

# Plowing Priorities

The City plows over 400 lane miles of streets after every snow storm of three inches or more. "Full plow" events occur about 10 times per year.

Priority plowing for a "full plow" event is as follows:

## ① Streets identified by the City as "Arterials or Mains"

These are high volume roads which connect major sections of the City and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services. Some examples of arterial roadways are 121st Avenue and Egret Blvd. The City plows arterial (main) roadways more often as they are more heavily traveled.

Roads within Coon Rapids are maintained by both the City and the County. Hanson Boulevard, for example, is a county road. Other examples of county roads within our city include Coon Rapids Boulevard, Northdale Boulevard east of Hanson Boulevard and University Avenue.

## ② Streets providing access to schools and businesses.

## ③ Low volume residential streets.

These streets will be plowed with a different starting point for each snow event where possible so the same neighborhoods are not always plowed first or last.

Residential roads typically are not as clear of snow and ice, down to the blacktop like the main arterial roadways. To do this would take a lot of salt which is harmful to the environment.

## ④ City parking lots and park facilities.

City-owned sidewalks are maintained by the City and will be plowed after the streets have been plowed. Sidewalk plowing can take several days to complete depending on the amount of snowfall. Snowplow crews plow main city streets and do clean up of other streets often as part of routine operations, outside of full plowing events.

As part of the removal of snow from public streets, snow is nearly always deposited in driveways. City personnel do not provide driveway clearing to remove this snow.

# Cul-de-sacs

The process for plowing cul-de-sacs includes several pieces of equipment such as large trucks, pickups and front end loaders. Crews work together to best coordinate the most efficient method of plowing and snow removal.

Because of the number of driveways in a cul-de-sac, it can sometimes be difficult for snowplow drivers to push the snow to lawn areas, but drivers make every effort to do so.

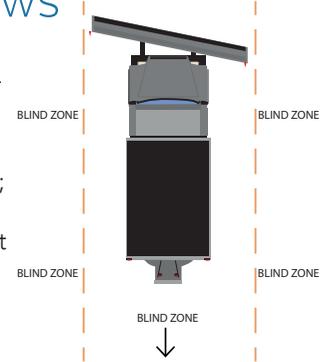


# Ice Control

- » The City uses a salt/chemical mix, not sand.
- » The salt is used on main arterial roadways, at intersections and on hilly locations.
- » Salt is not put down on every block of every residential road in the city. In neighborhoods, salt is most often put down at intersections, curves and hills.
- » Salt is a large pollutant in storm water runoff, which harms and pollutes our lakes, waters and streams. The City uses enough salt to keep our roads safe, while balancing the needs of the environment.
- » In order for salt to effectively break up ice and snow on the roadways, the temperature must be above 15 degrees. When temperatures are lower than this, salt does not work as effectively. Sunshine makes a big difference too. If the sun is out, it helps to heat up the pavement, which allows the salt to go to work, breaking up the ice and snow.

# Sharing the Road with Snowplows

- ✔ Snowplow drivers have a limited field of vision—don't assume they can see you.
- ✔ Never pass on the right; snowplows are pushing snow and spreading salt to the right.
- ✔ Keep four to five car lengths behind a snowplow so the driver can see you.



# Stay Informed with Snowplowing Updates

Stay up-to-date when crews do a full plowing of neighborhood streets, after 3" of snow.

 **www.coonrapidsmn.gov**  
Look for updates on the homepage of the City website.

 **Notify Me**  
Sign up for email updates under "Notify Me" on the City website.

 **/CityofCoonRapidsMinnesota**  
Check the City's Facebook page.

 **Snowplow Hotline: 763-755-2880**  
Select menu option 3.

Find out when crews will report for duty, get an estimate of when they will be done and get updates on sidewalk plowing. Updates occur only when there is 3" or more of snow and crews do a full plow. Routine plowing of main (arterial roadways) is part of routine operations.



# SNOW & ICE CONTROL

for the City of Coon Rapids



The goal of the City's snowplowing program is to provide effective snow and ice control on our streets, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns.

With residents and employees working together, we can maximize safety and minimize hazards during the snowy winter months.



## Keep Cans Behind the Curb

Garbage and recycling cans placed in the street are a nuisance to our snowplow drivers and make it impossible to clear the streets of snow from curb-to-curb. Help our drivers by placing your garbage and recycling cans on the driveway, behind the curb and out of the street. The garbage and recycling trucks have long, mechanical arms that can reach from the street to the driveway with no problem! Our snowplow drivers thank you!



## Please Clear Snow From Fire Hydrants

City crews do not clear snow from hydrants. We need the public's help. Please shovel the snow out from around your nearest fire hydrant. It will save time for firefighters in case of a fire. Thank you!

## Winter Parking Restrictions

When everyone keeps vehicles off the streets when three or more inches of snow has fallen or is expected to fall, snowplow crews can clean streets efficiently the first time.

- » Vehicles cannot be parked on the street from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. each night from November 1 to April 1.
- » Parking on the street is not allowed anytime there may be/or the weather forecast shows an expected accumulation of three inches of snow or more.
- » Parking can resume on the street once it has been plowed from curb-to-curb (but still no parking from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. November 1 to April 1).

If a vehicle is blocking the path of a snowplow, the vehicle owner could receive a ticket or the car may be towed. Plowing around parked vehicles in the street causes safety concerns and results in poor drainage and roadway conditions, which sometimes may last the remainder of the winter.

### Parking Reminder

- » Do not park in front of or directly across from a public or private driveway.
- » Do not park within five feet of a public or private driveway, unless the vehicle owner is the homeowner. Exceptions are made for cul-de-sacs and eyebrows.

## Help Prevent Snowplowing Damage

The City's plow operators make every effort to avoid damage to areas adjoining the street, but in difficult weather situations, such damage may occur. To prevent damage, please do not place landscaping items or other intrusions in the street Right-of-Way (ROW). Items intruding on the ROW will not be repaired or replaced by the City if damaged during snow removal operations. Garbage and recycling containers should be placed behind the curb so they do not interfere with plowing. These containers will not be repaired or replaced if damaged during snow removal.

Sod damaged by the plow during snow removal will be repaired the following spring. The City will make the repair using black dirt and grass seed.

### Mailbox Installation

It is the homeowner's responsibility to make sure that mailboxes and newspaper boxes are installed with the proper clearance levels to avoid damage from the snowplow. Homeowners are responsible for clearing snow away from mailboxes. If snow is not cleared away from the mailbox, it may delay your mail service by the post office.

Also, the snow plow operators make every effort to remove snow as close to the curb line as possible and to provide access to the mailboxes for the postal service. However, with the large equipment the City operates, it is not possible to completely remove snow around mailboxes. The final cleaning adjacent to mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident.



Mailbox & Newspaper Box Installation Guide:  
[www.coonrapidsmn.gov/snowremoval](http://www.coonrapidsmn.gov/snowremoval)

### Mailbox Damage

Individual residential mailboxes damaged during removal will not be authorized for repair unless there is physical evidence that the snow removal vehicle actually hit the mailbox. If the snow removal vehicle is deemed to have hit the mailbox, the City will reimburse the property owner up to \$75.00 with receipts. If the mailbox is not installed according to USPS standards ([www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm](http://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm)) or is damaged due to the weight/pressure of the snow, it is the responsibility of the property owner to repair or replace the mailbox. Newspaper boxes must be installed with proper clearance room.

Your help is needed for safe and effective snow removal. Please help snow removal crews by following these simple do's and don'ts.

### Do

- » Learn the winter parking regulations and act accordingly.
- » Give snowplow operators room to work safely.
- » Be patient—plowing and salting take time.

### Don't

- » Throw the snow from your driveway onto the street or sidewalk.
- » Park your car on the street after a snowfall until the street is plowed from curb to curb.
- » Allow children to build snow forts near the road.

86.3

Lane Miles

Arterial Streets  
(mains)

351

Lane Miles

Residential Streets

437

Cul-de-sacs

102

Miles

Sidewalks

24

Parking Lots

10

Average Full  
Plow Events  
Each Year

11

Plow & Cul de Sac  
Routes

5

Sidewalk Routes

11

Plow Trucks

4

Front End  
Loaders

15

Pickup Trucks  
with Plows

5

Sidewalk  
Machines