City of Columbus
Snow Removal Policy
Policy 12-05

OVERVIEW

With the advent of Minnesota snow season comes the concern about access to work, school and business. The safety and convenience of the traveling public is a main concern of the City of Columbus Public Works Department. The goal of the Public Works Department is to have all City streets passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped.

The City of Columbus does not assure a completely bare road and will not salt/sand entire sections of roadway. Users of the roadway system are reminded to exercise caution and drive with care.

1. **Dispatching Snowplows**
   The City of Columbus will usually not dispatch snowplows until after a snowfall has stopped. During extended periods of snowfall, exceptions may be made. Snowplows will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility or other hazard conditions.

2. **Asphalt Operations**
   Asphalt will be plowed with a 2'' snowfall or at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Generally, the clearing of roads will consist of three phases: Making the road passable, widening and sanding, and cleaning up. Dependent upon the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time:
   Phase 1. Make the road passable- Clean one lane in each direction. Generally, plow and wing are used.
   Phase 2. Widen the lanes to the edge of the shoulders
   Phase 3. Clean up and remove ice and slush off the roadway after salt and sun have been allowed to work. Cul-de-sacs, hammer heads, and intersections are cleaned up at this time.

3. **Gravel Operations**
   Generally, the clearing of gravel will not be done until the roads have a snow packed base. Once a snow packed base is in place the gravel will be plowed when 2"to 3'' of

snow has accumulated or at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Depending on the situation, more then one phase may be accomplished at one time

Phase 1. Make the road passable- Public Works will clean one lane in each direction. If Public Works cannot use plow and wing due to gravel conditions belly plows will be used. (Roads will not be plowed at full width) with the use of belly plows when gravel roads conditions improve roads will be plowed completely.

Phase 2. Widen the lanes to the edge of the road If road is frozen Public Works will wing off the road to the full width of the road.

Phase 3. Clean up and remove ice and slush off the roadway after salt and sun have been allowed to work. Cul-de-sacs, hammer heads, and intersections are cleaned up at this time.

4. Salt/Sanding Operations

Sanding will be done at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Salt, salt sand or a trap rock material will be used on asphalt or gravel roads. High traffic, high demand or commercial business roadways may be plowed or sanded more often.

5. Personal Properties

a. As snow is plowed the City is not responsible for snow left across the property owner driveway. It is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across City, County, or State roads under Minnesota Statue 160.2715(a) (1).

b. No parking ordinance is in effect from Nov. 1st to April 1st from 10pm – 10am when there is 1" or more of snow.

c. The State of Minnesota Department of Transportation has design standards for the installation and replacement of mailboxes. Residents are encouraged to review the city mailbox policy for compliance information. If a mailbox is damaged during the process of snow removal activities, the City will replace or repair the mailboxes that comply with the city mailbox policy and only if it was physically hit by the snow plow equipment. Heavy or large amounts of snow discharges from the plowing equipment causing damage to the mailbox will not be repaired by the city. Mailboxes that are damaged because of nonconformance to the design standards are the homeowner's responsibility. You can obtain a copy of the standard from the city or on the cities website.

d. The City of Columbus is not responsible for the damage of garbage / recycle cans if hit by snow or direct contact with the snow plow equipment. Garbage cans should not be placed on the road surfaces, instead should be placed at the end of the homeowners driveway. 2ft to 3ft.off the road surface

e. Right of Ways- the City of Columbus is not liable for damages to fences, vehicles, or any other objects placed on the City Right of Way.
   1. The City of Columbus is not responsible for any damages to sod, sprinkler systems, or landscaping on the City road right of way.

6. Other

a. **Stranded Motorists.** The Public Works Department may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement / emergency personnel. The Public Works Department will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.

b. **Park Trail**. The half mile portion park trail will be plowed at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Plowing of the trail will be after all City roads, parking areas, well houses, lift stations and sidewalks are completely plowed and salted/ sanded and all other Public Works duties are completed.

Information- Questions or concerns regarding snow removal and/or road conditions should be directed to the City Public Works Department at 651-464-3120 ext 1015. Emergencies may be reported to the Anoka County Sheriffs office non-emergency number at 763-427-1212 or by dialing 911.