

	MUNICIPALITY OF RHINELAND	POLICY NO. 2022-54
	ADOPTED BY: Resolution No. 169/22	Last Updated: May 2022
	DATE: May 11th, 2022	Page: 1 of 2
	TITLE: Shelterbelt Program	Department: Public Works

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy shall be to establish a program to encourage the planting of shelterbelts in the Municipality.

RATIONALE: To establish an application and review system to encourage the planting of shelterbelts.

POLICY STATEMENT: The Municipality of Rhineland encourages agricultural shelterbelts and the benefits that properly placed and maintained shelterbelts provide to a Municipality as a whole.

ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURES:

PROCEDURES:

Applicants wishing to establish new agricultural shelterbelt trees will contact the Municipality.

Proposals must be submitted on an approved application form and include:

- Tree species that grows well in local soil conditions
- Tree spacing
- Tree location
- Confirmation of on-going maintenance to be performed
- Proposed timeline
- Other information as required by the Municipality

The Municipality will review each application taking the following factors into consideration:

- Road safety and visibility
- Roadway traffic, speeds
- Future works anticipated within the ROW
- Snow drifting
- Snow storage
- Spring snow removal for flood prevention
- Soil drift
- Drainage – type/size/requirements of drainage impacted
- Species of trees
- Trees located adjacent to the subject property

- Other considerations the Municipality deems appropriate

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Applications are to be received from the landowner, not from contractors or outside agencies.
- Where trees will be located on part of/adjacent to the applicant's land, approval of neighboring landowner may be required.
- Applications are to be on parcels of land 40 acres or larger, applications on smaller pieces may be considered by the Municipality.
- Appropriate site preparation (tilling, chemicals, planting methods).
- Appropriate location approved by the Municipality.
- Tree row is to be kept weed free creating a favorable habitat for the trees to get established to be eligible for maintenance payments in years 2 and 3. If new growth of the trees is generally not evident payment may be denied.

REBATE:

- Rebate of up to \$500 per ½ mile available for the establishment of the tree row.
- A rebate of \$500 per half mile will also be available for maintenance for the newly established shelterbelt for the subsequent 2 years.
- Only projects that have been previously approved by the Municipality under this program will be rebated.
- Maintenance rebates will be paid upon inspection of the tree row in fall of that year.
- Rebates will be issued upon final approval by the Municipality confirming requirements of the approved application were met.

PROCESS:

- Applicant submits proposal to the Municipality.
- The project is entered as a Shelterbelt Project and assigned a project # by the Municipal team.
- Municipality reviews/comments/adjusts.
- If denied: No appeal.
- If approved:
 - Approval is issued
 - Applicant completes installation
 - Applicant requests funding from the Municipality
 - The Municipality reviews finished project for conformity with approved plan
 - The Municipality issues cheque to the applicant upon successful review
 - Municipality inspect in fall of year 2 and 3
 - Municipality issues annual cheque for maintenance of tree row