



Snow Removal from the Streets

The City of Maple Grove Public Works Department is devoted to keeping our streets as safe as possible, within a constrained budget.

Please Don't Take It Personally

A little patience and a cooperative attitude are essential ingredients for getting through the winter plowing season. When citizens and City crews work together, we can reduce frustrations that sometimes accompany winter snowstorms. The priority locations include arterial and collector roads. In regards to sidewalks, the first priority is walking paths near schools. Many factors affect how safely and efficiently winter snows can be cleared. It may take several hours to several days for the streets to return to normal, depending on the severity of the storm.

There are many things residents can do to minimize plowing-related problems for themselves and to ensure that City crews do the most effective job possible. Please familiarize yourself with the following information, city guidelines, and winter tips:

Parking: City code regulates on-street parking. Violators can be tagged or towed at the owner's expense. Parking is prohibited on streets after a 2-inch snowfall and may not resume until the street has been plowed curb to curb.

In addition, there is a general four hour limit on vehicles that have been continuously parked on all streets. Also, no vehicle can be parked upon any public street or highway in the City between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. on any day of the year. This is the most common violation.

For the Police Department, both of these parking restrictions allow officers the opportunity to notice suspicious vehicles that are out of place. Police have recovered stolen vehicles, encountered narcotic activity, and discovered other suspicious activity while enforcing parking violations.

With the help of the citizens, we can continue to make the City of Maple Grove a safe place to live and be able to plow snow more effectively.

Driveways: Plow trucks pushing snow along a driveway is also unavoidable. Residents may find it less frustrating to wait until the trucks have completed their street before cleaning the end of their driveway. City plow units are designed to discharge snow to the sides of the road and are not capable of skipping driveway areas. Do not throw snow from your sidewalk or driveway into the street – it is against the law.

Private Property Snow Removal: Residents or private contractors hired to plow, shovel, or blow snow from driveways, parking lots, or other private property may not deposit snow onto or move snow across public streets or walkways. Violators of this ordinance slow plowing operations, make it difficult to open the street full width, and create dangerous conditions for pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

Recycling/Garbage Bins: Please place garbage and recycling containers behind the curb line on the day of your scheduled pickup. Containers placed in the roadway or at the end of the driveway may be damaged or knocked over and contents strewn by snowplows or the weight of snow coming off the snowplow. Plow operators are not able to drive around or set up garbage or recycling containers that are knocked over.

Right-of-Way Obstructions: Landscaping materials including shrubbery, rocks and boulders, and lawn sprinkler systems are prone to damage by snow removal, sweeping, and other types of equipment and vehicles. The City cannot accept responsibility for private property located on the right-of-way and ask that residents place these items a minimum of 10' behind the curb line.

Snowbanks: For their safety, please don't allow children to build snow forts and tunnels in the snow banks adjacent to the curb or to play near the curbs. It can be difficult for the plow operators to see children, so also keep sleds and toys away from the street.

Please remember the City plows nearly 300 miles of streets (including over 600 cul-de-sacs) each time it snows. We carefully plan and staff the plowing routes each winter season. As often as is practical given the timing of a storm, City crews begin plowing in the middle of the night so that roads are clear for your morning commute.

While some areas are plowed before others due to safety reasons and high traffic, please be assured the City is acting as quickly and safely as possible. And, while the above recommendations and policies may seem like small things, cooperation and adherence to them by our residents is a big help. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this winter season.

Hydrants

A snow covered hydrant blocks Fire Department access. It can take 15 minutes or more to get a buried hydrant shovelled out. When that happens, firefighters lose valuable time before they can get water from the hydrant to put out the fire. There are approximately 4,000 fire hydrants in Maple Grove. Like most cities, we do not have the resources to keep all of these hydrants clear of snow following each storm.

To ensure that hydrants are accessible in case of an emergency, residents are encouraged to monitor and shovel the snow away from those near their home. The Maple Grove Fire Department recommends clearing at least three feet around the hydrant and clearing to the street. Quick and clear access can make all the difference when water is needed during a fire emergency.

