

SNOWPLOWING POLICY
CITY OF HERMANTOWN
CITY STREETS ONLY

1. Introduction

Reasonable ice and snow control on City streets is necessary for safe travel and provision of necessary emergency services. The City will provide such snow and ice control in a reasonably responsive and cost effective manner with a priority on public safety and considering budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The City Administration will assign City employees, equipment, and/or engage qualified private contractors to provide necessary and reasonably required snow and ice control services.

2. When will City start snow or ice control operations?

The Street Superintendent will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision are:

- 2.1 Snow accumulation of 3 inches or more on the driving surface of City streets, subject to Section 6 of this policy
- 2.2 Drifting of snow that impedes travel on City streets;
- 2.3 Icy conditions which seriously affect travel on City streets; and
- 2.4 Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of City streets;
- 2.5 For snow accumulations of less than 3 inches blacktopped streets may be sanded or plowed and gravel streets may be sanded or plowed on an “as needed” basis as determined by the Street Superintendent, subject to Section 6 of this policy

Snow and ice control operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personnel and equipment. Consequently full service snowplowing operations will not generally be conducted for snowfall of less than 3 inches.

3. How snow will be plowed

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed to the edge of the driving surface. In times of extreme snowfall, (greater than 1 inch per hour or blowing or drifting snow) streets will not immediately be able to be completely cleared of snow.

4. Priorities and schedule for which streets will be plowed

The City has classified City streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. Those streets classified as Minor Arterials and Major Collector Roads or more commonly called “Priority Snow Plow Routes” will be plowed first. These are high volume routes, which connect major sections of the City and provide access for emergency fire, police, and medical services. The City streets included in this category as Priority Snow Plow Routes are:

Stebner Road, Arrowhead Road, Hermantown Road and Ugstad Road

The second priority City streets are those streets providing access to schools and commercial businesses. The City streets included in this category are:

Mall Drive, and Anderson Road east of Stebner Road

The third priority City streets are low volume neighborhood residential streets.

5. Work schedule for snowplow operators

When snow accumulation starts during daylight hours, Priority Snow Plow Routes will be plowed during regular working hours from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Plowing will resume the next day at 4:00 a.m. if previous day snow/ice removal is unfinished. When snow accumulation begins after 4:00 p.m. snowplowing operations will start at 4:00 a.m. the next day.

6. Weather conditions

Snow 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 and ice control operations include: severe cold, sustained high winds, and limited visibility. Gravel roads with 4 inches or less of snow accumulation will not be plowed during minimal frost conditions as normally experienced in early spring or late fall.

7. Use of sand, salt, and other chemicals

The City will use sand, salt, and other chemicals when there are accumulations or coatings of hazardous ice or slippery driving conditions. The City is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit their use for that reason.

8. **Sidewalks**

The City will clear snow and ice from some of the sidewalks on City streets adjacent to the curb. Because there is a limited number of personnel available for snow and ice control, the City will only clear snow and ice from these sidewalks after all the streets have been plowed and sanded, as the case may be.

9. **Other Streets and Roads**

State of Minnesota – Department of Transportation is responsible for sanding and plowing:

Hwy 53 (Miller Trunk Hwy); Hwy 2 and Hwy 194

County Roads – St. Louis County is responsible for sanding and plowing:

Midway Road, Maple Grove Road, Morris Thomas Road, LaVaque Road, Haines Road, LaVaque By-Pass, Airport Road and St. Louis River Road