



CITY OF SPRINGFIELD SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL PLAN

WINTER 2021–2022



Commonly Asked Questions About Snow Removal

Does Public Works pre-treat roads prior to storms?

Public Works continually monitors the forecasted pavement temperatures, forecasted precipitation amounts, and other factors to determine if pre-treatment of specific areas of the city is warranted. If we find that this course of action is appropriate, Public Works will complete a “brine” treatment in certain locations. Each storm, while in some ways the same, is very different when it comes to determining the proper course of action.

When does Public Works start treatment operations during a snow storm?

Public Works crews begin clearing main routes and emergency and trouble spots (see below) as soon as snow begins to accumulate. With any significant snow fall, Public Works moves to an around the clock, 24/7, operation.

What are the primary streets?

Primary Streets are those streets with the highest amount of traffic as determined by the City Traffic Engineer. Please see page 4 of this document for a list of these routes.

What are emergency and trouble spots?

Emergency and trouble spots include steep inclines as well as areas near hospitals and residents who are on a medical emergency need list. Keeping these streets clear is our top priority until the snow stops falling.

What is the Emergency Snow Route?

When we are anticipating a significant snow fall, the city may initiate a “snow emergency” which requires vehicles to be removed by an announced time from city snow routes. Snow routes are marked by signs and can also be found on the city website at www.springfield.il.us. Vehicles remaining parked on the street negatively impact snow removal operations, as they become obstacles to work around and prevent the full clearing of the street. Vehicles not moved by the designated time are subject to ticketing and towing.

How do I get on a Medical Emergency List?

A resident must submit a letter to the city from their physician indicating the need for immediate access to 24/7 medical care due to a life-threatening condition. The letters should be submitted to the City of Springfield’s Office of Public Works, Attn: Director, 300 S. 7th Street, Room 203, Springfield, IL 62711.

In addition, during any weather event, 911 coordinates with Public Works dispatch for immediate response to any emergency.

How come I never see a snow plow on my street?

Public Works generally does not start plowing residential streets until all main streets and trouble spots are adequate for travel. Plowing on residential streets does not typically occur until the snow fall has ceased. Therefore plowing can begin in the late hours of the evening or morning depending on the timing of the snow.

Also, Public Works does not plow every street for every snow event. Many events are less than a few inches. By the time that Public Works crews could begin plowing residential streets, they are passable. Often in those conditions plowing will have a sheeting affect that will cause other issues with the road. Please note, Public Works does not plow any private streets.

Why does it take hours for my street to get plowed?

With city resources and more than 1,450 lane miles, including over 600 cul-de-sacs, during significant storms it takes city crews 24 to 36 hours or more to plow each and every residential street and cul-de-sac. The time it takes to plow depends on the amount and type of snow fall.

How many snow plows do you have out?

Public Works can provide up to as many as 25 tandems, 10 pieces of heavy equipment (graders, backhoes, and loaders), 4 one-ton dump trucks, and 16 pickup trucks.

CWLP Lake Services can provide up to 2 tandems, 3 one ton trucks, 2 pieces of heavy equipment, and 3 pickup trucks. Lake Services focuses on lake roads and nearby subdivisions. In addition a number of contractors are utilized during major snow events. Each contractor utilizes a number of dump trucks, pickups and heavy equipment.

How much snow has to fall before you plow the streets?

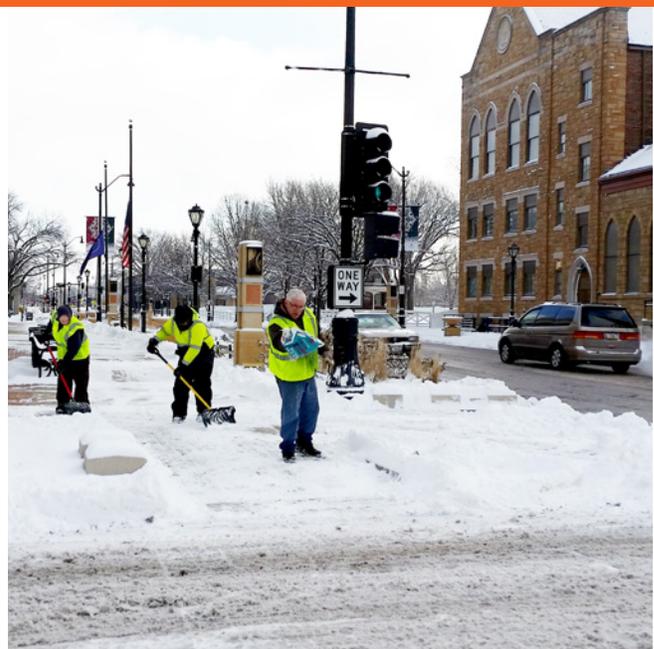
During all snow events, Public Works strives to plow the city's priority streets and trouble spots to bare pavement as best we can. Characteristically for a smaller snow fall (generally less than three inches), we will not plow all residential streets because by the time we are able to get to them, they would likely be snow packed from traffic. In those cases, we are simply making the conditions more hazardous than snow packed streets. Additionally, with the smaller amounts of snow fall, streets are generally passable and it would not be a wise use of limited resources to plow them.

Why does my street never get plowed?

During a significant snow fall, Public Works will plow every city street. As a general rule, residential streets are not plowed unless snow accumulation exceeds three inches or conditions would otherwise merit it.

We live on a cul-de-sac and we are always last or not even get plowed. Why?

Cul-de-sacs are best cleared with smaller equipment,



such as a backhoe, small dump truck or pickup truck. Often the larger trucks will plow through streets prior to a backhoe being available for the cul-de-sacs. If a resident believes their street has been missed 24 hours after the snowfall has ended, they should contact our 24/7 dispatcher at 217.789.2246.

Why do snow plow drivers have to pile snow in front of our mailboxes or driveways?

While city drivers do their best not to impede resident access, often due to circumstances, it does occur. Frankly, the higher the snow amount, the higher the frustration. The focus of our drivers is to clear the streets as quickly and as efficiently as possible. Cul-de-sacs are particularly challenging both in terms of when they are plowed and placement of the removed snow.

How does Public Works know if each street is plowed?

Public Works utilizes an Automated Vehicle Locator (AVL) system that tracks each piece of equipment via a Global Positioning System. From that data, central dispatch can verify when and where a vehicle has been. We can also provide a list to our snow district managers of areas that are often easy to miss and ask them to verify. Visual checks continue during and after snow storms to verify that streets are passable.

Why do our streets remain snow covered and hazardous for driving?

During the type of winters Springfield experiences, residential streets are likely to remain snow covered for a period of time. Residential streets will not receive salt treatment, and therefore snowpack covered streets are to be expected. There is often nothing that Public Works

can do to take the place of reminding the public to drive for winter conditions. With snow covered streets, drivers should use caution, drive slower, provide adequate distance between you and the car in front of you, and allow plenty of extra time to get to your destination.

Will Public Works plow the residential streets more than once?

As temperatures rise, Public Works crews work on streets to break up the snow and ice accumulation as best we can. Frequently, the warming temperatures change the packed snow to a “slush” condition, which allows Public Works to revisit the residential streets and clear them further.

Why does my street never get salt?

Salt is utilized on the city’s primary streets, trouble spots and hazardous intersections as necessary. The city uses on average 6,000 tons each season. Salting all 1,450 lane miles is not practical nor an efficient use of resources. The application of salt also takes a toll on the condition of city infrastructure and, when overused, can cause significant deterioration, resulting in additional road repair. In addition, Public Works does its best to minimize the use of salt in an effort to reduce our environmental impact from runoff.

What do you use in place of salt when temperatures drop below freezing?

When temperatures drop well below freezing (15 degrees or less), applying salt to streets is less effective. When temperatures are below 15 degrees, other measures are evaluated for treatment.

How can I find out if or when a snow plow will be on my street?

It is difficult to tell what precise time your street will be cleared. If you feel that your street may have been missed, or have questions about progress, you may call 217.789.2246 to inquire. Winter driving requires that all motorists do their part to drive safe and appropriate speeds for conditions.

How was the strategy of removing snow developed?

Using GIS software, various roadway factors were considered to evaluate potential safety and social consequences. These factors include volume of traffic, functional classification, average profile slope, crash data during winter events, pavement surface material, location of critical facilities and current SMTD bus routes. Priorities were established based on the GIS model and lane mileage among the seven districts was then balanced.

The strategy of focusing on priority streets and then moving to side streets has been long standing and similar to how most communities approach snow removal. Public Works is also part of the American Public Works Association and annually evaluates and compares Springfield’s operation to other cities to ensure we are applying best practices. We are always open to suggestions on how we can improve that process and encourage any who have such recommendations to please call us at 217.789.2255.



Snow Emergency Routes

STREET	FROM	TO
1st Street	North Grand	Adams
1st Street	Highland	Ash
2nd Street	North Grand	Laurel
5th Street	Sangamon	Stanford
6th Street	Bryn Mawr	5th Street
7th Street	Carpenter	Madison
9th Street	Peoria Road	Myrtle
9th Street	Ash	Oberlin
11th Street	Ridgely	Stevenson
16th Street	Carpenter	Clear Lake
19th Street	Sangamon	Carpenter
Adams	2nd Street	Lewis
Ash	MacArthur	Dirksen Parkway
Bruns Lane	North Grand	Washington
Capitol	9th Street	Martin Luther King
Carpenter	Walnut	19th Street
Chatham Road	Washington	Wabash
Clear Lake	16th Street	24th Street
College	Monroe	Edwards
Cook	Dirksen	Pasfield
Edwards	MacArthur	2nd
Factory	Ridgely	Griffiths
Glenwood	South Grand	Laurel
Griffiths	Factory	19th Street
Henely Road	Sangamon Avenue	Griffiths Street
Iles	I.C.G. RR	6th Street
Iles Avenue	Koke Mill Road	Chatham Road
Jefferson	16th Street	Amos
Koke Mill Road	Washington Street	Wabash Avenue

STREET	FROM	TO
Laurel	MacArthur	Taylor Avenue
Lawrence	Monroe	9th Street
Lewis	Monroe	Madison
MacArthur	North Grand	Iles
Madison	Walnut	16th Street
Martin Luther King	Clear Lake	Ash
Mayden Street	Dirksen Parkway	Piper Road
Monroe	Veterans	2nd Street
Myrtle	6th Street	9th Street
North Grand	Bruns Lane	Wheeler
Oberlin	6th Street	11th Street
Old J'ville Road	Monroe	Chatham Road
Outer Park Drive	Bates	1st Street
Peoria Road	9th Street	Sangamon
Piper Road	Sangamon Avenue	Mayden Street
Rutledge	North Grand	Carpenter
Sangamon	5th Street	Peoria Road
Shepherd Road	West Lake Drive	Toronto Drive
South Grand	MacArthur	Taylor Avenue
Spring	South Grand	Edwards
Spruce	9th Street	5th Street
Stanford Avenue	MacArthur Boulevard	11th Street
Stevenson Drive	6th Street	Dirksen Parkway
Taylor Avenue	South Grand	Stevenson
Toronto Road	East I 55 Exit/ Entrance Ramp	Shepherd Road
Walnut	North Grand	South Grand
Washington	Veterans	2nd Street
West Lake Drive	Stevenson	Shepherd Road