

County of Polk

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To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to reaffirm the duties of the landowner in relation to maintaining ditches. From the January snowstorms, it became clear that Polk County has many areas that need to be addressed related to unkempt ditches which impeded snow removal, and will impede future snow removal. Due to the drifting snow, our Highway Department became more aware of many trees and plum thickets which the County needs to remove in order to effectively maintain the safety of roads in the County. Ultimately, it is the landowner's responsibility to remove weeds, hedges, and trees pursuant to Chapter 39 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes, specifically 39-1811 and 39-1812. However, the County is attempting to assist the landowners in clearing these areas which are becoming a safety threat. Polk County will begin to clear the weeds, brush, trees, and thickets out of the ditches and right-of-way on properties throughout the County; however, this procedure has come with complaints in the past due to the finished product being very utilitarian and not being a particularly beautiful aesthetic. If you do not wish to have trees and brush cut in the right-of-way on your property by County employees or contractors, please contact the Polk County Highway Department at 402-747-2921. Any landowner opting out of having the County clear their right of way must abide by Statute and have their right-of-way cleared of all trees, weeds, brush, thickets, and other biological and nonbiological obstructions in a timely manner.