

CITY OF GREENFIELD SNOWPLOWING POLICY
Approved on January 20, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Greenfield Public Works Department is to clear snow and ice from City roads as soon as possible. Delays may occur in the event of equipment breakdown or extreme weather conditions. The safety of the public and City employees is our top priority.

The residents expect to have their roads plowed in a reasonable amount of time. To do this, decisions need to be made when to commence plowing, the extent of ice control measures, which roads are plowed first, and estimated cost, etc. This policy has been prepared to set procedures and practices to provide safe winter driving conditions on City roads.

LEVEL OF SERVICE

The intent of this policy is to provide safe winter driving conditions. The level of service described herein shall be considered a guideline with the understanding that immediately after a storm the level of service provided may be less than described herein and may vary across the City depending on localized storm conditions and other circumstances.

Streets shall be plowed and/or treated with ice control measures to allow intersections, curves, and hills to be as safe as conditions allow. The City will use ice control measures when there are hazardous or dangerous conditions. The City is concerned about the effect of ice control measures on the environment and will limit their use for that reason.

During light to normal snowfall, streets shall be plowed their full width as soon as possible after the initial pass. During heavier snowfalls the streets shall be widened as the storm intensity lessens. After the storm passes, clean-up operations shall begin to clear intersections and snow storage areas along corners and road right-of-ways. It is the city's intent to complete the initial plowing and widening operations within twenty-four (24) hours of the storm. Clean-up operations may be complete within twenty-four (24) hours for light snowfalls and within seventy-two (72) hours for heavy snowfalls. Extreme weather conditions (blizzards/high winds, ice/rain, or other unusual weather events) may require additional time to complete the snow/ice removal operation.

No two storms are identical therefore, different conditions may require different responses.

COMMENCEMENT OF SNOWPLOWING OPERATIONS

Snowplowing and/or ice control measures shall commence upon the direction of the Public Works Supervisor or his/her designee. The Public Works Supervisor or his/her designee will decide when to commence snow or ice control operations, based on his/her judgment of current and predicted weather conditions and the policies as herein set forth.

The criteria for the decision to begin snow and/or ice control operation are as follows:

- Snow accumulation of 2 inches or more warrants the plowing of asphalt/paved roads. Accumulation of 3 inches warrants the plowing of both asphalt and gravel roads dependent on road conditions. Call out is normally at 2 a.m. when practical (snowfall is over). It is advisable to plow at this time if possible, so that traffic is minimal and to open roads for the morning commute.
- Drifting of snow may also warrant commencement of operation depending upon conditions.

- Icing and/or freezing rains may warrant commencement of ice control measures depending upon the extent and conditions.
- Public Work Supervisor, or his/her designee, shall determine the time to begin operations.
- Operations will continue until all roads as passable. Widening and cleanup of operations may continue immediately or on the following business day(s) depending upon conditions and circumstances.

SUSPENSION OF SNOWPLOWING OPERATIONS

The criteria for suspension of snowplowing operation are as follows:

- Safety of the plow operators and the public is important. Therefore, snow plowing operations may be terminated after 10-12 hours to allow personnel adequate time for rest. There may be instances where this is not possible depending on storm conditions and other circumstances.
- High winds creating white out conditions could cause suspension of plowing operations until weather conditions improve.
- Snowplowing operations may be suspended by the Public Works Supervisor or his/her designee if conditions are determined to be hazardous for personnel and/or the public.

PLOW ROUTES/PRIORITIES

The City of Greenfield's snowplowing priorities are as follows:

- High volume major collector roads, roads with steep hills with curves, commercial businesses.
- Residential streets
- Cul-de-sacs and cart-way type roads that terminate in a dead-end, parking lots, and landings.
- Widening or winging roads may continue several days after a large snow fall or after high winds.

ICE CONTROL MEASURES

Hills, curves, and intersections are normally treated during plowing operation when trucks are used. During heavy snowfall when the grader, tractor, and/or loader are used, ice control becomes a separate operation.

- It should be noted that certain weather conditions (primarily rain followed by excessively cold temperatures) could make it impossible to keep roads completely ice free. Chemicals are effective only to about 10 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Ice control operations may commence at the direction of the Public Works Supervisor or his/her designee and with any ice conditions due to normal freezing/thawing and freezing rain.

RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The City request the following of residents:

- Keep updated on current and predicted weather conditions.
- Be aware of snow removal equipment and please ***do not crowd the plow.***
- Expect snow removal equipment to back up frequently.
- Park vehicles off the street, road right-of-ways and cul-de-sacs.
- Be patient – plowing and ice control take time.
- Minnesota Statute 160.2715 prohibits plowing, pushing or blowing snow across and into City roads.

- Clear snow from around mailboxes.
- Group mailboxes in cul-de-sacs when possible. See below under “cul-de-sacs” for further instructions.
- Place garbage and recycling containers away from the edge of the road so they don’t get covered and/or damaged.
- Snowplowing will cause additional snow to be deposited in driveways and around roadside obstacles. Residents should be aware that they may need to clear their driveways several times until their street has been plowed and winged its full width.
- Decorative rocks, landscaping plant gardens, lawn sprinkler heads, posts, fences, or other obstruction to snowplowing operations are not allowed in the right-of-way. These items need to be removed at the cost of the resident if viewed as a snow removal hazard.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

The City practices the following property damage policy:

- Mailboxes and mailbox posts physically hit by a plow blade will be repaired or replaced at the expense of the contractor(s) or City. Cost of replacement shall not exceed \$60.
- Damage caused by the thrown snow or weight of snow **is not** the responsibility of the City or its contractor(s).
- The City will repair right-of-way damage caused by the snowplow by top dressing and seeding. The timing of this repair is at the discretion of the City.
- The City will assume **no responsibility** for damage to underground lawn sprinkling systems, exterior lighting systems, and similar landscaping installed in the public right-of-way. Public right-of-way typically includes the area of the improved street plus additional property between the improved street and a resident’s property line. On most Greenfield streets this is approximately 66 feet (or 33 feet from the roadway centerline). Refer to your survey to confirm distance. Snowplowing and snow storage will take place in the area approximately 20 ft. from the traveled road surface into a resident’s property (commonly known as the public right-of-way).

CUL-DE-SACS

- The wings of the snow plow trucks are mounted on the right side. Thus, 80% of the snow is deposited on the right side of the cul-de-sac.
- Mailboxes should be grouped at the beginning of the cul-de-sac, on the left side of the road, to allow adequate room for snow storage.