Property Access Request Form shall be presented to the landowner. If access is denied, brushing and associated cleanup will not extend into the private property.
 - (c) If a landowner objects to the proposed brushing, they must contact the Infrastructure Services Department. The Infrastructure Services Department will then schedule a meeting with the landowner regarding the proposed brushing and their concerns. The final decision will be left to the CAO.
- (5) Priorities for brushing will be as follows:
 - (a) Unobstructed access for emergency vehicles (ambulance/police/fire/Peace Officers);
 - (b) Improvement of sightlines for roads, intersections, approaches and signage;
 - (c) Improvement of drainage of surface water from road surface;
 - (d) Improvement of accessibility for snow clearing equipment;
 - (e) Removal of brush and trees that are likely to impede travel or cause damage to vehicles or equipment;
 - (f) Mitigation of snow drifting;
 - (g) Mitigation of icing conditions caused by tree shading across roadways;
 - (h) Reduction in incidence of vehicle-animal impacts;
 - (i) Reduction of deadfall on roads; and
 - (j) Soft roads and low-lying areas during winter season.
- (6) If requested by the landowner, ornamental brush and/or trees may, at the discretion of the CAO, be left in the municipal road allowance within 30 meters of the access to, or directly in front of, a residence providing all priorities listed in Section (5) are maintained.
- (7) Landowners clearing trees or brush on their own land that wish to clear into the adjacent road allowance may apply to enter into an agreement with the M.D. by completing a Roadside Backsloping Application and submitting it to the Infrastructure Services Department.
 - (a) The application must be received and approved by the Infrastructure Services Department prior to any of the work commencing on road allowance.
 - (b) The application may not be approved if the road along which the backsloping is proposed is already scheduled to be completed by the M.D. within the next two (2) years.
 - (c) Once the brushing and backsloping is completed the Infrastructure Services Department will schedule a post-inspection.



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- (8) No compensation or other amount will be payable by the M.D. for brush removal from a road allowance except as specifically provided for in written agreement between the M.D. and a landowner.

Policy Review

Within five (5) years from date adopted / amended / reviewed.

For administrative use only:

Previous Policy Number: (prior to July 24, 2019)	
Related Documentation: (plans, bylaws, policies, procedures, etc.)	Form: Property Brushing Request Form Form: Property Access Request Form Application: Roadside Backsloping Application

Date Adopted: June 27, 2023

Resolution No: 23.373

Date Amended₍₀₁₎:

Resolution No: