



## ROAD ALLOWANCE BRUSHING POLICY

### **PURPOSE**

To establish the criteria by which the Municipality will establish and maintain a road allowance brushing procedures. The Municipality believes that road allowances must be freely accessible for the general public to use, meaning the road allowance cannot be fenced off or gated off. The Municipality recognizes the need to remove trees on road allowances to accommodate public safety, road maintenance, and the movement of vehicles and equipment. Subject to budget allocation, the RM will maintain brushing procedures that considers long-term transportation needs as well as smaller emergent projects that can be completed relatively quickly.

Definitions Undeveloped Road Allowance means that there is no existing road grade or ditching that was constructed at some point within the road allowance. A trail over natural ground would be considered undeveloped.

### **PROCEDURE**

Generally brushing will occur in the off-season and will normally run from September to March, depending on favorable weather.

Brushing projects may be undertaken at any time of year if the equipment and staff are available, subject to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* or any other municipal acts and policies.

### **PRIORITIES**

Priorities for the brushing are to be based on the greatest need and of the most benefit using the following criteria:

- a. Safety - brushing at intersections, curves, approaches, access points and any other locations within the road allowance deemed a hazard to the traveling public.
- b. Road maintenance concerns.
- c. Insufficient areas for snow windrows on roadsides (areas that have snow drifting problems).
- d. Accessibility for agricultural equipment. Brushing may be done on road allowances to allow for the passage of larger/wider farm implements, requests must be submitted to council for approval.
- e. Brushing will only be performed on an undeveloped road allowance after approval by council upon the completion of an assessment.
- f. The Landowner must sign a Hold Harmless Agreement with the municipality if necessary.
- g. Projects currently on the brushing schedule will typically be given higher priority and completed before any new projects.

- h. When developing the brushing schedule, the RM will endeavor to coordinate projects to minimize the costs of moving equipment.
- i. Efforts will be made to provide chemical spraying to prevent regrowth of areas that have been brushed out to maintain and improve sightlines at intersections and railway crossings.
- j. Council may approve ratepayers' requests to independently perform or contract brushing on road allowances upon written request.

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