

OVERVIEW OF SNOW REMOVAL PRACTICES

General Procedures

The snow ordinance is called into effect when reliable weather information indicates an **approaching storm likely having 2" or more accumulation**. The overall goal for snow removal operations during an average storm is to have activities completed within 16 hours. Actual performance will vary greatly, depending on factors such as timing and amount of snowfall, temperatures, previous accumulations, etc.

The order of priority for snow removal operations is typically:

- Designated snow routes (2")
- Downtown, Campustown, and Somerset business areas
- Residential streets (3")
- Alleys (4")
- Municipal parking lots
- Shared use paths and sidewalks

Designated Snow Routes and the Snow Ordinance

Bus routes, arterial streets and major collectors are generally those streets designated as snow routes by city ordinance. These streets are usually plowed upon receiving two inches (**2"**) of accumulation (or as needed) by City crews and equipment. As noted, the **snow ordinance will be instituted upon prediction of such a storm**. The Public Relations Officer notifies the public well in advance when the snow ordinance is to take effect. **Parking on designated snow route streets is prohibited when the snow ordinance is in effect**. The Police Department, in coordination with CyRide and Public Works, will ticket and tow those vehicles remaining on the street. The snow ordinance remains in place on each designated snow route until the snow has stopped falling and the street is plowed curb to curb.

Residential collectors are cleared on the same basis as designated snow routes; however, the snow ordinance is not in effect on these streets.

Residential Streets

Local neighborhood streets are plowed upon receiving approximately three inches (**3"**) of accumulation by contract operators using their own equipment (tractors) outfitted with City plow blades. Unless a prolonged storm is forecast, the contractors will begin plowing upon completion of the snowfall.

Downtown, Campustown, and Somerset Businesses

The Downtown, Campustown, and Somerset business areas are typically cleared **following close of business and prior to opening the next day**. Business owners may clear the sidewalks by pushing snow over the curb where it will later be loaded out

by City crews. Load-out of snow piles typically takes place by Public Works crews during normal working hours following completion of all plowing priorities.

Alleys

Alleys are cleared by City crews after receiving accumulation of four inches (4") or more following completion of residential street plowing.

Municipal Parking Lots

Snow removal and ice control in **parking lots** and adjacent sidewalks at most municipal facilities are handled by contract forces and City crews. As previously stated, City crews remove snow in the business district parking lots and handle load-out at other municipal lots.

Shared Use Paths and Sidewalks

Shared use paths that are adjacent to arterial streets and serve a multi-modal transportation function are cleared through a cooperative effort between Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Iowa State University. Paved recreational trails are also cleared by the Parks and Recreation Department. Granular recreational trails typically are not maintained during the winter months.

Clearing **sidewalks** is the responsibility of the adjacent property owners. Provisions in the Municipal Code require that all sidewalks be cleared within 10 daylight hours following the end of accumulation. Upon receiving a report of a sidewalk that is not clear, the City will give notice to the property owner that the sidewalk must be cleaned within 24 hours. If the sidewalk is not in compliance at that time, the City will cause the sidewalk to be cleared and the charges will be assessed to the property owner.

Bus Stops

Bus pull-outs, bus stop pads, shelters, and access walks are **cleared for CyRide by contract personnel**. **Bus stops on the Iowa State University campus are cleared by Campus Services**. These facilities are typically maintained following completion of adjacent snow route street plowing. Load-out of snow piles typically takes place by Public Works crews during normal working hours following completion of all plowing priorities.

Ice Control

Ice control measures are used at controlled intersections, hills, and curves when warranted due to traffic or refreezing conditions. All City streets are treated during a city-wide ice storm.