



News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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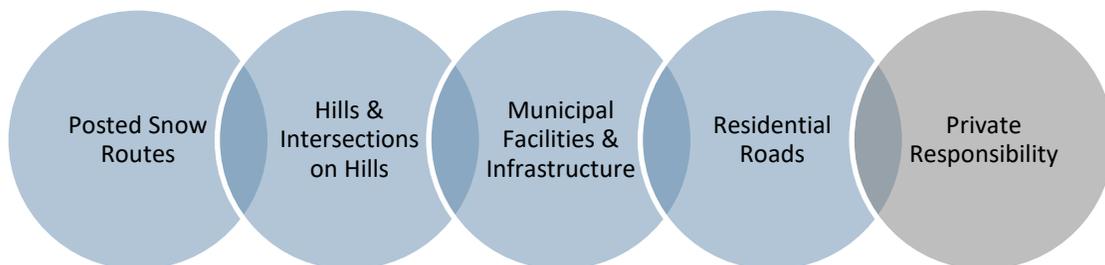
City of Davenport Reminds Community of its Snow Plan
What residents should expect the next time it snows.

Davenport sits right in the heart of the Midwest. That distinction goes hand-in-hand with being resilient to weather that can change on a dime. Whether it be snow, sleet, rain, or ice, the City of Davenport has plans in place to help our community cope with the sometimes harsh Midwest environment.

Following a somewhat quiet 2019/2020 winter, and after facing two back-to-back snow, sleet, rain, and ice events, Davenport is stepping back to remind the community about the City's snow plan and how our community can work together to be a weather-ready and weather-strong community.

Assistant City Administrator and Public Works Director Nicole Gleason said, "The City of Davenport initiates equipment, staffing, and response activities based on predicted weather conditions and a street prioritization structure. What is important for the community to know is that every winter weather event is unique, presenting different opportunities and challenges. Our team is agile, and our procedures are flexible to ensure the best possible response to every snow and ice event."

With Sergeant Joe Friday's "Just the Facts, Ma'am" approach, here's what everyone should know about the City's plan for snow and ice response.



When does the City plow streets?

Davenport Public Works will plow Posted Snow Routes as needed anytime one-quarter inch or more of accumulating snow falls, and no melting is expected to occur. Clearing of residential roads will not happen unless ice with no-melting is expected, more than two inches of accumulating snow is expected, or back-to-back events will result in two or more inches of accumulating snow and ice.

 When Does the City Plow Streets?	
Posted Snow Routes	Residential Roads
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plowed and salted as needed anytime one-quarter inch or more of accumulating snow falls and no melting is expected to occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plowed and salted as needed, if:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Accumulating ice and no-melting is expected,○ More than two inches of accumulating snow is expected,○ Or, back-to-back events will result in two or more inches of accumulating snow.

What is the difference between Posted Snow Routes and residential roads?

Posted Snow Routes are generally streets with high traffic volume, public transit routes, or roads with geographic features such as hills and proximity to schools and emergency service facilities such as hospitals, police, and fire stations. Posted Snow Routes are located within one to five blocks of residential roads. Clearing Posted Snow Routes is a priority to facilitate travel throughout the City during snow and ice events.

On occasion, the City may declare a snow emergency based on the volume of snow expected or if icing will occur as forecast by the National Weather Service. Parking is not permitted on Posted Snow Routes when a Snow Emergency is in effect. This helps crews clear these major roadways to the curb safely and efficiently.

Residential roads are less traveled roads and neighborhood streets.

Director Gleason noted, “The City does not have the resources to clear all 1,300 lane miles of pavement simultaneously. This is why focus is placed on Posted Snow Routes before residential roads.”

Timing is everything.

Public Works frequently receives calls about residential road clearing right after the snow ends. The public needs to be aware, just because the snow ended does not mean all of those high travel value Posted Snow Routes are clear.

The timing for average snow response for events greater than two inches generally follows this timeline.

		General Snow Response Timing
Snow Begins	Crews continuously clear Posted Snow Routes to keep them open and passable to the extent possible.	
Snow Ends	Crews plow and salt Posted Snow Routes until they are clear to the curb.	
Six to 12 Hours After Snow Ends	Residential road clearing begins. Timing dependent on snow volume and type of event. Can be off-set by arrival of another winter weather event.	
24 to 36 Hours After Snow Ends	Residential roads are cleared within 24 to 36 hours after snow ends, depending on total volume of snow and type of event.	

“Davenport might remember crews were barely able to make one pass on residential roads when the second wave of snow, sleet, ice, and rain arrived during our late December and early January events. Because of this, many residential roads could not be fully cleared before we had to transition focus back to Posted Snow Routes in support of travel and commerce across the City,” noted Director Gleason when reflecting on the City’s most recent weather events. “The volume of snow from the first event, combined with hazardous ice and sleet conditions, also presented more difficult removal challenges during our last events.”

Level of Service

All snow removal aims to clear snow to the curb to accommodate on-street parking following the storm and to ensure melting snow can be conveyed down the curb line to nearby storm drains to prevent ponding, refreezing, and localized street flooding.

Keeping cars off of the street on Posted Snow Routes is required when a Snow Emergency is declared. Vehicles parked on these routes during a Snow Emergency can be ticketed and may be towed.

Keeping cars off narrower residential roads is the best way to ensure your street can be plowed safely and efficiently and keeps residents from being plowed in. Residents should keep in mind they can reduce their inconvenience by parking on-street until we transition to residential roads.

The City's snow plan does not provide for clearing driveways, or re-clearing sidewalks and

When clearing roads of snow and ice, the material has to go somewhere – generally the curb and boulevard. Crews attempt to reduce the amount of windrow, but this is often unavoidable where narrow boulevards exist, and based on volume and water content of material being moved.

driveways that may have been covered by windrow or snow pushed onto cleared sidewalks or driveways. Not only does this present private liability issues, but this is not a fiscally responsible use of available funds or resources.

The City provides the following tips to help residents reduce the amount of recover or need to re-shovel driveway approaches and sidewalks. At the end of the day, it is a personal choice. To prevent re-shoveling, wait until after plowing is complete to clear sidewalks and driveways. Know that plows may come through with one or two passes and return two to three hours later as they make their rounds on the routes.

If you prefer to tackle driveway and sidewalk removal early to make the job easier and more effective, do so, but remember windrow can happen, especially following significant snow and ice events.

Consider placing snow removed from the driveway with the flow of traffic. For example, if you are on a North/South street and the traffic on your side of the street travels South, place the snow on the Southside of your driveway. An illustration of this can be found at <https://cityofdavenportiowa.com/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=9286869>.

It's Complicated.

When talking about the City's Snow and Ice Control Plan, this is just the tip of the iceberg, no pun intended. As you can see, snow and ice clearing can be a complex process – it is not just laying down a plow blade and spreading salt. Community support helps us clear roads more safely and efficiently.

For more information on the City's Snow and Ice Removal Plan, visit www.davenportiowa.com/winter. There you will find information on snow emergencies, Downtown and Hilltop pickup, why alleys are not plowed, why snow on private property cannot be pushed into the street, and links to sign-up for Snow Emergency notifications.

At the end of it all, the community needs to understand every winter weather event is unique, presenting different opportunities and challenges. Our team is agile, and our procedures are flexible to ensure the best possible response to every snow and ice event.

We ask only for the community's patience during snow and ice removal activities, as well keeping cars parked off-street when they can and help neighbors in need when they are able.

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About DEPARTMENT

Davenport Public Works manages the fundamental services that protect, sustain and enhance the community. Public Works oversees the streets, signs and signals that aid daily commutes, the systems that collect waste from homes, the programs that protect the health and safety of citizens and the community's environment, and the projects that maintain and allow the City of Davenport to grow. With American Public Works Association (APWA) accreditation, Davenport Public Works demonstrates a commitment to continuous process improvement and best management practices of the fundamental services that provide a good quality of life in Davenport.

For more information, visit davenportiowa.com/publicworks.