

City of Lafayette Snow Removal Policy

1. Definitions

- A. **Snowfall** – any measurable accumulation over 3 inches
- B. **Drifting** – accumulation of snow from blowing winds that is in the road
- C. **Icy Conditions** – accumulated moisture on the road that causes hazardous conditions in controlling and stopping within reasonable distant
- D. **Time of Snowfall** – snow may occur in the middle of the night or weekends. The city has limited staff and private contractors to complete snow removal. Each of these will work when manageable.
- E. **Snow Plowing** – opening up the street with two passes of a snow plow
- F. **Snow Clean-up** – finalizing the removal of snow by finishing up the streets and parking areas
- G. **City Discretion** – written authorization by 2 city authorities including Mayor, City Council personnel, Public works personnel
- H. **Vehicle** - the term includes, but is not limited to: vehicles, trailers, boats, carts, etc. or any item obstructing the plowing and/or cleaning of streets/alleyways from curb to curb

2. Purpose and Need for Policy

The City of Lafayette believes that it is in the best interest of the residents for the City to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on City streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The City will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, and personnel concerns. The City will use city employees, equipment and/or private contractors to provide this service.

3. When will the City Start Snow Or Ice Control Operations?

City discretion will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations.

The criteria for that decision are, but not limited to:

- A. Snowfall
- B. Drifting
- C. Icy conditions
- D. Time of snowfall

City streets will be plowed within 24 hours from the end of the snowfall.

Operations shall continue until all roads are passable or additional snowfall occurs. Widening and clean-up operations may continue immediately or on the following working day depending upon conditions and circumstances.

Alleys will be cleaned last or as time permits.

Operations may be suspended during periods of limited visibility.

4. Parking on City Streets

During the snow plowing and snow clean-up process, no vehicle shall be parked on any public street until snow has been removed.

Vehicles that are not removed from the city street will be subject to tow at the city discretion. The vehicle's owner will be responsible for any expenses incurred.

5. Resident Responsibility

Property owners shall remove snow from around fire hydrants near their property. The hydrants need to be cleared in order for use of the hydrants by proper emergency personnel.

Resident are not allowed to place snow on public roadways or sidewalks. This is in accordance with Minnesota State Statutes.

6. **Property Damage**

Damages may occur to private improvements in the City right of way. The city right of way extends approximately 10' to 15' beyond the curb. Citizens are encouraged to keep up right of ways by planting flowers and mowing. The intent of the right of way is to provide room for snow storage, utilities, sidewalks, and other City uses. Private improvements such as mailboxes are required within the right of way. Therefore, the City will cooperate with the property owner to determine if damage is the responsibility of the City, snow removal contractor, or that of the property owner. Mailboxes should be constructed sturdy enough to withstand snow rolling off a plow or wing; therefore, damage resulting from snow is the responsibility of the resident.