

City of Nicollet Snow & Ice Control Policy

Purpose:

The City of Nicollet (herein called The “City”) believes that it is in the best interest of the general public for the City to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on City streets. Reasonable snow and ice control is necessary for emergency services as well as routine travel. The city will provide such control in a safe and cost-effective manner, keeping in mind public safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The City will use City employees and equipment to provide snow removal services.

The City asks that the general public also assume a certain responsibility for themselves and others when walking or operating a motor vehicle in less than ideal conditions. Plowing and chemical treatment of the streets and sidewalks does not remove every hazardous condition related to winter travel.

Criteria to begin Snow and Ice Control Operations:

The Maintenance Supervisor or other designee assigned by the City Council, shall determine when to begin snow and/or ice control operations based on the following criteria:

- Snow accumulations
- Icy pavement conditions
- Wind conditions, drifting
- Timing in relation to traffic

Snow and ice operations are expensive and involve the use of limited personal and equipment, therefore, the decision to begin is very complex. Each decision is based on the available information/circumstance of the event.

Snow Emergency:

Emergency defined as a condition created on City streets because of the presence of snow, freezing rain, sleet, ice, or snow drifts thereon, or other natural phenomenon which create or are likely to create hazardous conditions, or impede or are likely to impede the free movement of fire, health, police, or other emergency traffic or citizen motorist’s travel, when the same shall have been duly declared by the Mayor and/or the Maintenance Supervisor (herein called the Emergency Official).

A declaration of a snow emergency occurs when any City equipment must be utilized upon City streets by the discretion of the Emergency Official.

Extreme Conditions:

Snow and ice control operations shall be conducted as long as weather conditions do not endanger the safety of City employees and equipment. Heavy snowfall, severe winds, or other conditions creating limited visibility may delay snow and ice control operations.

Snow Plowing Methods:

Streets: Snow shall be plowed in such a manner as to minimize any traffic obstructions. The center of the roadway shall be plowed first; subsequent passes by the plow shall move snow to the right side of the road. The final pass shall discharge the snow onto the boulevard area of the street.

Cul-de-sacs: Due to the various designs of cul-de-sacs, driveway locations and hydrant placements, each cul-de-sac is unique and must be plowed accordingly. The center shall be cleaned first by directional plowing. The City tractor will then complete the snow removal to adequate boulevard storage areas.

State Hwy 99 & 111: MN Dot maintains snow and ice control continuously until conditions improve. MN Dot requests no on street parking of roadways. City crews will remove snow accumulation in parking areas located in a 3-block area on Hwy 99 from Cedar street to Main street after the snow/ice event.

Downtown: Pine street from the intersection of Second street to the intersection of Fourth street will be cleared using the City tractor. A snow/ice event of 3 inches or less will be placed into piles located at the end of both intersections being Second street and Fourth street. A snow/ice event of 4 inches or greater will be windrowed into the center of Pine street and removed after the snow/ice event by blower and trucks. The City requests parking be parallel to assist in traffic movement until windrowed snow/ice is removed. Fourth street from the intersection of Cedar street to Pine street will be deposited either into the pile or windrow on Pine street depending on the amount of accumulating snow/ice.

Alleys: Directional plowing will be utilized to clear a standard 20 foot width. In extreme conditions snow/ice accumulation may have to be pushed to the ends of alleys and removed by trucking.

Sand and Chemical Use:

The primary treatment for snow and ice control shall be a mixture of sand and salt.

No chemicals shall be used due to the effect of these chemicals on the environment and the cost. The City Street Department does not attempt to maintain streets in a “bare pavement” condition during the winter. Salt/sand mixture is applied at stop signs, intersections, at curves and on hills to promote traction and melting of snow/ice.

Apartment Parking:

City Ordinance requires all apartments to provide 1½ parking places per unit. The list below will designate appropriate parking areas during a snow/ice event.

2nd St. Apts. parking lot is provided.

Augustin 3rd St. Apts. parking is off north alley.

Elm St. Apts. parking to be on 5th St. dead-end.

Hendryck’s 5th St. Apts. parking is off north alley.

Layman Apts. parking lot is provided on 6th St. dead-end.

Mara Tonka Town Homes parking is provided.

Nicollet Apts. parking lot is provided.

Thomas Apts. parking lot is provided.

Thompson’s 5th St. Apts. parking lot is provided.

Thompson’s Walnut St. Apt. parking is provided.

Twin Maples Apts. parking lot is provided.

Zins Apts. parking lot is provided.

Unlisted apartment/rental tenants must be directed by Owner were to park off street.

Owners/Designees are required to maintain parking areas from accumulating snow/ice.

Downtown Parking:

The City requests business owners on 3rd street to comply to MN Dot’s request of no parking, most businesses have alternative areas to park. City crews will clear the parking lanes after the snow and ice event. Business owners along Pine street and Fourth street are asked to have employees park off street were ever it is possible to facilitate traffic movement during snow and ice control/removal.

Residential Parking:

The City requests all residential parking to be off street. Parking off street will reduce ice build up along sides of roadway and reduce return trips by City crews cutting cost of snow and ice removal. Snow and ice events are forecasted prior to the event and residents should consider moving vehicles off street prior to the event.

Street Plowing Priorities:

City staff has classified City streets based on street function, traffic, volume, and importance to the welfare of the community. The highest priority streets are those that carry the highest volume of traffic and connect major sections of the City. These streets provide access for emergency medical, fire and police services and shall be plowed first.

Snow Removal from Private Property:

No person, partnership, corporation, or other entity shall deposit or cause to be deposited any snow or ice against a fire hydrant, or on any sidewalk, roadway, right-of-way, alley or other property within the City without permission of the City. Criminal penalties may be imposed for violation of this policy. The City may also proceed to recover the cost of removal for such illegally placed snow and ice. Violation of this snow and ice policy may result in a fine in the amount of \$50 to \$150 pursuant to MN.Stat.160.2715.

Curbside Mailboxes:

It shall be the property owner's responsibility to maintain the mailbox post and supports in the proper condition and location. The City will not assume responsibility for damage to a mailbox that is directly struck by the plow. The City is not responsible for mailboxes damaged by the snow and ice being deposited on the boulevard by the plow, the damage shall be the property owner's responsibility.

Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal:

City Ordinance requires that any snow or ice accumulation be maintained by adjacent property owners. The presence of snow, freezing rain, sleet, ice, or snow drifts thereon, or other natural phenomenon which create or are likely to create hazardous walking conditions shall be removed by the property owner within 12-hours after the event. The City may impose for violation of this Ordinance a fine of \$50 an hour to remove such hazards. Sidewalks are to be cleaned full length and width. All access to the streets shall be clear of any windrowed snow and ice by property owners.

Snowplow Operator's Work Schedule:

Throughout the winter months the snowplow operators are on a 24-hour per day "on call" status and may be called into work outside the normal day shift hours. Generally, the operators will work a standard 8-hour shift during snow-plowing and removal operations, although their shift may begin at 4:00am and much longer than 8-hours as needed. Operators are encouraged to take their normally scheduled breaks during snow and ice control operations to stay alert.

This policy was adopted on November 18, 2009, and replaces all previous policies.