

Township of Nipissing Corporate Policy	Approved by Council: June 24, 2025
Policy No.: 2025-02-PW	Road Side Brushing Procedure

PURPOSE:

The Township has a responsibility to maintain its publicly travelled roadways and roadside allowances in a safe condition for all potential users. This requires that its municipal roadways and intersections are cleared of obstructions and fouling so as to provide the following benefits:

1. Site Lines are improved and adequate for motorists and pedestrians.
2. Adequate overhead clearances are provided for larger vehicles including school buses, municipal equipment and emergency response apparatus.
3. Roadside clearances are adequate for road maintenance equipment and use such as snow storage and melting snow and rain events.
4. Providing adequate sunlight and air circulation to improve winter road maintenance and improve the lifespan and operation of the road bed.

Council and Staff acknowledge the sensitive nature of the public in regards to some brush removal methods (mechanical brush-cutter) and further acknowledges that it may look unsightly immediately after a brushing program. Notwithstanding the purpose of the program, the impacted areas naturally and quickly regenerate.

Council and Staff are aware of the need to balance the responsibility to provide safe roads and clear site lines while also maintaining control of the natural vegetation within the road allowances, and still to the greatest extent possible enhance the natural beauty of the area. The Public Works department will endeavor to maintain and enhance the road tree stock and associated canopy for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

INTENT:

It is the intent of this Procedure to address tree removal, brush trimming and to develop a brushing program to clear municipal road allowances of brush, shrubs, small trees, large trees and overhanging tree canopy in circumstances where the identified growth could create eminent danger to the traveling public.

The road side brushing program is also intended to identify areas of heavy vegetative growth, dead growth and overhanging limbs that are endangering the travelling public and flow of all traffic during significant snow events where the weight of snow can cause branches or trees to fall onto the road way or, as in recent years, significant weather events such as “micro bursts” and wind events, where branches, trees and debris are at risk of falling. This program will enhance the safety of the travelling public, municipal staff and also provide an efficient, forward-thinking management of municipal resources and budget funds for this purpose.

Creating a procedure with an anticipated five to eight year brushing cycle of Township roadways, will provide the residents a guideline of when to anticipate the brushing operations in their area and open communication between the Township and residents.

The brushing program is generally performed during late fall and early spring. Brushing may also be performed during other times of the year depending on road construction projects, safety concerns or available resources. The average goal of the brushing program is 20 km per lane (both sides of road) resulting in approximately 40 km of roadway per year, providing an approximate 5 to 8 year rotation. This is approximate and may be changed depending on shifting priorities.

Generally, the Township owns a road allowance along municipal roads that extends 33 feet from the centre line of the road on each side. This area provides space for ditching, road maintenance and brushing operations.

With reference to the reasoning and intent, Council hereby establishes a tree and brushing program procedure as follows:

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM

1. The Operations Superintendent or designate shall be responsible for the determination of the area(s) to be brushed each year in the annual work plan.
2. The Operations Superintendent or designate shall have the responsibility of determining any trees (large) that may be removed due to condition the tree or health and safety reasons. Only trees on Township road allowance may be removed; however, any limbs hanging over municipal roadways or road sides that are an eminent danger to the travelling public will be removed and the owner of the land containing the tree will be consulted. Consultation will take place in advance of the removal where time and safety permits. The owner may be consulted after it has been removed if it is an eminent need.
3. The Operations Superintendent or designate is authorized to trim or caused to be trimmed, all trees on private property, the branches of which extend over Township roadways. Where this may cause a significant hardship to the private property owner's tree, the owner will be consulted and provided the opportunity to remove the tree with their own resources.
4. A schedule of the anticipated areas of brushing operations to be performed uses the Quarried Granite Application Schedule, attached as "Appendix A", having ditching and brushing of the areas completed the year prior to granite application. This plan will be followed to the best of the Public Works Department's ability. There may be years where an area is moved to different schedule due to crew resources, rapid growth, construction projects, and/or identified public hazards.

REMOVAL POLICY

1. Municipal road allowances, when deemed a priority for maintenance, shall be cleared of scrub brush up to a diameter of approximately 8 inches (20 centimetres) with a mechanical brush-cutter or by Township Staff with chainsaws and equipment.
2. Brush and trees larger than approximately 8 inches (20 centimetres) in diameter will be removed, at the discretion of the Operations Superintendent or designate, by one of the following methods:
 - a. Township work crews with chainsaws and equipment; or
 - b. Contracted arborist or tree removal service.
3. Dangerous overhead tree limbs and tree canopy encroaching the travelled road surface or shoulder areas that are within:
 - a. 12.5 feet (4 metres) of the road edge;
 - b. 20.0 feet (6.4 metres) above the road surface shall be removed or trimmed, at the discretion of the Operations Superintendent or designate by a contracted arborist or tree cutting service.
4. Debris created by the mechanical brush-cutter clearing method will be managed as follows:
 - a. Wood chips, small branches and leaves will remain in the ditch and on the road side for natural decomposition and destruction. This provides nutrients to the soil and is the best environmental method.
 - b. Trees that are cut may remain laid in the ditch line or on the road allowance for up to 2 weeks after being cut. These are placed this way to allow for clearance of service lines such as Hydro and Bell and allow for easy access of Public Works Staff for removal. These will be cut using chainsaws or equipment, determined by the size of the tree to be removed. Large branches and cut wood will be removed or chipped by Public Works Staff.
 - c. Small branches, leaves, wood chips and small debris will not be removed from the road side or road surface. Only large pieces causing a potential harm to the travelling public or private property owners will be removed.
 - d. Public are not permitted to remove trees or brush from Township owned road allowances by cutting or brushing operations. The only exception to this provision is for those who have followed Use of a Township Owned Unopened Road Allowance policy and a By-Law for that agreement is in place. Members of the Public are welcome to harvest the cut trees and brush from the roadside during brushing operations (once the equipment has been removed from the location). This is permitted on a “first come, first served basis”. If the trees and brush remain on the roadside for a time period extending past two weeks, the Township will have the remaining wood and debris removed.
 - e. Where a private property owner has requested the removal of a healthy tree for the purposes of an entrance or building project, or the removal is requested by a utility such as Hydro or Bell, the Operations Superintendent or designate shall inspect the tree for removal and determine if it can be safely removed by Township staff or will require a contracted arborist or tree removal service. All costs will be the responsibility of the private property owner and a quote for the service will be provided. At all times, the Operations Superintendent or

designate will have the responsibility of approving the removal if required, and engaging the proper services for removal.

REMOVAL METHODS

- A) Trees not larger than 8 inches in diameter (20 centimetres) and brush removals – using a Township Public Works crew with chainsaw or proper equipment including a mechanical brush cutter. For trees larger than that size, the Operation Superintendent or designate will determine the appropriate removal method for safety and efficiency.
- B) Overhead and larger tree canopy removals using Township Public Works Crew or a contracted arborist or tree removal service, as required.
- C) Tree and brush removals where the required removals are interfering with or in conflict with overhead or fallen utility wires, such as Hydro or Bell, will be dealt with by the individual company or only after the wires have been removed by the company.

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

No member of the Public shall damage, cut, transplant any tree, attach any rope, wire, nails, advertising signage or other contrivance to any tree on Township property.

MILKWEED TRANSPLANTATION

Each year the Township receives concerns regarding the naturally occurring Milkweed plants along roadsides and the use of these plants by Monarch Butterflies. The Township encourages anyone wishing to transplant milkweed plants located along Township owned road allowances to their own properties for the continued growth and safety of these plants.

Road side cutting operations are a contracted service whereby a mower attachment on a piece of equipment is used to cut back all Township owned road allowances. This operation does not allow for the protection of the Milkweed plant growing along road allowances.

COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES

Questions regarding the brushing activities shall be forwarded to the Operations Superintendent for review and response. Photographs of all areas will be taken by Public Works crews prior to the brushing operations to allow for a review of all changes.

POLICY REVIEW

This Policy shall be reviewed every term of Council.

QUARRIED GRANITE APPLICATION SCHEDULE
Most RUNS on an 8 year
cycle.

Stockpile Runs

ROAD	KM
Aspen Lane	0.136
Barton Lake Road	0.69
Bella Hill Road	0.405
Blake Street	0.104
Busch's Mill Road	0.346
Byer's Road	0.43
Front Street	0.377
Maple Ridge Road	0.154
Simpson Hill Road	0.662
Storie's Road	0.365
Sun Valley Way	0.2
TOTAL	3.869

Using Stockpile gravel, Township Trucks and Staff - **as required.**

RUN A

ROAD	KM
Barber Valley	1.3
Pilgers	8.7
Barrett	6.2
Rye - Hwy 534 to Booth	4.7
Booth	0.7
Rye Road to Clark's	0.8
Old Nipissing Road North	0.3
Old Nipissing Road South	0.3
Settler's Road	1.0
TOTAL	24

Last Done: 2023
Next: 2031

Schedule B

Township of Nipissing
Asset Management Plan

Schedule A
Brushing Procedure

RUN B

<i>ROAD</i>	<i>KM</i>
Black Creek Road North	4.2
Black Creek Road South	1.2
Lamb's Road	0.9
Ponderosa Road West	2.3
Ponderosa Road East	2.3
Butterfield Road	1.9
Lingenfelter Road	1.7
Sprucedale Road	0.9
Granite Hill Road	3.0
TOTAL	18.4

Last Done: 2025

Next: 2033

RUN C

<i>ROAD</i>	<i>KM</i>
Hazelglen Road	2.2
Armstrong Road	1.2
Hamilton Farm Road	0.5
Power Plant Road	3.3
South River Road	3.9
Dowdall Road	1.1
Stillar Side Road	4.4
Hemlock Road	0.4
Chapman's Landing Road	1.5
Culham Road	1.1
TOTAL	19.6

Last Done: 2020

Next: 2027

RUN D

ROAD	KM
Hart Road	2.0
Stone Cutter Road	2.0
Promised Land Road	0.2
Lake Nipissing Road	2.0
King's Road	4.5
Green Acres Road	3.7
McQuaby Lake Road	0.3
Niagara Road	1.3
Ski Hill Road	2.0
Mountain View Road	0.4
TOTAL	18.4

Last Done: 2021

Next: 2029

RUN E

ROAD	KM	Tonnes Required
Alsace Road		10,500
Wolfe Lake Road		5,500
TOTAL	0.0	16,000