

Town of Dunn Roadside Mowing and Maintenance Policy

There are several types of roads in the Town of Dunn. The county maintains county roads and highways, the town maintains town roads, and private owners maintain private roads.

Town maintained roads fall into two categories: 1) rural roads, 2) roads in residential areas. Rural roads are mowed in accordance with the roadside mowing policy to maintain roadsides for safety, visibility, and drainage. In residential areas and subdivisions, the town does not mow the roadsides at all and the residents in these areas are responsible for maintaining the roadside by their residence.

Town roads do not have a curb and gutter, even in residential areas. Residents will find that the gravel from the shoulder of the road requires some maintenance. If gravel washout is extensive, or a safety hazard, please report it to the Town Hall and the Highway Foreman will evaluate the damage and repair as needed. Some gravel dispersion is normal especially after heavy rains, and residents may choose to rake the gravel back to the shoulder.

If you are a rural resident:

Many residents prefer to maintain the road right of way with more frequent or selective mowing and maintenance than the town provides, particularly near their residences. You can request a mowing exemption so that the town road crew will not mow a designated area at your request. Some residents use this exemption to protect wildflowers on the roadsides. Residents who wish to mow and maintain an area of roadside should contact the Town to request an exemption form and policy guidelines.

If you are in a residential area:

You will need to maintain the roadsides along your property. Mow or trim any woody growth by November 1. Make an effort to remove noxious weeds anytime they appear. *The Wisconsin Statutes define noxious weeds as Leafy Spurge, Field Bindweed and Canadian Thistle. Other problem weeds that should be controlled are Wild Parsnip, Garlic Mustard, Teasel, and Burdock.* There are others that are listed in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources NR40 Invasives Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule which also should be controlled. Please refer to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources NR40 Invasives Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule for more information. An area at least 7-10 feet wide adjacent to the pavement must be mowed periodically to allow for parking a vehicle off the pavement. Vegetation must not obstruct visibility at intersections and driveways. Drainage ditches must remain unobstructed. Road right-of-way must remain free of obstructions, fences, boulders, rocks, timbers, pavers, decorative landscape items, etc.

General Guidelines:

- The first mowing of roadsides is to be done early in the summer when the grass is 1 ½ to 2 feet tall. Except those roads noted below, they shall be mowed to a width at least 7 to 14 feet wide. The width will depend on the location of the drainage ditch, which should be mowed on both sides of the slope to allow for good drainage. Clear-cut around signs, curves and intersections as needed for visibility.

Exceptions: The area of Lake Kegonsa Road between Halverson Road and 500 feet north to Hwy 51 and “Rustic” roads (Lalor and Dyreson) should be cut only one swath (5-feet) for the first and second mowing. Clear-cut around signs, curves, and intersections as needed for visibility. Avoid patches of identified prairie plants. The fall mowing should be to the fence or edge of the right-of-way to control woody growth. Noxious and invasive weeds should be cut as necessary.

- The second mowing of roadsides is to be done around July 1 to help prevent the release of noxious weed seed and ragweed pollen. The cutting width should be the full width to the fence line or edge of the right-of-way.
- The late fall mowing should be the full width to the fence line or edge of the right-of-way.
- Honeysuckle, Buckthorn, and female Box Elder should be removed whenever and wherever they appear.
- An effort to cut noxious and invasive weeds anytime they appear shall be made. These weeds shall include species as listed on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources NR40 Invasives Species Identification, Classification, and Control Rule.