

City of Minnetonka Beach Snow and Ice Removal Policy

Approved by City Council: 5/14/2018

It is the duty of city staff to clear snow and ice from the city streets in a timely and efficient manner, keeping public and personal safety in mind. The public is asked to drive slowly and safely for the condition of the roadways. Residents should not park vehicles on or in the road during snowy conditions.

1. Plow Procedures

Plowing will take place during the early morning hours whenever possible. Public Works Staff will determine the start time for plowing snow on a storm by storm basis.

The City will respond with plowing when the snowfall reaches **1.5 inches** or more of snow depth. This does not mean that every 1.5 inch of snow will get plowed during a long duration snowstorm. Public Works staff will reserve the right to plow a lesser amount due to weather concerns.

Staff may decide to wait to plow during a long duration snow event due to timing of snow, traffic concerns, or white out conditions where no travel is advised. Roadways that experience heavy snow drifting may be plowed whenever needed.

Residents should stay back at least 100 feet from a snowplow.

2. De-icing roadways

The City will use multiple ways to remove ice and compacted snow from roadways. De-icing chemicals will be applied after each snow and ice event. This may be salt or a sand/salt mixture. Chemicals will be applied at the discretion of Public Works staff. This will be done with consideration of public safety and environmental impacts.

The de-icing chemical will be dropped on the center of the roadway where ever possible. This will allow the chemical to work from the crown of the road all the way to the edges.

During a freezing rain or ice storm event, the city will de-ice until road conditions improve. These storms need more de-icing material to make it safe for driving. During cold days, de-icing chemicals do not work as fast. Residents are asked to drive appropriately for the conditions of the road.

3. Damages from snowplowing

Mailboxes

Sometimes snowplow operators slide into or hit a mailbox. These accidents are due to the conditions. Resident should report damages to the city as soon as possible so it can be

inspected. If it is determined that the city plow or truck hit a resident's mailbox, it will be replaced. The replacement will be a standard mailbox and post. The city **will not** replace decorative or ornate mailboxes. The city will reimburse the homeowner up to \$75.00 toward the cost of their decorative mailbox if it was determined to be damaged by city staff. The city will get a temporary mailbox out to the affected homeowner to use until spring time if it is determined that the city was at fault.

Mailboxes damaged by snow pressure or snow flying off the plow will not be replaced by the city. Mailboxes determined to be improperly installed will also not be replaced by the city.

Mailboxes should be installed 44-48 inches above the street surface and the base of the post should be 12 inches back from the road edge. This should allow plenty of room for plows to get close to it without damaging it. Resident should not install newspaper boxes under the mailbox and it creates a hazard that could possibly result in further damage to the mailbox.

Lawn

The first 10 feet off the roadway is considered City Right of Way. In the event the snowplow damages a resident's lawn in this area, it will be repaired in the spring with black dirt and seed upon request by the homeowner. Watering is the responsibility of the property owner.

Landscape

Landscaping damaged in the City Road Right of Way by plowing will not be replaced or paid for by the city. This would include woodchips, rocks, boulders, plants, and decorative features, etc.

Irrigation

The city is not responsible for the repair or replacement of irrigation system components damaged in the City Road Right of Way due to snow removal.

4. Garbage and recycling cans

Residents should place garbage and recycling carts in driveways instead of in the streets until emptied. Carts should be removed from the roadways as soon as possible to avoid the plow knocking them over.