



POLICY NAME:	Vegetation Management and Roadside Cleanup
Effective Date:	November 6, 2025
Policies Rescinded:	Policies 3216, 3217, 3228, 6309, 6312
Document Owner:	Infrastructure Services
Required Review Date:	November 2029
References:	Procedure

PURPOSE

To establish a standardized approach to managing vegetation and supporting community-led cleanup efforts that enhances public safety (including sightline visibility), improves roadway aesthetics, controls environmental impacts, and fosters civic pride through collaboration with local volunteer groups.

POLICY STATEMENT

Woodlands County is committed to proactive and environmentally responsible vegetation management, including haying, spraying, brushing and seeding, to reduce erosion, improve visibility, control weed growth, and promote consistent maintenance practices. The County also values community involvement and provides support for volunteer groups who participate in annual roadside cleanup initiatives.

DEFINITIONS

None

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY

Area Supervisors

- Plan and deliver brushing activities along County-managed roads, including roads adjacent to residential, industrial, and recreational areas.
- Arrange for garbage pickup for the roadside cleanup.
- Communicate with property owners where applicable, particularly when brushing occurs near residences.

Administrative Assistant, Infrastructure Services

- Assign cleanup routes, provide training to participating volunteer groups, and ensure that all environmental regulations and safety protocols are followed.
- Plan and deliver cleanup activities along County-managed roads.



Manager, Agriculture Services

- Enter into Haying Agreements.
- Enter into No Spray Agreements.
- Oversee roadside spraying and spraying on private land.
- Oversee grass seeding and other vegetation control measures.

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

- Approve and oversee implementation of operational procedures that support this policy.
- Ensure periodic policy review and assign responsibility for updates.

Volunteer Groups

- Through their managing supervisor, participate in mandatory training and comply with County direction during roadside cleanup activities.

GUIDELINES

1. Brushing

1. Trees taller than 2 metres located directly in front of a residence will not be removed without first notifying the property owner.
2. Property owner’s expressed consent is not needed for vegetation removal within county road right-of-way or allowance.
3. All vegetation located on the shoulder slope and within the ditch bottom will be removed regardless of size.
4. Brush under 2 metres will be controlled using mechanical and/or spot spraying means. Brush over 2 metres will be controlled using mechanical means only.
5. All chemical applications must comply with Alberta Environment permit conditions and the Industrial Vegetation Management Association of Alberta’s best practices.

2. Grass Seeding

1. Disturbed roadside areas resulting from road construction or maintenance will be seeded by the County.
2. The standard grass seed mixture shall be determined by Manager, Agriculture Services.
3. Seeding rates and fertilizer usage shall be determined by Manager, Agriculture Services.
4. In areas prone to erosion, wood waste sludge may be used instead of fertilizer.
5. Seeding will occur during appropriate seasonal windows (e.g., spring or fall) to ensure growth and soil stabilization.

3. Roadside Cleanup

1. The County supports an annual roadside cleanup campaign in collaboration with local volunteer groups on County-managed roads and sites.
2. Cleanup activities typically occur on the first or second Saturdays in May or on alternative dates scheduled by the County.
3. Volunteer groups’ managing supervisors must attend mandatory safety and orientation sessions provided by Infrastructure Services.
4. Cleanup targets are determined by the County, prioritizing hard-surfaced roads.

5. Cleanup assignments are assigned by the County based on number of registrations, group sizes, and receipt order of registration forms.
6. Volunteers working on assigned County roads and sites are covered under the County's general liability insurance for the duration of the cleanup.
7. The County will provide \$100 per kilometre of roadway cleaned (both sides of the roadway) to participating volunteer groups for approved cleanup efforts. For Schuman Lake, the County will provide \$800 flat rate for the site to participating volunteer groups for approved cleanup efforts.
8. Signs, safety supplies and garbage bag pickups will be provided by the County.

4. Roadside Spraying Guidelines

1. The County shall contain weed growth on local roadsides by spraying and/or mechanical means on a continuous basis at the discretion of the Manager, Agriculture Services.
2. Annual program announcements shall be publicly advertised to provide private property owners and lease holders the opportunity to register under the *No Spray Agreement* as administered by the Manager, Agriculture Services.
3. Chemical applications must adhere to Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act.
4. The County may assist landowners by providing advice on procedures for weed control with respect to the prevention of the spread of weeds on private land.
5. The County may perform prohibited noxious and noxious weed control on private land when requested by the owner/occupant:
 - a. The owner/occupant must sign the Permission to Enter Upon Lands to Control Vegetation prior to any work being done.
 - b. Prohibited noxious and noxious weed control will be limited to no more than two (2) areas along fence lines, waste areas, and spot applications in pastures, hay and crop land whereby no individual spot is larger than 5 metres in diameter.
 - c. Fees will be levied as per the County's Fee and Charges Bylaw.
 - d. Prohibited noxious and noxious weed control on the County road allowances will take priority over prohibited noxious and weed control on private land.
 - e. The Manager, Agriculture Services will maintain a list of local contract sprayers for distribution to owners/occupants upon request to assist with effective weed control.

5. No Spray Agreement

1. The Manager, Agriculture Services will provide landholders who wish to maintain road rights-of-way adjacent to their property with a *No Spray Agreement*.
2. Landholders must obtain the required signs and complete the *No Spray Agreement* at one of County offices in their initial year of participation. Signs will be provided at no cost.
3. The landholder shall be responsible for the proper placement and visibility of all *No Spray* signs as outlined in the the agreement, as well as for the repair and replacement of damaged or missing signs.



4. The *No Spray Agreement* offers an opportunity to opt out of herbicide application adjacent to the landholder's properties, subject to the terms and conditions of the Agreement.
5. Woodlands County spray program is intended to reduce the spread of weeds and brush, reduce snow trap problems, aid visibility and reduce the spread of diseases along County roads. Therefore the "No Spray" participant is responsible for maintaining their No Spray area free of weeds and brush. Maintenance must be completed before August 1st of each year.
6. The County is required to enforce the Alberta Weed Control Act, which states that all landowners or occupants are responsible for maintenance of their property, including the areas identified in the Agreement.
7. If no attempt has been made to control weeds or brush in the area specified by the Agreement, which is August 1st, the previously signed Agreement will be cancelled.
8. Upon cancellation of the Agreement a letter will be sent to the Landowner indicating that the Agreement has been cancelled and the County's intent to proceed with weed and/or brush control as deemed necessary.

6. Haying in Road Right-of-Way

1. The County may enter into an agreement with landowners who wish to cut grass for feed in County road rights-of-way.
2. The agreement applies to the landowners' adjacent land only (individual's land owned or leased from the crown).
3. The issuance of an agreement is upon approval of the Manager, Agriculture Services.

7. Roadside Mowing

1. The County will perform roadside mowing to maintain an aesthetically pleasing roadside as well as supporting:
 - Weed control
 - Elimination of sightline issues
 - Reduce animal vehicle collisions
 - Snow drift prevention
2. All developed road Right-of-Ways in Woodlands County will be mowed annually.
3. Level of Service:
 - Full Cut (2 passes minimum): Applied to 1/3 of road Right-of-Ways.
 - Shoulder Cut (minimum 4.5 m / 15 ft width): Applied to the remaining 2/3.

Original Signed

CAO Signature

END OF DOCUMENT



Version Control

This section tracks all revisions to the policy. Administrative changes made under CAO authority must not alter the original intent of the policy and are logged accordingly. Council-approved revisions are noted with corresponding resolution numbers.

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Approved by</i>	<i>Type of Change</i>	<i>Summary of Change</i>	<i>Reference</i>
1.0	November 6, 2025	Council	New	Rescind old policies and integrate into one policy	Res.#
1.1					