

Chapter RR 5

MAINTENANCE PRACTICES

RR 5.01	General	RR 5.04	Vegetation maintenance
RR 5.02	Road bed maintenance		
RR 5.03	Cross drainage maintenance	RR 5.05	Sign maintenance

RR 5.01 General. A rustic road shall receive the level of maintenance necessary for safe public travel by auto, bicycle, or hiking for recreational enjoyment, while still preserving the rustic qualities of the route.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1975, No. 230, eff. 3-1-75.

RR 5.02 (1) Road bed maintenance. The existing road surface at the time of designation should normally be continued. Rustic roads may be dirt, gravel or hard surface. Necessary improvements may be made in surface to improve safety, drainage, or reduce maintenance problems, but shall not disturb the rustic characteristics for which the road was designated. Drainage and road improvements should be kept as narrow as possible to retain the rustic charm of the road, as well as keeping the driver's speed lower. The improvements shall be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbance of vegetation or unusual scientific, or cultural sites which have been designated.

(2) Where dust laying has been the practice or becomes a necessity, a minimum level of dust treatment may be used.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1975, No. 230, eff 3-1-75.

RR 5.03 (1) Cross drainage maintenance. Cross drainage shall be maintained where necessary to prevent damage to the road, possible washouts and other problems which may be detrimental to proper safety.

(2) When bridge replacement is necessary it should be of a design and construction of a rustic appearance, such as a timber structure.

(3) Repairs to an existing bridge of rustic character should be made with an effort to preserve the rustic qualities of the structure.

(4) When deemed advisable, the county highway committee with the approval of the rustic roads board may impose weight limitations on structures on a rustic road in lieu of structure replacement or repair.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1975, No. 230, eff. 3-1-75.

RR 5.04 (1) Vegetation maintenance. Where necessary for safety or protection of the traveling public, tree branches and shrubs may be trimmed or whole trees removed. This shall be done with proper tools so as not to leave unsightly scars. Land and forest management may be practiced.

(2) Use of herbicides to control or eliminate roadside vegetation is prohibited. Control of undesirable vegetation shall be accomplished by mowing and/or selective cutting.

(3) Mowing shall be performed only as necessary for health, safety, and ecological reasons with the aim of encouraging, where appropriate, the growth of prairie flora adjacent to the road. Within these guidelines, the maximum is limited to one swath on either side of the road as follows:

(a) On one-land trail or dirt roads, mowing shall be immediately adjacent to the tracks.

(b) On two-way gravel roads, mowing shall be immediately adjacent to the edge of the graded surface.

(c) On paved roads, mowing shall be immediately adjacent to the edge of the pavement.

(4) In addition, mowing to a width as necessary to eliminate undesirable vegetation shall be permitted.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1975, No. 230, eff. 3-1-75.

RR 5.05 Sign maintenance. (1) It is the responsibility of the county highway department to erect and maintain rustic road signs at all public entrance points to an officially designated rustic road. The specifically designated standard statewide sign approved by the rustic roads board and designed by the department of transportation shall be used for identification of all rustic roads. Beneath this sign affixed to the same sign post shall be a standardized placard denoting the numeric identification of the route segment within the statewide rustic roads system. These signs will be furnished at cost by the department of transportation, division of highways, may be made by the counties, or may be purchased from commercial sources.

(2) At each terminus of the rustic road an additional standardized placard denoting the length, in miles, of the rustic road, shall be affixed to the post supporting the rustic road sign and placed below the rustic road sign.

(3) The rustic road sign and mileage placard may be placed on existing county-maintained informational or highway identification sign posts but shall not be placed on any regulatory or warning signs.

(4) All informational, regulatory, warning and identification signs shall be erected and maintained as necessary, in accordance with chapters 86 and 349, Wis. Stats., and Wis. Adm. Code, chapter Hy 10.

(5) The numbering of a rustic road shall be designated by the rustic road board with concurrence of the state highway commission.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1975, No. 230, eff. 3-1-75.