

Resolution Creating a Trimming and Brushing Policy in the Town of Verona

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes require the Town of Verona Board to maintain Town road rights-of-way (ROWs), and

WHEREAS, maintenance of Town roads and ROWs is performed by Town employees and private contractors; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board desires to establish general criteria regarding the trimming of and/or removal of woody plant materials in Town road ROWs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached trimming and brushing policy on Town road ROWs is hereby adopted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Administrator shall provide a copy of the attached policy to all Town public works employees and private contractors hired by the Town Board performing trimming and brushing services on Town road ROWs; and

ADOPTED by the Town of Verona Board on December 3, 2013.

David K. Combs, Town Chair

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Town of Verona Board at a legal meeting on the _____ day of _____ 2013.

Clerk/Treasurer
Dated

TRIMMING AND BRUSHING POLICY

Forward

This policy was developed to provide information to Town property owners regarding the Town's general policies regarding tree and brush removal and maintenance, as well as to provide guidelines for Town of Verona personnel and private contractors performing tree, shrub and brush maintenance along Town ROWs per Wisconsin State Statute §§82.03 (1)-(6), 82.50, and 86.16. Most Town roads have a 66' wide ROW; no obstructions should be within the ROW and/or vision corner. The exception to the ROW clear space rule is a mailbox mounted on a 4" by 4" treated wood post or a metal post. The process of performing trimming and/or removal of woody plant materials will attempt to utilize American National Standard for Tree Care Operations (ANSI A300-1995). The policy will attempt to prevent the spread of diseases such as oak wilt, Dutch elm disease and insect pests such as: emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, and gypsy moth. When time allows, the Town will provide advance notice to adjacent property owners when Town maintenance of trees or brush will be performed. Town notification will not cover work to be performed by a public utility working within the ROW.

I. TOWN EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS

- A. Town of Verona personnel and private contractors hired by the Town Board are authorized to remove all trees, tree limbs and brush within the ROW that are deemed to create, or have the potential to create, a safety hazard, such as those that:
 - Grow under bridge structures
 - Obstruct the vision of motorists or other users of the road
 - Interfere with water flow in ditches
 - Grow around culvert ends, ROW posts, signs, and guardrails
 - Cause undesirable snow drifting or inhibit snow removal
 - Hang lower than 16 feet above roadway surface and shoulder
- B. Dense tree stands, such as box elder, black locust, poplar, etc. should generally be trimmed to a few individual trees.
- C. Multiple-stemmed trees should be pruned to a single main stem or trunk.
- D. Outside of ROW, trees or shrubs should not be trimmed or removed without concurrence of property owner and permission of Town Board unless necessary to address a safety hazard as described above.
- E. Trimming trees that interfere with utility lines is the responsibility of the utility companies.
- F. Stumps should be cut close to ground level and consideration should be given to the use of non-chemical decay treatment.
- G. Trees

1. The following trees, which tend to be invasive or prone to breaks and decay, should generally be removed, unless they are the only trees in the area and they do not create a safety hazard:

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|------------------|------------------|
| (1) Aspen | (5) Cottonwood |
| (2) Black Cherry | (6) Mulberry |
| (3) Black Locust | (7) Silver Maple |
| (4) Box Elder | (8) Willow |

2. Dead or diseased trees should generally be removed.
3. Damaged trees should generally be pruned or removed.

I. Shrubs

1. Shrubs should be removed if they create a safety hazard or interfere with water flow.
2. Invasive shrubs as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR), should be removed, including but not limited to:

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| (1) Buckthorn | (2) Honeysuckle |
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II. TOWN PROPERTY OWNERS: ROW

- A. Grass clippings and/or trimming/brushing waste may not be disposed of in ditching, drainage culverts, or the ROW.
- B. No trees, shrubs or any other vegetation that conflicts with anything under Section I shall be planted in road ROW without Town Board approval except for low-growing, non-invasive plants.
- C. Any plantings in the ROW, whether or not approved by the Town Board, are planted at the owner's risk, and may be removed, damaged or destroyed as a result of road, ROW maintenance work or otherwise at the discretion of the Town Board, without liability on the Town.

III. TOWN PROPERTY OWNERS: DRIVEWAY

Property owners must meet other trimming and brushing conditions set by the Town Board when issued a driveway permit and must maintain that standard for the safe passage of emergency vehicles and their crews.

Adopted by the TOWN OF VERONA BOARD Resolution , 2013.

Revised 10212013; changes accepted by OSPC 11062013; Town Board to approve 12032013