

Forest Township Assumption of Road Maintenance Policy

It is the intent of this policy to define criteria and guidelines for Forest Township to assume maintenance responsibility on roads the Township does not presently maintain. Maintenance responsibility will include, snow removal, grading and gravel.

For the Township to assume this responsibility, the access road must first be brought to a "minimum maintenance" standard. The construction requirements necessary to meet this standard are:

1. At least 16 feet wide road surface
2. A five to six inch high crown in the center of the road, sloped for water drainage to ditching wherever possible, and brushed out.
3. No part of the roadway may exceed an 8% steep grade (a rise of more than 9 ½ inches every 10 feet of road length).
4. Overhead tree limbs removed to a height of 12 feet so as to not block passage of maintenance and emergency vehicles.
5. Stable road base to receive Township applied Class 5 gravel.

In addition to these above standards, the Township must be granted property easements from all land owners, whose property is traversed by the road, including any property required by the maintenance vehicle for turnaround purposes.

The initial costs for upgrading of access roads to the above standards, any alteration to the existing path of roads, the choice and employment of road building contractors, and the acquisition of all property easements will be at the expense and discretion of residents served from a given road as they decide how to proceed. Subsequent costs to gravel a road and maintain it to the above standards will then be paid by the Township.

Any residents requesting the Township to assume maintenance of their road must complete a petition signed by a majority of residents served from the given access road. This petition will be presented to the Township Board. At that time, the Planning Commission will promptly respond to resident requests to evaluate any Township road as a candidate for Township maintenance responsibility.

2/13/07 Accepted by township board

3/12/19 – Additional public review