



COUNTY OF ST. PAUL NO. 19

BALANCING RURAL HERITAGE WITH A DIVERSE ECONOMY

POLICY OBJECTIVE:

The County of St. Paul desires to engage in brush and tree removal to improve safety and allow for easier maintenance of **developed** County roads and County-owned property.

POLICY STATEMENT:

A) GUIDELINES:

- 1) The County will **consider removing** trees and brush from roadsides, rights-of-way, and County-owned property **and will initiate brushing activities** as necessary in a manner consistent with environmental regulations.
- 2) County staff will inspect areas that are difficult to maintain and are known to have limited visibility due to an overabundance of brush and/or tree growth. Staff will then create a priority list based on the inspection. County crews will be deployed to correct any deficiencies and make the area safe and maintainable.
- 3) Problem areas will be prioritized within divisions. Corrections will be carried out division-by-division as to optimize the efficiency of the crews. The **Agricultural Fieldman or their designee in conjunction with the Superintendent of Public Works** will determine where brushing crews will be deployed based on priority and efficiency.
- 4) Brush and tree removal will cease only when, the hazard is removed, the ability for maintenance is improved or private property lines have been reached. If it is determined that more brush is required to be removed due to a safety issue, and the brush is on private land, Public Works must obtain the necessary easement prior to removal of any brush on private land.

- 5) All brush and tree removal will be performed based on budgetary, equipment, staffing, weather constraints, and at the discretion of the **Agricultural Fieldman and Superintendent of Public Works** or their designees.

B) OPTIONS:

- 1) If a landowner wishes to carry out the brush and tree removal on their own, the County will pay a rate per 0.5 miles to the landowner in accordance with ASB-82 Backsloping Assistance Policy and the County Fee Schedule Bylaw.
- 2) If the landowner agrees to sell the County five (5) metres of land adjacent to the County right-of-way, the County will carry out brushing free of charge. The County will also be responsible for surveying and registration costs associated with the land transfer. All brushed material will be piled on the landowner's land and/or burnt at the site. The landowner will be responsible for erecting their own fencing if they desire to do so.
- 3) In all cases, the landowner will confirm that they accept the terms and level of payment indicated by signing an agreement. Any additional terms not discussed in this Policy will be clarified in the Agreement.

