

With the recent substantial snow storms that we have experienced Staff have had a number of resident questions about snow plowing and snow management. The main focus of these enquiries is snow deposited at the end of the driveway after the plow passes by, keeping hydrants clear, and snow around mailboxes.

Driveway Clearing Tips

It is always difficult to keep the end of the driveway clear, and it is frustrating for residents who have cleared the end of the driveway only to have the plow come around and fill it back in again, it is also frustrating for the plow drivers, we do not want to create more work for residents than is absolutely necessary.

A few things to consider to lessen the impact of the snow plowing operations, if we are experiencing a multiple day snow event, the Staff will conduct several partial plows to keep main roads and residential streets open, cul-de-sacs will have one pass to maintain resident access, trails other than safe routes to school will not be plowed. Once the snow has stopped Staff will commence a full plow that will include plowing curb to curb as close as possible to keep streets functioning at optimum levels. Residents should wait to clear driveways until the plow has come by during the full plow, if possible.

When cleaning driveways please make sure that the snow from the driveway is pushed up behind the curb and not piled in the street, if it is piled in the street the plow will push the snow back into the driveway. The diagram below shows how residents can clear their driveways to reduce the volume of snow deposited by the plow at driveway entrances. The plow will always deposit snow in the driveway following the diagram below will limit the impact and avoid a pile of snow at the driveway entrance.

A smart way to shovel your drive

How to reduce the possibility of getting a huge pile of snow in your driveway opening when snowplows clear your street:



Source: Minnesota Department of Transportation

Graphic: Jim Freitag, Minneapolis Star Tribune

City Staff need to maintain the width of the Streets within the City so that cars can pass each other and allow for School Buses, Garbage haulers, Post Office Deliveries, Delivery Trucks and Public Safety vehicles to navigate the streets safely where cars may be parked on the Street. Public Works Staff will be

widening out Streets as much as possible this may result in snow being pushed back into yards, we will make every possible effort to avoid depositing snow in driveways or damage to property.

Hydrants

Plow drivers do their best to avoid blocking hydrants, however this is not always possible especially when we have substantial amounts of snow. Keeping streets and trails open is the primary goal for the City's snow plowing crews, once those responsibilities are concluded Staff will open up hydrants.

Staff are asking for residents to help with maintaining the hydrants in front of their homes, this will help Staff and the Fire Department in case of an Emergency.

Mailboxes

Plow drivers try their best to get as close to the mail boxes as possible. Clearing the residual snow so that mail can be delivered, is the responsibility of the resident.

Damage to mailboxes happens from time to time, however the City will only replace mailboxes if the snow plow has made contact with them. In many instances the mailboxes or posts are damaged from the impact of the snow coming off the plow. Please inspect the damage to determine if the plow hit the mailbox before reporting the damage to Public Works 763-427-3224.