

# Snow & Ice Control Policy

While Chapter **3.01.05 – Snow and Ice Removal** contains the municipal ordinance requirements, this departmental policy is used to describe the operational aspects of the City's Snow & Ice Operations.

The Street division has a total of eight (8) routes available for snow removal from streets and City owned parking lots. In addition, there is one (1) sidewalk snowblower and one (1) alley plow. The City is divided into areas or zones with one unit being assigned each area. Whenever and wherever possible, the same driver or operator will be assigned the same area or zone for each snow removal operation. This will allow the driver or operator to become familiar with the area; they will know problem areas; they will know traffic patterns; danger areas and will be able to accomplish the snow removal operation in the least possible time.

In the event of break down, accident, etc. involving a snow removal unit, the area or zone to which the unit was assigned may not be plowed until other areas are cleared of snow and another unit is available for work.

It shall be the policy of the City to draw personnel from the Water division and Park division to assist the Street division in clearing snow. The use of these employees will be an "as needed" basis and dependent on the availability of equipment.

## De-Icing Plan

The City of Rhinelander has a total of approximately 75 miles of local roads. It has 2 (two) sanding trucks available with operators to sand/salt the entire City. It is evident that the entire City cannot be sanded/salt immediately; therefore,

Priorities have been established to ensure the safe flow of traffic in high volume traffic areas.

Priority one – mains and downtown areas

Priority two – hills

Priority three – Arterial streets – truck routes

Priority four – secondary streets

Along this same line, not all streets will be de-iced by use of sand or chemicals and it is not the policy of the City to have bare pavement on all City streets. Those street areas falling in priority one and two will be de – iced using sand or chemicals. Those streets falling in priority three will have intersection sand and chemical application and those streets in priority four will be de – iced using abrasives.

## Snow Accumulation Depth

It shall be the policy of the City of Rhinelander to remove snow from the streets when and if the accumulation reaches four (4) inches or more. Lesser amounts may be removed upon decision of supervisory personnel when in their opinion the failure to remove could result in additional cost to the City in applying abrasives or chemicals.

## Alley Plowing

The City has one unit for the plowing of alleys. Alley's will be plowed during and somewhat after streets have been plowed. Alley's with gravel surfaces may not be plowed until after the ground has frozen.

## Snow Loading Operation

Snow dumping sites in several locations will be used to allow capture of pollutants entering the storm sewers and water ways. These sites will be cleaned in the spring after the snow melts.

## Downtown Snow Removal

Upon completion of regular snow removal operations, the Street Division will enter the snow loading operation. The owner or lessee of every downtown parcel abutting or fronting a sidewalk is required to clear their sidewalk. **Those who remove their snow/ice and place it over the curb prior to 2 AM the following day of the snowfall may have it removed by the City's Street Division.** Normally this operation is not started until two workdays after a snowstorm and is only done if the accumulation is sufficient to impede pedestrian traffic. Where traffic volumes permit, snow will be removed during the nighttime shift to reduce parking and traffic safety impacts. In some areas, a combination of overtime hours and straight time will be used. No guarantee is made that the snow will be loaded out within a specific period of time. *Upon failure to remove said snow and or ice from a sidewalk, the City may summarily remove any snow and or ice on said sidewalk and cause the cost of said removal to be charged to the property owner, as per 3.02.05 Rhinelander Municipal Code.*

Downtown streets/sidewalks are defined:

1. South/North Brown street from Courtney to Fredrick street
2. Frederick street from Courtney street to Oneida avenue
3. South Stevens street from South Anderson street to Frederick street
4. Pelham street from Courtney street to Davenport street
5. North Anderson street from Conro street to Frederick street
6. Rives street from Courtney street to South Stevens street
7. Davenport street from Courtney street to Oneida avenue
8. King street from Oneida avenue to Pelham street

## Snow Box Locations

The street division will at key locations throughout the City locate sandboxes (barrels) filled with abrasives. These sandboxes are for use of controlling slippery or icy conditions on bridges, sidewalks, or intersections.

## Providing Salt or Sand

The City shall not make available to the public any salt, sand, or other material other than prescribed in this policy.

## Snow and Ice Encroachment Deemed Nuisance

No person or hired contractor/person shall push, shove or in any way deposit any snow or ice onto any public street, alleys, sidewalk or public lands dedicated to public use. Snow from public sidewalks shall not be stored in any manner which will obstruct or limit vehicular or pedestrian vision, movement or access. No person in clearing snow from driveways, parking lots, or other large areas used for business purposes shall pile or distribute snow in the City streets or alleys in such a way so as to narrow the traveled portion of the street block, limit the vision of the motorists at intersections, prevent parking at the curb, or cover interfere with the use of fire hydrants. The deposit of any snow or ice upon any sidewalk, alley or street of the City, contrary to the provisions of this section, is a nuisance; and in addition to the penalty provided for violation of this section, the city may summarily remove and transport from the site any snow or ice so deposited and cause the cost of said removal to be charged to the owner of the property from which said snow or ice had been removed.

*Revised 9/3/2020; Council Reviewed 9/14/2020; 10/12/2020*