

## **Guidelines For Brush Removal Within Right Of Way Worth County, Missouri**

As the Worth County Commissioners seek to enforce the brush removal ordinance passed by the voters, they have created the following guidelines in an attempt to assist landowners with the brush removal process. It is their hope that these guidelines will assist in providing a clear understanding of the reason for the removal and help landowners in determining exactly what steps must be taken to comply with the ordinance.

The purpose of the law enacted by Worth County voters is to ensure that the right-of-way adjoining the roadway can be easily mowed and maintained by County employees, without their work being impeded by brush, stumps and other similar items.

In preparing for this process, the Commissioners have determined that right-of-ways granted to the County in Worth County are generally thirty feet (30') in width as measured from the center of the roadway. A right-of-way includes  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the roadway plus all adjoining shoulder, grader ditch and land for a total distance of thirty feet (30') from the center of the roadway. Additionally, the right-of-way area is measured from the center of the roadway as initially constructed, not as it may now be used.

The Commission will use the thirty feet (30') width as a default measurement unless the landowner has other documentation to the contrary.

The following are the general guidelines to assist landowners in their removal and maintenance process:

1. Brush and other vegetation which would interfere with or prevent the straight-line mowing of the right of way shall be removed from the edge of the roadway across the entire width of the right-of-way.
2. All brush and stumps shall be removed to allow for easy maintenance of the remaining grasses.
3. Any trees or bushes allowed to remain by agreement of the Commission shall be trimmed and maintained in a manner which eliminates all "hanging" or "drooping" limbs or growth and maintained in a manner by which the branches and main trunk is perpendicular to the ground, going skyward.
4. Machinery, vehicles, and/or fencing shall not be left, maintained, kept, stored or otherwise located on the right-of-way or area.
5. Once the removal has been completed by the landowner, the Commissioners or their designee will inspect the property and advise the landowner of their findings and/or concerns.