



## Town of Rockford Snow Removal Policy

Adopted 10/21/2015; Amended 10/2/2019

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

The Public Works operator will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations. The criteria for that decision will be:

1. Snow accumulation of four inches or more with the exception of East Emma Street which will be plowed at two inches of snowfall.
2. Drifting snow that causes problems for travel
3. Icy conditions
4. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets

### *HOW SNOW WILL BE PLOWED*

Snow will be plowed in a manner so as to minimize any traffic obstruction. The center of the roadway will be plowed first. The snow shall then be pushed from left to right. When a plow goes on a bridge, the driver shall slow down so that snow does not go over the bridge if possible. In times of extreme snowfall, streets may not always be immediately completely cleared of snow.

Whenever possible, operators try to minimize the size of berms across driveways. However; we do not have the resources to remove snow berms. Removal of driveway berms is the responsibility of the property owner.

### *SNOW REMOVAL*

The Public Works operator will determine when snow will be removed by truck from the area. Such snow removal will occur in areas where there is no room on the street for snow storage and in areas where accumulated piles of snow create a hazardous condition. Snow removal operations will not commence until other snowplowing operations have been completed. Snow removal operations may also be delayed depending on weather conditions, personnel and budget availability. The snow will be removed and hauled to a snow storage area. The snow storage area will be located so as to minimize environmental problems.

### *PRIORITIES FOR PLOWING*

Town Shop/Fire Station  
East Emma Street to Frisbie Way  
Maple Street  
Bus Routes  
Residential Streets

### *WORK SCHEDULE*

Snow plow operators will generally work eight hours shifts. In severe snow emergencies operators may have to work up to 12 hours per shifts, but no operator shall work more than 12 hours in any 24 hour period.

### *WEATHER CONDITIONS*

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of town employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include severe cold, significant winds and limited visibility.

### *USE OF SAND, SALT AND OTHER CHEMICALS*

The town will use sand, salt and other chemicals when there is hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The town is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

### *SIDEWALKS*

The town will make an effort to remove snow from the downtown area sidewalks, provided personnel and funds are available. Business owners should not assume the town will be solely responsible for the sidewalks in front of their businesses. It will be necessary for business owners to work in conjunction with town personnel to keep the sidewalks snow and ice free.

### *RESIDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY*

Residents are responsible for maintaining the following areas:

- **Sidewalks** in front of their property
- **Fire hydrant** access clear from snow and ice
- **Mailbox** access clear from snow and ice

Maintaining your roads is expensive, dangerous and time-consuming. Please help us by paying attention to the following.

- When it starts to snow, park your vehicle off the street if possible. Vehicles left parked in areas of snow removal operations can be a big problem. It is the homeowners' responsibility to remove snow from their sidewalks.
- Please remember to shovel into your yard and not into the street; otherwise the snowplow ends up putting the snow back on your sidewalk from the street. The town prohibits placing snow or ice on any public street, sidewalk or parking space in a manner that impedes vehicle or pedestrian traffic or makes it unsafe.
- For the winter, please remove from the town right-of-way any obstructions such as rocks or planters.
- Please keep your garbage cans at least five feet inside driveways, away from the edge of the roadway.
- Please do not stack or plow snow over ends of culverts, in ditches, on top of drainage structures or close to fire hydrants.
- Be aware of ice on the steep hills and use alternate routes if necessary.
- After all the snow is gone, it is the homeowners' responsibility to sweep their sidewalks free of sand and debris.

\*\*\*The town is **not** responsible for driveways, mailbox access, or fire hydrants. If at all possible, refrain from parking vehicles on the street when it's likely that plowing will be necessary\*\*\*