

SMOKY LAKE COUNTY



Title: Mowing Program		Policy No.: 28-08
Section: 62	Code: P-R	Page No.: 1 of 3 E

Legislation Reference:	Alberta Provincial Statutes
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Purpose:	Smoky Lake County will govern the municipal mowing program on developed road allowances and County lands under the Agricultural Service Board.
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Policy Statement and Guidelines:

1. STATEMENT:

- 1.1 Smoky Lake County will mow developed road allowances annually to maintain safe visibility for the travelling public and to improve drainage of infrastructure.
- 1.2 The mowing program promotes effective control of weeds and brush within the municipal right-of-way encroaching the roads surface.
- 1.3 The County will mow County lands on a as needed basis.

2. DEFINITION(S):

- 2.1 **County Lands:** Property owned and/ operated by Smoky Lake County
- 2.2 **Developed Road Allowances:** Road allowances containing a gravel or hard surfaced roadway under the jurisdiction of Smoky Lake County.

3. OBJECTIVES:

- 3.1 Define areas that will be mowed within the right-of-way and on County lands.
- 3.2 Provide the level of right-of-way mowing as set out by the Agricultural Service Board.
- 3.3 The County's desire to achieve the following objectives with its roadside mowing program:
 - to assist with weed control by preventing the seed set of noxious weeds in the right-of-way and to cut any brush regrowth encroaching on the road
 - to enhance road maintenance with minimal gravel loss and allow positive drainage of rainwater to be more efficiently channeled to the right-of-way
 - to increase visibility of wildlife crossing and reduce obstructed visibility of signs at intersections for the safety of the travelling public
 - to provide a fire break and reduce the amount of fire load material in right-of-way.
 - To prevent drifting on roads, where the blowing snow will travel across the road, rather than being trapped by standing vegetation which will travel across

4. GUIDELINES:

- 4.1 The mowing program will be developed and planned by the Agricultural Service Board and implemented through the Agricultural Services Department. The defined mowing areas consist of three (3) zones, divided using range road 150 and Highway 855 as boundaries.

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- 4.2 Roadside prep and equipment maintenance will commence 2 weeks prior to mowing program start date.
- 4.3 Mowers will begin mowing operation the third week in May. All mowing operations will cease no later than November 1st -
- 4.4 Mowing Operations consist of three (3) tractors and mowers used to cut grass, brush, and noxious weeds. These mowers are able to accomplish a significant amount of mowing and right-of-way clearing very efficiently when compared to other methods of mechanical control.
- 4.5 Without limiting the program or its effectiveness, it will generally be planned as following:
- 4.5.1 Developed Road Allowances will be mowed twice a season: All grassy areas along oiled, or gravel roads receive a shoulder pass first, meaning one width of the mower. A second seasonal pass will be to the property line. This will be completed once all developed road allowances have received the first seasonal shoulder pass. The second seasonal pass will be completed where the mowers began mowing in the early season and if there is high grass regrowth, and approved by the Agricultural Fieldman.
- Mowers will begin mowing outwards from their 'home base' to avoid high blading and eliminate unnecessary travel.
 - These secondary passes to the property line should be a minimum of 5ft.
 - Main roads into lake resorts will only be mowed prior to the July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year)
 - Township Road 610 from Range Road 181 East to HWY 855 (gravel haul road) and Victoria Trail will be mowed in conjunction with the lake resorts prior to July and August long weekends (two seasonal passes per year)
 - The Iron Horse Trail shall only be mowed once per season
 - It is recognized that inclement weather, such as rain and early winter could prevent completion of the program
- 4.6 All other mowing requests will be at the discretion of the Agricultural Service Board and added to **Schedule "A" Approved Additional Mowing**

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	May 24, 2018	# 581-18 - Page # 13130
Amended	October 22, 2018	#1030-18 - Page # 13312
Amended	April 13, 2021	# 572-21 - Page # 14597
Amended	August 10, 2021	#1009-21 - Page # 14755
Amended	December 14, 2021	# 108-21 - Page # 14883
Amended	October 11, 2022	#1111-22 - Page # 15362
Amended	June 25, 2025	#598-25 - Page # 15991



SCHEDULE "A"
APPROVED ADDITIONAL MOWING

Metis Crossing

Smoky Lake Rodeo Grounds

Smoky Lake Air Strip

Hamlin Ball Diamonds

Waskatenau Ball Diamonds

Bellis Ball Diamonds

Bonnie Lake Enviro Reserve 7921626

Victoria Trail

Iron Horse Trail

Warspite Ball Diamond