



Public Works Department

SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL PLAN WINTER 2024-2025

www.bloomingtonil.gov/snow



The City of Bloomington Public Works Department is responsible for providing snow and ice removal for 844 lane miles of streets and cul-de-sacs. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Facilities Division of the Department of Operations and Engineering Services are also involved in City snow and ice removal operations.

The City is committed to following best practices and procedures for snow and ice removal. To address each weather event with the most effective and efficient methods, Public Works has enhanced and expanded its commitment to ongoing training and education. Weather monitoring, pavement pre-treatment, and equipment maintenance occur year-round in an effort to better serve the public.

The goal of Public Works is to make all City streets as safe and accessible as possible during the winter season. Public Works has divided City streets into three categories, which determine the level of service. Overall efforts for snow removal are based on the following priority list:

1. Primary Streets
2. Secondary Streets
3. Residential Streets

PRIMARY STREETS

Public Works focuses on Primary Streets throughout the City first. These are the thoroughfares with the highest average daily traffic counts throughout the City. Public Works attempts to clear all Primary Streets to bare pavement to maintain a clear driving track throughout the City.

Public Works places these areas as the top priority for weather events. They are the areas where emergency first responders' access is critical.

SECONDARY STREETS

Secondary Streets are local streets that serve individuals in subdivisions, other residential neighborhoods, and cul-de-sacs. These streets are plowed and salted once the Primary Streets have been completed.

RESIDENTIAL STREETS

The City has 29 residential snow districts. During a winter storm that includes accumulation of two inches or more, Public Works crews will plow Residential Streets. The approach varies depending on the type of storm and conditions. When the director of Public Works determines that residential streets warrant plowing, these streets are plowed to passable condition and do not receive salt treatment.

ALLEYS

Public Works crews plow alleys by request only after two inches or more of snow and once all Residential Streets are plowed.

REMOVAL OPERATIONS

Snow personnel and equipment are assigned to particular Primary Streets and Secondary Streets. Within each section, crews follow specific routes for efficient snow and ice removal. The routes are designed to ensure that snow personnel and equipment are equally divided between the 12 snow sections.

WEATHER MONITORING

The key element for efficient snow and ice removal is receiving timely weather information. Accurate weather forecasting is imperative in deciding which of the various operational procedures will be followed. Public Works uses Clarity WX (BAM) to provide weather reports throughout the day, 365 days a year. This weather service is monitored by the superintendents, assistant

director, and director. Public Works has an on-call supervisor assigned to monitor conditions 24 hours a day. Based on monitoring and assessment, the supervisor formulates, implements, and adjusts the plan to address the situation as conditions warrant.

SNOW EMERGENCY

When a major weather event is in the forecast, the City may initiate a snow emergency to ensure that all routes are clear of vehicles. When announced, parking is prohibited on the designated snow routes and all residential streets via a parking ban. Times and duration of the snow emergency may vary and are subject to change.

Residents have four hours from the announcement of a parking ban to remove vehicles from City streets. Residents with limited off-street parking are encouraged to utilize space in City parking decks.

Declarations of snow emergency are announced through City and non-City media outlets and venues with as much notice as possible. To sign up for e-mail or text updates for snow and ice removal, visit www.bloomingtonil.gov/subscribe and subscribe to Snow Updates.

EMERGENCY REQUEST

During after hours, call the Bloomington Police Department at 309-820-8888 to request salt or plowing. A supervisor will make the final determination as to whether the request will be fulfilled.

FREEZING RAIN OR ICE STORM

All City streets, including Residential Streets, are plowed and salted during freezing rain or an ice storm. Paved alleys are salted by request.

ROAD SALT

The primary de-icing material used by the City to treat snow and ice on the pavement is standard road salt. Use of the material varies based on the severity of the winter weather, and use varies ranging from 3,000 to 9,000 tons annually.

Time is crucial in applying salt to the streets. Initial application should occur as soon as snow or ice begins to accumulate on the pavement. The salt will quickly produce “brine,” a protective area between the street surface and snow or ice, preventing it from bonding to the pavement. The melting action of salt applied early in a storm works from the pavement surface upward, so ice does not stick. When temperatures drop below 15 degrees, the use of salt becomes less effective.

PRE-TREATMENT

Pre-treatment is the use of salt brine material applied directly to the pavement. Public Works pre-treats bridges with salt brine depending on weather conditions.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

During the course of operations throughout any given winter, a certain amount of damage to City and private property may occur. In the event that parkway damage is sustained to a plow riding over the curb, Public Works will repair said damage as soon as conditions permit. Any damage sustained due to salt inadvertently splashing onto the parkway during the course of the winter will not be repaired by the City.

MAILBOX DAMAGE

If a City plow damages a mailbox either through direct contact or due to the force of the snow rolling off the plow, the mailbox may be repaired or replaced with a standard

mailbox and post. The city does not replace decorative mailboxes. Residents can contact the City for insurance information and can file a claim to receive reimbursement up to \$150. A property owner who installs decorative material on the parkway does so at their own risk.

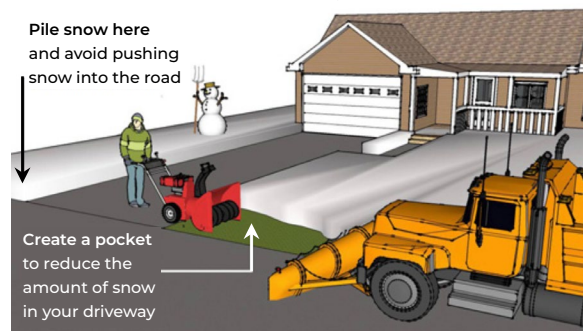
PLOWING IN CUL-DE-SACS

Because of the large number of cul-de-sacs citywide, and the amount of time to clean each one, residents in these areas can expect a nominal amount of snow in their driveways as well. Public Works crews will do their best not to pile snow in front of driveways in cul-de-sacs.

PLOWING ALONG DRIVEWAYS

It can be expected that snow will be plowed into driveways as a normal part of snow removal operations. Public Works crews will attempt to keep excessive amounts from accumulating. However, each driveway will receive a certain amount of snow. A suggested technique for clearing driveways ahead of the City plow is referenced below.

Before your street has been plowed, we recommend the following:



Using this method to clear snow will reduce the amount of snow that accumulates at the end of your driveway!

IDOT-MAINTAINED ROUTES

The City plows some Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) routes per an intergovernmental agreement. Below are the routes that City does not plow for IDOT:

- Veterans Parkway
- Market from White Oak west
- Main and Center from Armory south
- Empire from Towanda east
- Morrissey from Croxton south

IDOT contact information can be found at: <https://idot.illinois.gov/travel-information/report-a-problem.html>

ASSISTANCE WITH TOWING OR PLOWING PRIVATE PROPERTY

Under no circumstance will a City employee be allowed to use a City-owned vehicle to push, pull, or tow a stranded vehicle from a roadway or parking lot. The employee may, if a hazard exists, use his or her radio to notify a 911 dispatcher of the hazardous condition. Likewise, under no circumstance will a City employee use a City-owned vehicle to perform any snow or ice removal operations on private or commercial property, and employees will not be allowed to use personal equipment during working hours.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The City recognizes that conditions may be so unusual or unexpected that a departure from these general policies could be authorized. The purpose of this policy is to explain the plans for the City regarding snow and ice removal under normal circumstances. It is not to be construed to create any duty to any individual, person, or entity.

WINTER STORM UPDATES

Public Works provides snow and ice removal updates, maps, and additional information at: www.bloomingtonil.gov/snow. Public Works updates the page regularly during a snow or ice event.

To sign up for e-mail or text updates for snow and ice removal, visit www.bloomingtonil.gov/subscribe and subscribe to Snow Updates.

You can also email Public Works at publicworks@cityblm.org or call 309-434-225 during regular business hours.