

There have been some discussions on our township roads Right of Way (ROW) Laws. The Township of Long Lake has adopted the Right of Way Laws from Washburn County. Washburn County's laws are adopted upon state statutes that govern Right of Way laws for all types of roads within our township.

A number of questions have been raised on what types of activities can and cannot be done within the Right of Way on Township Roads. There are some outstanding assumptions of what is legal in the Right of Way that need to be mentioned.

- Not all ROW land is owned by the county or township. Many of the lands that are adjacent to our roads are privately owned. The ROW is primarily designed for access for emergency vehicles, and to have the ditches and drainage to be maintained by the county or township.
- The ROW (regardless of ownership) does not allow for dumping of trash, yard waste, brush, or trespass without written permission from either a public or private party. Dumping or trespassing may result in fines from multiple jurisdictions or civil actions by adjacent landowners.
- The ROW does not allow for long term parking of vehicles or any encroachments in the ROW. Adjacent landowners may ask you to move your vehicles if it is blocking reasonable access to their property. Please respect the ROW setbacks and understand that the ROW land may be private property. The following link may help to provide some clarity on the definition of an encroachment. <https://wisconsin.gov/Pages/doing-bus/real-estate/roadsides/encroachments.aspx>
- You cannot park unattended obstructions like boat trailers in the ROW. These may be removed at your expense at the discretion of the Sheriff's office.

This is not intended to be an all-inclusive or legal opinion by the board on what you can and cannot do. These general rules are stated here so you may research the law on your own behalf. The Right of Way laws can be found at the Washburn County Highway Departments or through research on local ordinances through the Wisconsin State Legislature.

We hope that this refresher on the ROW laws will help us to respect adjacent landowners to our roads and highways and prevent unnecessary violations of the law.

Please remember, just because the land is vacant doesn't mean the landowners don't care about their property. If you don't have written permission to dump, park, or trespass; please don't. If you don't know who owns the land, you can access who owns it for free at <https://washburncowi.wgxtreme.com/>.

Please note that the property lines rendered on this website are not exact and do not constitute platted property or the exact legal description of the property. These lines represent the property valuation for taxation, and not legal ownership.