



ROADSIDE BRUSHING PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

01

Why does the MD remove brush from the roadsides?

MD of Peace intends to maintain roadside ditches to a standard that assists with road safety, creating sightline expansion, making signage, other vehicles, and approaching wildlife more visible to travelers.

Clearing out the larger over-reaching trees allows for unobstructed passage of large emergency vehicles and farm machinery. Roadside brushing also helps with proper drainage and drying of the roads due to reduced snow drifting and casting of shade. A dry road has more structural integrity and will cost less to maintain.

02

I want the trees cleared from the ditch in front of my property. Will the MD do this or can I do it myself?

Residents are not permitted to clear cut the ditch in front of their property. The ditch is a right-of-way owned by the MD of Peace and there are liability and safety concerns with 3rd parties or landowners working on municipal lands.

If you have a specific concern, please contact us at 780.338.3845.

03

Doesn't the MD need my permission to brush or mulch in my ditch?

Permission is not needed for brushing on municipal rights-of-ways.

The MD of Peace is responsible for maintaining vegetation within ditches in rural areas and subdivisions, and we conduct this program annually. Residents will be contacted before any activities that will substantially reduce tree coverage or privacy of a resident's property.

04

What if I don't want you to mulch or burn the trees in front of my property?

MD of Peace will only remove trees and brush within the MD right-of-way and will not remove trees on private land. Attention and care is given to conserving trees wherever possible. Clearing an area of trees is usually only done when a public safety concern has been identified or for road construction projects.



Before Brushing



After Brushing

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05

What time of year does the MD mulch roadsides?

MD of Peace brushes ditches annually between September and April to prevent any harm to migratory birds during their nesting period.

The MD may need to mulch areas outside of this time period for construction projects (or immediate safety concerns). In this event, the area will be surveyed for nesting birds to confirm no damage will be done. If nests are present, a buffer will be established to prevent any harm.

06

The MD brushed my road in the fall and now that the snow is gone it looks terrible—is there anything you can do to improve it?

Brushing will change the appearance of the ditch at first. Typically, these areas re-establish grass within the year, and the appearance improves by mid-summer the following year. The MD's mowing equipment will also help break down any debris that remains during the growing seasons when our mowing program is active.

07

Now that the trees and brush have been removed, won't they just grow back next year?

Roadside Brushing is just one component of the MD's Roadside Maintenance Program. Now that this ditch has been cleared of large trees and brush, other vegetation, like grasses and other pollinator species can establish. These desirable species will be mowed, and any weeds or regrowing brush species will be treated to ensure that the roadside remains clear for years to come.

08

My neighbour has Black Knot in their trees; can the MD force them to remove it?

Black Knot is not a regulated pest in Alberta and the MD cannot enforce removal of trees that have the disease. MD of Peace provides information to residents on Black Knot to help educate them about the disease and its treatment.

Learn more about Black Knot at alberta.ca/black-knot.aspx

