

City of Vergas Snow Plowing Policy

The City of Vergas Utilities Department is committed to provide excellent snow removal services to the community; and to provide safe passages for vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

The City will provide snow removal services in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel and environmental concerns. The City will utilize its employees and equipment, and/or private contractors when necessary to provide this service.

It is the intention of the City to, if possible, keep routes open to traffic during storms. However, snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of employees and equipment, and operations are effective. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility and rapid accumulation of snow and/or ice. It is not the intent of the City to keep these routes completely snow or ice free during a storm.

Generally, operations shall continue until all roads are passable. Widening and clean-up operations may continue immediately or on the following work day depending on conditions and circumstances.

Safety of the plow operators and the public are important. Snow plowing removal operations may be terminated to allow personnel an adequate time for rest. Any decision to suspend operations shall be made by the Utilities Supervisor and shall be based on conditions of the storm. The City will still provide access for emergency services (ambulance, fire, police and medical) during a major snow or ice storm within the City limits.

Sand and salt mixtures are spread over ice or slippery areas to provide an abrasive mixture to melt the ice. Sanding is done the first initial time of plowing operations or whenever ice or slippery conditions develop. Salt and sand will be applied to intersections, curves and hills. The City of Vergas does not have a dry pavement policy, so drivers will always have to be careful during the winter season.

For safety reasons, it is necessary to plow streets from curb to curb so that all snow is cleared from the streets to provide safe traffic flow. It is not the intent of the plow drivers to fill resident's driveways or sidewalks with snow, however this is the only place the snow can go so the streets can be kept clear of snow. Drivers make every attempt to minimize the amount of snow deposited in driveways, but the amount can still be significant. The City of Vergas does not provide driveway cleaning. Possible exceptions are at the discretion of the Utilities Supervisor for emergency situations only.

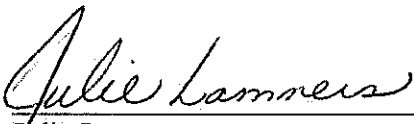
Depending upon the volume of snow, snow storage within the City of Vergas boulevards, right-of-ways and easements can become significant, especially in cul-de-sac areas. The City of Vergas does not provide snow removal from these areas. The Utilities Department will remove snow from intersections within the Vergas city limits where piled snow has created an unsafe passage for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. All other snow removal from City boulevards, right-of-ways and easements will be at the discretion of the Utilities Supervisor. Trash and recyclable containers should be placed on driveway aprons or boulevard areas at least ten (10) feet behind the curb or edge of the street. Do not place containers in the street. The City of Vergas is not responsible for tipped, spilled or damaged containers.

Subject to availability of time, walking paths will be plowed or maintained; however, to avoid killing vegetation, no sanding will be done in these areas.

During snow and ice control operations, questions will be received by Vergas City Office staff. The Utilities Department will take measures to keep the City Office staff informed and updated regarding snow and ice removal operations. (e.g. schedules and breakdowns)

Fire hydrants need to be kept clear of snow so quick access can be made in the case of an emergency. The Utilities Department will make every effort to keep hydrants clear. However, due to work load, fire hydrants may not immediately be cleared. Therefore, City residents are asked to keep fire hydrants in their neighborhoods clear of snow. Thank you.

Policy adopted by the City Council of the City of Vergas, Minnesota this 15th day of April 2019.


Julie Lammers
Clerk/Treasurer


Dean Haarstick
Mayor