



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How many snowplows does the city own?

The City has three standard plow trucks with spreader capability and two smaller 1-ton trucks that can accommodate a plow and spreader.

2. Does where I park my car or truck during a snow, freezing rain or ice event affect city snow removal operations?

Residents can help with plowing operations by parking their vehicles in their driveway or other suitable location ahead of a predicted weather event. This will allow for quicker and more effective plowing operations. It is possible that cars and driveways may be blocked with snow from the plow. Please understand that this is unavoidable, and the City does not have the resources to come back and remove the berm.

3. Can't the City remove the snow they put in my driveway, sidewalk, or in front of my mailbox?

When you consider the large number of driveways, number of sidewalks, and total number of mailboxes in the City, it is very costly and time-consuming to use additional staffing and equipment to perform. The City's primary duty and responsibility is to open and keep open the main roadway system for transportation to critical services areas and the hospital district.

4. Why aren't my streets being plowed?

The Snow Removal Plan establishes general policies and procedures for the City's response to winter weather events within available resources. The overall goal is to make travel within the city as safe as possible, to ensure emergency vehicles and residents can access the hospital district and/or other critical services. Specific streets and locations are prioritized according to traffic volume, public safety, and access to emergency facilities and schools.

5. Why not plow all the snow to the center of the street?

Some of our neighborhood streets are not wide enough to accommodate the piling of snow in the center of the street. Piling snow to the center can create restricted vision at intersections, continuous melting of the piled snow will create a wet/freezing hazard,

and/or motorists may try to cross the pile as well as the pedestrian danger of slipping or falling.

6. Where do I put the snow which I removed from my property, parking lot, or sidewalk?

City requests that the removed snow should be kept on your own property in a location where it will not impede pedestrian travel, vision, traffic ingress/egress, or melt and cause water damage. The removal, dumping, or piling of snow on streets, alleys, or public thoroughfares, is not allowed.

7. Does the city have a snow removal plan? Why does it take so long to respond to resident requests?

General priorities during a storm event are arterials and collectors with special attention to emergency service routes, school bus routes, and public transit routes. Certain residential streets that do not meet the above classifications receive prioritization based on chronic icing problems such as at hills, curves, or intersections that are likely to cause traffic accidents.

During inclement weather, the Public Works Department will make every effort to maintain the traffic flow as near normal driving conditions as possible in an expeditious and cost-effective manner. The City's goals include:

- Within available budget, manpower, and equipment resources, respond in a cost-effective manner appropriate to the anticipated accumulation levels of snow and ice on city roads necessary to facilitate safe travel.
- Assist Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services in fulfilling their duties
- Provide safe and passable school bus routes to minimize school closures.
- Reduce economic losses to the municipality and to businesses that result from workers being unable to travel to their jobs or patrons seeking goods and services.

Residential areas will be plowed according to the Priority Snow Removal Plan. The City is not resourced to remove all the snow simultaneously from all the streets necessitating "street prioritization" be established for snow removal and sanding operations. Street priorities are set based on traffic volume, public safety, and access to emergency facilities and schools. Plowing operations on residential streets will be limited to opening two lanes on main arterial roads and in some cases due to steep slopes or narrow roads a single lane of travel to avoid excessive snow build-up at driveways and parked vehicles.

Priority 1: All major arterial streets are the minimum network which must be kept open to provide transportation system connection to fire station, police station, and emergency medical services.

Priority 2: Minor arterials and collector streets serving as school routes, truck routes, public transportation, and utility services, and selected hot spots such as hills, curves, elevated streets, and higher traffic volume intersections.

Priority 3: All remaining streets, such as residential and local streets.