



# TREES AND BRUSH WITHIN THE ROAD ALLOWANCE POLICY

Policy Number:	OP03
Administered By:	Director of Operations
Approved By:	Chief Administrative Officer
Effective Date:	April 12, 2020 R.122.2020

## Purpose:

To guide decisions of Town staff in the maintenance of vegetation located within or adjacent to the road allowance.

## Scope:

The Town has a responsibility to maintain its publicly travelled right-of-way and road allowances to be in a safe condition and clear of obstructions to site lines, maintain clearances for large vehicles and maintenance equipment, access for snow clearing operations and snow storage areas.

## Responsibilities:

The Public Works Foreman is responsible to ensure brushing is completed as per this policy and all applicable safety regulations.

## Definitions:

Brush: refers to vegetation dominated by shrubs (i.e. low, woody plants).

Tree: refers to a woody perennial plant, typically having a single stem or trunk growing to a considerable height and bearing lateral branches at some distance from the ground.

## Policy:

The practice of tree trimming and brushing within the Town shall be handled in a consistent manner that also considers the unique, local and environmental concerns, and character of local roads. The Town is committed to practices that prioritize public safety. This policy applies to all public roads under the direction, control and management of the Town, unless a specific road is deemed to be exempt by a resolution of Council.

## Procedure:

### Tree Trimming and Brushing

Vegetation may be trimmed along the road allowance if:

- 1) The branches are obstructing the visibility of an intersection, or road sign;
- 2) The vegetation appears to have dead sections, however does not meet the requirements for removal;
- 3) The tree branches shade a portion of the road causing ice to form on the road; and/or
- 4) Branches overhang onto sidewalks maintained by the Town, so to not interfere with pedestrian traffic or maintenance equipment.

### Vegetation Removal

Vegetation may be removed from the road allowance if:

- 1) The vegetation has been deemed completely dead;
- 2) The vegetation is deemed a pedestrian or motorist safety concern by the Public Works Foreman; and/or
- 3) The removal is required for the purposes of road widening or maintenance.
- 4) A landowner may request for vegetation located on Town property to be removed. However, removal shall be at the discretion of the Public Works Foreman and the landowner is required to submit in writing to the Town providing justification for the request. Consideration will be made for all requests, however only removals adhering to this policy will be granted.

### Tree Stump Removal

The Town may remove or grind tree stumps if any portion of the stump is located within the road allowance if:

- 1) The tree was removed by the Town, and
- 2) The stump is deemed by the Public Works Foreman to interfere with an adjacent sidewalk or municipal utility, and
- 3) In the case where a stump is located in part on private property, the adjacent property owner has issued consent authorizing the work.

### **Further Information:**

For further information regarding this Policy, please contact the department identified in the title bar under Administered By.



CAO – Town of Fort Macleod