

ROADWAY VEGETATION & MAINTENANCE POLICY

The purpose of this policy: to insure Hull citizens receive a uniform and consistent policy of roadway maintenance and control of vegetation.

The Hull Town Board recognizes the need to preserve the beauty of our roadway through the protection of roadside trees consistent with the safety of the traveling public and Hull Road Crew.

In the past, Town of Hull citizens have expressed concerns about vegetation encroaching on the roadway. The Hull Fire Department has complained about vegetation striking their fire trucks as they travel Hull roads and the Hull Road Crew has reported hitting vegetation in the roadway while plowing and sanding roads in the winter. And the Stevens Point School District buses while traveling their route in Hull have at times encountered vegetation striking their buses.

Wisconsin laws and court decisions have consistently held that town boards have authority over road right of ways, which are normally 66 feet wide. A Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in June 2002 held property owners liable for vegetation growing on their land but obstructing the public roadway.

The Town of Hull Board authorizes the Hull Road Crew to cut vegetation that encroaches in the following clear zone:

- 1) Collector roads (through roads) shall have a horizontal clear zone of the paved driving surface and **nine** feet from the edge of the paved driving surface.

- 2) On collector roads, the overhanging vegetation shall have a vertical clear zone of **a minimum of 15** feet above the paved roadway extending from the edge of the paved driving surface nine feet into the road's shoulder.

- 3) On arterial and subdivision roads, the roadway clear zone shall be:
 - a) A vertical clear zone of **a minimum of 15** feet above the paved surface and extending from the paved driving roadway six feet into the shoulder.
 - b) A horizontal clear zone of the paved driving roadway and six feet from the edge of the paved driving roadway into the shoulder.

- 4) Should a tree in the Town's road right of way need to be cut down, the landowner directly contiguous to the site shall be notified and given the opportunity to retain the cut up wood. Should the contiguous landowner not want the wood, the Road Foreman shall dispose of it in the most economical, least costly way possible. At no time will a Town employee retain the wood for their own or family use. (Added to Policy 11/03/2003)

- 5) **Road crew will cut vegetation at all intersections and on roads in Hull that impede driver vision and create dangerous conditions** (Added to Policy 8/03/09)

- 6) **Whenever public signage (stop signs, speed limit signs, etc.) are observed to be obstructed and non-visible creating a dangerous situation, the Hull Road Crew will clear obstruction as soon as possible.**
(Added to Policy 8/03/09)

- 7) **All Hull vehicles will not extend their highest point beyond 15 feet from the ground to stay lower than electric, telephone, cable and other lines accessing Hull roads. Any vehicle component higher than 15 feet must operate only in areas where overhead lines are not restrictive.** (Added to Police 8/03/09)

- 8) The placement of mailboxes as directed by Federal regulation are to be 42" from the base of road and approximately 3 feet from the paved surface.

Any exception to this policy must be approved by the Town of Hull Board.

Date: January 6, 2003

Adopted by Town of Hull Board **1-8-18**

Revised: November 3, 2003

John Holdridge, Chairperson

Revised: July 7, 2008

Revised: August 3, 2009

Revised: January 8, 2018

Janet Wolle, Town Clerk