

CITY OF CROSSLAKE SNOWPLOWING POLICY

1. **Introduction:** The City of Crosslake believes it is in the best interest of the residents of the City to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on City streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The City will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The City will use City employees, equipment, and/or private contractors to provide this service.

The City does not maintain a “clear lane” policy. Clear lane policies dictate heavy salt use and multiple passes of plow trucks to get back to a dry road as fast as possible. It also relies on heavy traffic volumes to help clear the lanes which either blows the snow off the road or wears the snow out with repeated tire passes on the same spot.

2. **Operations:** The Public Works Director will determine when snow and ice control operations shall begin. Hours of plow operations is dependent on the timing of snowfall. Criteria for commencing operations are as follows:
 - a. Snow accumulation of 3” or more
 - b. Drifting snow that causes problems for travel
 - c. Icy conditions which seriously affect travel
 - d. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets

Generally, operations shall continue until all roads are passable. Widening and cleanup operations may continue immediately or on the following working day depending upon conditions and circumstances. Safety of the plow operators and the public is important.

3. **How Snow will be Plowed:** Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently, snowplowing operations will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than 2 inches. Dependent upon snowfall conditions and the duration of the storm, cleanup operations can fluctuate.

Plow Routes: The City has classified City streets based on the street function, traffic volume and importance to the safety and welfare of the community.

- a. First Priority are main artery roads, school bus routes and Emergency Services Building parking lots.
- b. Second Priority are streets providing access to commercial businesses and high density neighborhoods.
- c. Third Priority are low volume residential streets and opening cul-de-sacs.

During light to normal snowfall, streets shall be plowed to their full width as soon after the initial pass as possible. 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 operation within 24 hours for light snow fall and within 72 hours for heavy snowfalls. Extreme weather conditions (i.e. blizzards/high winds, ice/rain, or other unusual weather events) may require additional time to complete operations.

4. **Use of Salt and Sand:** The City is concerned about the effect of salt and sand on the environment and will limit its use for that reason. Therefore, it is the policy of the City to utilize a salt and sand mixture ratio of approximately one part salt and 3 parts sand. This provides for traction, but is not intended to provide bare pavement during winter conditions. The City cannot be responsible for damage to grass caused by the salt/sand mixture and therefore will not make repairs or compensate residents for salt damage to turf areas in the street right-of-way.
5. **Weather Conditions:** Snow plowing and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of City employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow plowing and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds and limited visibility.
6. **Property Damage:** Snowplowing operations can cause property damage in spite of proper care and precautions taken. The City of Crosslake practices the following property damage policy:
 - a. Mailboxes and mailbox posts physically hit by a plow will be repaired or replaced at the expense of the City in accordance with U.S. Postal regulations. Damage caused by the weight of snow is not the responsibility of the City. (Swing away mailbox posts are available to purchase).
 - b. Snow and ice control operations can cause damage to the public right-of-way (which extends approximately 10' – 15' beyond the edge of the road) even under the best of circumstances and care on the part of operators. The intent of the right-of-way is to provide room for snow storage, utilities, drainage, and other City uses.
 - c. The City will assume no responsibility for damage to personal property placed in the public right-of-way such as underground lawn sprinkling systems, exterior lighting systems, and similar landscaping.

The snow plow operators make every effort to remove snow as close to the edge of the road as practical and to provide access to mailboxes for the Postal Department. However, it is not possible to provide perfect conditions and minimize damage to mailboxes with the size and type of equipment the City operates. Therefore, the final cleaning adjacent to mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident.

7. **Driveways:** One of the most frequent and irritable problems in removal of snow from the public street is the snow deposited in driveways during plowing operations. Snow being accumulated on the plow blade has no place to go but in the driveway. The drivers make every attempt to minimize the amount of snow deposited in driveways, but the amount still can be significant. City personnel do not provide driveway cleaning. Driveways are to be cleaned by the person taking residency along a public street. When moving snow off of private property, **DO NOT** push or blow the snow back onto the street. This unsafe act is against Minnesota State Law.