



City Of Maplewood Snow and Ice Control Policy

(Revised January 2011)

PURPOSE: Snow and Ice control is necessary for public safety, routine travel, and emergency services. The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures concerning snow and ice control. The following is a GUIDE for winter operations. The City of Maplewood considers snow and ice control a top priority and emergency in nature.

The City of Maplewood currently maintains 275 lane miles, and 145 cul-de-sacs.

GOALS:

- Monitor in conjunction with the Maplewood Police Department and a weather service, road and weather conditions 24 hours per day.
- Allow emergency vehicles access during weather events.
- Maintain streets in a safe driving condition.
- Perform snow and ice control in a timely and cost effective manner.
- To have streets plowed full width in 8 hours after snow has quit falling during a normal snow event.

EQUIPMENT: The Public Works division utilizes 8 single axle dump trucks, 2 tandem axle trucks, 2 wheel loaders, all with main plow, side wings, and spreaders on the trucks. A single one ton pickup is used for some cul-de-sacs and designated trails.

PROCEDURES: The Street Superintendent, or designated representative, determines when operations begin based upon immediate and anticipated conditions. Each snow and ice event is unique due to the many changing weather conditions. Maintenance requirements may vary for each event.

- Freezing rain, sleet, or ice. The response can vary from a single truck to the entire fleet.
- Snowfall of 3" or less. The plowing plan varies depending upon temperature and time of year. It is possible that only high volume and collector streets are plowed with ice control applied at stop signs, hills, bridges and curves. The superintendent may deem it necessary to complete a full plowing of the City if we have had a series of nuisance snowfalls resulting in a buildup of snow on the streets.
- Snowfall of 3" – 6". Depending on the timing of the event, every effort will be made to provide safe driving conditions at critical times, mainly weekday mornings and evening rush hours. Once the snowfall has ended a complete plowing will be performed. All plow routes will be re-checked and re-plowed as needed.
- Snowfall of 6" or more. Each plow route has different streets classifications including collector streets, local streets, and priority segments serving facilities such as hospitals, schools, and health care facilities. Depending on the rate of accumulation and other weather factors it may be necessary to continually plow these collector and priority streets until snowfall has let up at which time we would then move into local neighborhood streets.

SNOW STORAGE: In cul-de-sacs; when possible snow, will be placed in the center of the cul-de-sac. If this is not possible it will be placed off to the side as not to interfere with mail service or driveways. The City will remove the snow by hauling. Timing of the hauling will be at the discretion of the street superintendent.

ICE CONTROL: The City of Maplewood does not have a bare pavement policy. The City attempts to maintain safe traveling roads with adequate traction for the motoring public. The City currently uses road salt, treated road salt, and sand depending on weather conditions. The City is monitoring new technology and products for ice control keeping in mind cost and environmental concerns. The City will not be responsible for damage to grass or driveways by the use of ice control materials.

SIDEWALKS: The City of Maplewood provides minimum winter maintenance on designated high usage sidewalk/trail systems. The sidewalk/trail system will be opened within 48 hours of the completion of street operations. The City uses two Bobcat skid steers with plow, broom, or blower depending on the snow event. The City has no bare surface policy and uses no chemical, de-icing or sand treatments on sidewalks/trails.

BOULEVARDS: The City will assume no responsibility for landscape, shrubbery, irrigation, or other materials placed on or within public right-of-way. The City, at its option, will repair turf damage as a result of plowing by re-seeding or replacing sod.

MAILBOXES: If a mailbox is struck directly by the plow the City will re-place the mailbox provided that the owner contacts Public Works within 72 hours for verification. The replacement will consist of a 4x4 treated post and a mailbox similar to the one that was damaged. The City will not replace decorative, ornamental or brick type construction. Homeowners should inspect mailbox condition prior to winter, check for rotted posts and missing hardware.

MAIL DELIVERY: The city attempts to remove snow as close to the curb as possible to allow access to the mailbox for the postal department. It is not always possible for the plow to remove all of the snow in front of the mailbox. It is the resident's responsibility to keep the area in front of the mailbox open to ensure mail delivery.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS: The city recognizes that snowplow operators are exempt from traffic regulations set forth in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 169 while actually engaged in work on streets, except for regulations related to driving while impaired and the safety of school children. Pursuant to this authority, snowplow operators engaged in snow removal or ice control on city streets have discretion to disregard traffic laws set forth in Chapter 169, except for laws relating to impaired driving and school children safety, when in their judgment, it is safe to disregard such laws. The privileges granted herein to operators of snow removal and ice control vehicles shall apply only if the vehicle is equipped with one lighted lamp displaying a flashing, oscillating, or rotating amber light placed in such a position on the vehicle as to be visible throughout an arc of 360 degrees.

REVIEW: City staff will review the policy after each season and may make recommendations for change based on resident feedback, staff observations, new practices and technology.