

Public Not Maintained Roads – Frequently Asked Questions

What is a “public, not maintained municipal road”?

A “public not maintained municipal road” refers to a road that is publicly accessible but not maintained by the municipality. This means that while the road is open for public use, the municipality does not perform regular maintenance tasks such as snow removal, pothole repairs, or grading in the Municipality of Bluewater. These roads are generally located on the lakeshore, but may also include some subdivisions.

Does the municipality maintain trees and vegetation on public, not maintained roads?

No: The municipality does not provide any maintenance along these roads, including trimming, removal or encroachment of vegetation and trees.

Does the public have access to a road that is public but not maintained by the municipality?

Yes: The road is open for use by the public.

Does the municipality clear the snow or fix potholes on these roads?

No: The municipality does not take responsibility for maintaining the road. This can include tasks like clearing snow, fixing potholes, grading, or other general upkeep.

Are public, not maintained roads safe to use?

Users of these roads are typically advised to proceed with caution and use the road at their own risk.

How can a public, not maintained road become a road that is maintained by the municipality?

The municipality has a policy and process to assume responsibility and costs for the maintenance of the road. The process involves a neighbourhood submitting a petition to the municipality. The petition must contain the names and signatures of 66% of the residents who use the road for access. The process involves verifying the petition, analyzing the road, preparing cost estimates for the assumption and making a recommendation to Council in accordance with the policy.

As stated in the policy, residents do not have to pay for any costs to bring the road to a minimum standard. The roads will be improved to the set standards identified within the policy. Currently, Council sets aside \$75,000.00 per year to implement road assumptions.

If you are interested in the municipality maintaining your unassumed road, start by [contacting the Public Works department](#).