

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF BROKENHEAD POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL		POLICY NO: PUB-109
REFERENCE: PUBLIC WORKS	ADOPTED BY: Res. No. 081-20	Page 1 of 2
	Date: February 25, 2020	
TITLE: BRUSHING POLICY		DATE LAST REVIEWED BY MGMT: Jan 30/2020

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define the responsibilities and limitations of the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead Brush Cutting (Brushing), and the response to concerns. All policies and procedures noted must be in accordance with *The Municipal Act* and all other government regulations.

2. Definitions

Brushing - the cutting, trimming and/or removal of vegetation (trees, shrubs, bush) from an area by means of small (ie: chainsaw) or heavy equipment (ie: excavator).

Municipal Property – Any property owned by the Rural Municipality of Brokenhead (municipal right-of-ways, drains, parks, vacant land, etc.)

3. Policy

The Municipality considers Brushing an important part of road/right-of-way maintenance and ensuring safety of public traffic.

The Municipality has the authority to conduct Brushing on any property under its ownership. The Municipality does not need to consult taxpayers prior to Brushing and taxpayers cannot object to the Brushing.

The Municipality will conduct Brushing on any Municipal Property if deemed necessary or desirable by Council for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- To reduce vegetation encroaching within the road driving area
- To improve sightlines at intersections, crossings and approaches
- To remove vegetation coverage to allow sun and air to dry the road
- To reduce vegetation that holds snow and drifts in the winter
- To open ditches and improve drainage

The Municipality is not responsible for any issues with vegetation on private property and taxpayers will be responsible for any private Brushing works.

4. Procedure

1. Taxpayers may submit requests for the Municipality to conduct Brushing on Municipal Property to the Public Works Department (Public Works).
2. Public Works will review taxpayer requests and determine all other areas of Municipal Property that require Brushing. Public Works will then prioritize and schedule all necessary Brushing based on the reasons stated in this policy.
3. Public Works will conduct Brushing with small and large equipment at all times of the year. Some work may be delayed for another season dependent on the weather and grown vegetation.
4. Dependent on the severity issues and Brushing completed, Public Works may deem it necessary to conduct additional work in areas to ensure they are maintained long-term. This additional work may include:
 - a. Removal of all brushed debris (branches, chips, etc.) and all stumps/ root systems.
 - b. Spraying/applying chemicals (to deter rapid growth) one year after the initial Brushing. (Chemical application will be in accordance with all governmental regulations)