
Policy Statement

To improve safety, facilitate the operation of emergency services, and reduce the inconvenience of snow and ice conditions for motorists and pedestrians, the City will undertake snow removal and ice control operations on City streets, lanes, and sidewalks within available financial resources. It is understood that water leaks and other issues that may be deemed as an emergency will take priority over snow plowing and snow removal.

1. Procedures

Public Works personnel will conduct snow clearing and ice control operations, and monitor snow/ice melt situations, during the period November 1st to March 31st, or as needed. Snow clearing means and includes snow hauling, snow plowing, and snow blowing. Ice control operations means and includes the application of salt/sand, and de-icing materials.

2. Definitions

- a) Uptown Business Core defined as:
 - Angel Avenue – Hill Street to Church Street
 - Church Street – North Avenue to Fifth Avenue
 - Fourth Avenue – Hill Street to Church Street
 - Hapnot Street – First Avenue to Fifth Avenue
 - Main Street – North Avenue to Fifth Avenue
 - Second Avenue – Main Street to Hart Avenue
- b) Zones Include:
 - Birchview
 - Boam, Adams, Scarth
 - Channing
 - Lakeview (Creekside, Dominion, Manitoba, Murton, Queen, Riverside, Roche)
 - Mile 84
 - School Zones
 - Timberlane
 - Uptown
 - Uptown Business Core
 - Willowvale

3. Hours of Operation

All normal clearing operations are conducted during regular working hours, Monday to Friday. Overtime operations are left to the discretion of the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen based on road and weather conditions. Other than for emergency situations, snow clearing operations will be suspended at temperatures colder than -35°C.

4. Priorities

- a) Priorities are established to provide the greatest benefit to the majority of the traveling public and to accommodate special conditions.
- b) Criteria for setting priorities:
 - i. Traffic Volume
 - ii. Bus/School routes
 - iii. Emergency Service Routes
 - iv. Special Conditions

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- c) When it is deemed necessary to Plow roads, they will be cleared in the following order according to the **Snow Route Map**:
 - Priority 1 – **RED** (Priority Route Map)
 - Priority 2 – **BLUE** (Priority Route Map)
 - Priority 3 – **BLACK** (Side Streets & Alleys)
 - d) When storms are continuous, or follow closely one after the other, operations as determined by the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen, will be continued until completed before moving on to other priorities.
 - e) When it is deemed necessary to plow and/or remove snow from Residential Areas, they will be done on a rotational basis with Residential Areas being:
 - i. Uptown
 - ii. Mile 84
 - iii. Birchview
 - iv. Willowvale
 - v. Channing
 - vi. Lakeview
 - f) The goal of this snow removal policy is to remove snow down to the pavement level, providing a greater level of safety and enhancing the melting process.

5. Snow Clearing Roads

- a) Operations will normally commence upon a snow accumulation of 10 cm (4 inches), depending on road conditions and the weather forecast.
- b) Operations will be conducted in accordance with the priorities indicated on the **Snow Route Map**.
- c) Only major high-volume roadways will be cleared to the road surface. Snow of varying depths will be left on the balance of the streets in accordance with what is required to minimize driving difficulty.
- d) Snow clearing of roadways without a designated priority (i.e., residential streets and back lanes.) will be initiated by the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen when deemed driving conditions are difficult.
- e) Snow clearing of lanes will be completed as required and determined by the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen. Back lanes are normally considered to be low priority.
- f) On roads to be loaded and hauled out, the snow will be plowed into a windrow within the roadway. On roads adjacent to continuous undeveloped property or open park area of sufficient length, as determined by the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen, snow will be cleared onto the boulevard on that side providing there is no adjacent sidewalk to that side of the road.

On roadways with no sidewalks on either side, or separate sidewalks, snow shall be cleared to the boulevard on both sides. On roadways with sidewalks on one side only, snow shall be cleared to the boulevard on the opposite side. On roadways with sidewalks on both sides, the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen may choose to close one sidewalk to be used for snow storage provided that it does not cause a hazard.

- g) During snow clearing, driveway access into streets, and back lanes will not be cleared.
- h) Snow may be pushed into parks and/or empty lots, ditches and over banks provided that it does not create a hazard.

6. Snow Removal and Hauling from Roads

The City of Flin Flon will take full advantage of the snow storage capacity within the roadway to increase operational efficiency. When the storage capacity within the roadways is at its capacity, snow removal of roadways will commence within the following zones:

- Birchview
 - Boam, Adams, Scarth
 - Channing
 - Lakeview
 - Mile 84
 - School Zones
 - Timberlane
 - Uptown
 - Uptown Business Core
 - Willowvale
- a) Snow removal from the roads and back lanes in the Uptown Business Core will be completed as deemed necessary by the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen to minimize driving difficulty and pedestrian safety.
 - b) Snow removal of roadways without a designated priority is not normal practice and will only be undertaken at the discretion of the Director of Works & Operations or Foremen.
 - c) At times, it will be necessary to hire local Contractors to assist the City with the snow removal program. This work shall be distributed equally as possible among all local Contractors or as availability will allow. All Contractors will need to provide proof of insurance before they can work for the City.

7. Ice Control: Salt/Sand and De-Icing

- a) Road salt is mixed with sanding material to be used throughout the winter month. Straight road salt is used during those conditions when sanding material is ineffective (i.e., freezing rain). De-icers are used only during active temperature conditions between -10° and 10° Celsius. Street sanding will be done between the hours of 5:00 am to 1:30 pm Monday thru Friday and Weekends at 7:00 am to 3:00 pm from November 1st to March 31st, or as needed.
- b) Sanding and De-icing operations will be conducted in accordance with the **Snow Route Map** and the following priorities:
- c) Primary Roads
 - i. Intersections at traffic lights
 - ii. Intersections, railway crossings, bridges and corners on arterial roadways and abutting highways
 - iii. Intersections, railway crossings, bridges, and corners on collector roads
 - iv. Hills

- d) Secondary Roads
 - i. Intersections, railway crossings, bridges and corners on remaining roadways as required
 - ii. Parking lots and lanes as required
 - iii. Ice control is restricted to intersections, railway crossings, bridges and corners and is not normally applied to mid-block areas except on high volume roadways if conditions warrant.
 - iv. Sidewalks will receive ice control as conditions dictate. Only sidewalks abutting City owned property will receive ice control. Ice Control Operations on sidewalks will be conducted in accordance with the following priorities.
 - 1. Downtown sidewalks - (Lane Crossings)
 - 2. Sidewalks in high volume pedestrian areas
 - 3. Other sidewalks as required

8. Snow Plowing – Sidewalks

- a) Operations will be conducted in accordance with priorities indicated on the **Snow Route Map**.
- b) All sidewalks shown on the **Snow Route Map** will be plowed to the sidewalk surface whenever possible.
- c) Snow will be placed onto windrows, parks, vacant lots, ditches, and on occasion Residential property.
- d) Access to sidewalks at major intersections and crosswalks, as indicated on the **Snow Route Map**, will be maintained.
- e) During sidewalk snow removal, Operators will clear bus stop areas, and fire hydrants when possible.
- f) Businesses within the Uptown Business Core are responsible for clearing the sidewalks in front of their business. Failure to do so will result in City crews cleaning of the sidewalk and billing the business or building owner.

9. Snow Clearing Parking Lots

- a) Operations will commence when conditions dictate.
- b) Parking lot snow removal is considered to be of low priority. They will be serviced after roads, and sidewalks have been serviced.
- c) Only City owned parking lots will be cleared by City crews.

d) City maintained parking lots include:

- City Hall
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- Friendship Centre
- Library
- Post Office
- RCMP
- Whitney Forum

10. Snow Disposal Sites

- a) Snow disposal sites are provided to store snow removed by City crews.
- b) Maintenance will be provided to each site based on dumping demands. Sites may be opened or closed as required.
- c) All sites will be maintained in a fashion that will minimize impact on the environment and in accordance with Manitoba Environment guidelines.
- d) Local Contractors may have access and use City snow dump sites at no charge but are responsible for clean up and maintenance of areas after each use. Failure to do so may result in a bill and/or fine.

Snow Route Map

