

City of Detroit Lakes Snow and Ice Control Policy

The Public Works Director or the Director's designee decides when to begin snow or ice control operations using the following guidelines:

- Snow accumulations of 2 inches or more Monday – Friday; 4 inches or more Saturday and Sunday
- Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel
- Icy conditions which seriously affect travel
- Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets

The City has classified city streets based on the street function, traffic volume, and importance to the welfare of the community.

Streets classified as arterial collectors and central business district will be plowed first. These are high volume routes, which connect major sections of the City and provide access for emergency fire, police and medical services. Next are the streets providing access to schools, commercial/industrial businesses and city parking lots; after that low volume residential streets are plowed and then alleys and residential sidewalks. The City may assist residents by plowing residential sidewalks. However, in accordance with the City Code, **snow and ice removal from sidewalks is the responsibility of residential and business property owners.**

When there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions, the City may use sand, salt and other chemicals where needed. The City's first priority will be arterial collector and central business district streets and parking lots, then commercial/industrial areas, followed by low volume residential streets which will be sanded primarily at intersections only, unless hazardous ice conditions or a steep grade requires additional sanding at the discretion of the Public Works Director or equipment operators and finishing with alleys.

City Code, Section 904, requires all snow and ice remaining on public sidewalks be removed by the owner or tenant within 72 hours in a residential district and 24 hours in a commercial district after the snow or ice has ceased being deposited. If the snow or ice hasn't been removed within the specified period, the City may remove the snow or ice at the owner's expense. **It is also against the law to place snow or ice in a public street or on other City property, unless contracted with the City.**

Any questions on snow removal, contact Public Works at dlpublicworks@cityofdetroitlakes.com or 218-847-4637.

