

P O L I C Y



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Policy Title <b>BRUSHING PROGRAM</b>	Date: <b>March 12, 2020</b>	Resolution No. <b>C/135/20</b>

**Policy Statement**

Lacombe County recognizes the need to remove trees and other vegetation on road allowances and adjacent properties to accommodate public safety, road maintenance, road construction and movement of vehicles and equipment. Subject to budget allocations Lacombe County will establish and maintain a brushing program that takes into consideration long-term transportations needs as well as smaller emergent projects that can be completed in a relatively short time period.

**Regulation**

**Brushing Program**

1. Lacombe County will maintain a two-year listing of brushing projects in accordance with the criteria outlined in this policy.
2. The annual brushing program will normally be comprised of 95% of projects that are classified as long-term transportation needs and 5% emergent projects.
3. Brushing projects are defined as areas that will normally utilize a crawler tractor, excavator and a full crew, have a minimum length of 800 meters and would require a minimum of one week of uninterrupted brushing to complete. Secondly, the program can include selective brushing of small areas including intersections and rail line crossings.
4. Generally the brushing will occur in the off season for the construction crew and normally run from December to March, depending on favorable weather. Brushing projects may be undertaken at any time of year if the equipment and crews are available due to delays on other maintenance or construction projects.
5. Priorities for the two-year brushing program are to be based on the greatest need and most benefit using the following criteria:
  - a) Public safety
  - b) Compliance with road construction program
  - c) Road maintenance concerns
  - d) Reserve maintenance requirements
  - e) Cost of brushing project
  - f) Traffic volumes and type of traffic
  - g) General condition of existing road
  - h) Number of benefiting residents – agreement from adjacent landowners
  - i) Facilitating the movement of equipment

6. Smaller projects designed to improve sightlines at intersections and rail line crossings will also be undertaken using the appropriate equipment and manpower.
7. Council will be presented with the brushing program list for information once it is prepared.
8. The County Manager or designate, in consultation with Councilors, ratepayers, and staff shall prepare a listing of proposed brushing projects and the list shall be completed yearly.
9. Generally, brushing on private land will not be undertaken, but if deemed appropriate, the written approval of the landowner and the County Manager or designate is required.
10. The County Manager or designate will review the proposed projects, complete an evaluation based on the above criteria and finalize the schedule.
11. Projects that are currently on the brushing schedule will normally be given a higher priority and completed prior to any new projects.
12. When developing the brushing program schedule the County Manager or designate will endeavor to coordinate projects so as to minimize the costs of moving equipment. Where possible the minimum length of long-term brushing projects will be 800 meters.
13. Disposal of the brush will be accomplished using the best environmental practices available. Currently recognized disposal methods are:
  - a) Burning of piles is acceptable where the tree dimensions or quantity of trees is too large for the chipper to handle in a financially viable manner.
  - b) Using a wood chipper is acceptable where it is financially viable
  - c) Chain saws and cutting the wood in appropriate lengths for County use is another acceptable method of disposal
14. County Manager or designate may allow ratepayers access to wood piles if it deemed appropriate for the site and the County has no specific use for the wood.
15. Where possible, efforts will be made to coordinate with the CountyCommunity Services department to provide chemical spraying to prevent re-growth of areas that have been brushed out to improve sightlines at intersections and rail line crossings
16. The County will make every reasonable attempt to remove tree stumps when the equipment is available and the weather is conducive to the work.
17. The County will make every reasonable attempt to remove residue of burn piles when the equipment is available and the weather is conducive to that type of work with a goal of having the project cleaned up within one year of the pile being burned.
18. The County Manager or designate may allow ratepayers to undertake selective brushing on the road allowance if the proposal is deemed to be of value to the general public and the site is left

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in a condition acceptable to the County. If approved, the landowner shall enter into an agreement with the County.

Approved: February 23, 2012  
Revised: February 28, 2019      June 27, 2013