

Residents,

Winter is coming fast and that means snowplowing season will start soon. Just a friendly reminder, the City does not assume liability for damages to obstacles in the road right-of-way (irrigation heads, landscaping, basketball hoops, etc.). Remember, anything installed within the City's right-of-way is placed there at the owner's risk. If possible, remove these obstacles from the right of way or mark them clearly to aid plow drivers. No plantings other than grass should be placed within the designated road right-of-way. Low-growing groundcover or flowers may be permitted but might be damaged in the normal maintenance of the road. The use of border materials such as railroad ties, rocks, landscape blocks/timbers, etc. is not permitted. If lawn irrigation systems are installed near the road, please make sure that the sprinkler heads are below the height of the curb or road surface. Public Works is not responsible for repairs or replacements if damaged during snow plowing operations. In matters of public safety, the Public Works Superintendent may, at his discretion, remove any obstacles or growth deemed a public nuisance.

Along with snow removal operations comes the possibility of damage to mailboxes. We do not deliberately knock over or damage mailboxes. Residents are encouraged to place mailboxes so the mailbox front doesn't extend beyond the edge of the shoulder or curb line and has a minimum clearance of 42" above the shoulder. Mailboxes should be inspected regularly (before the start of the snowplowing season) to ensure that they are secured properly and that wood posts are not rotted out or weak. Remember, your mailbox is in the right-of-way and is in the way of the wing, or side blade of a snowplow. Wet heavy snow thrown from the wing can easily damage a mailbox. Please be aware that the City does not reimburse for mailboxes damaged during snow plowing operations. Only if it is determined that driver error clearly caused the damage to the mailbox assembly, then the City will repair the damage done.

Residents can assist Public Works during a snow fall by heeding these suggestions:

- Observe all winter parking bans. No parking on City streets from 2 am to 6 am.
- Reduce your speed and drive cautiously.
- Remain off the streets during snow storms unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not allow children to make "snow forts" at the edge of roads.
- Do not plow, blow, or throw snow back into or across the road.
- Before final clean-up of your driveway, check the road. If it does not appear to be widened out, a plow will most likely be returning to plow again and may push snow back into the entrance of your driveway. Doing this might keep you from clearing your driveway more than once.
- During plowing operations some lawn area located within the City's right-of-way will inadvertently be damaged. To help keep this from occurring, we recommend installing reflectors or stakes at the edge of your lawn as a guide for our plow operators.
- Finally, please have patience. Snow plowing is a time consuming and arduous job covering approximately 70 miles of roads in the City. Some residents will have their road plowed first and some will be last, but in the end all roads and cul-de-sacs will be cleared.

The Department of Public Works is devoted to providing the residents of Minnetrista with dependable snow and ice operation in the shortest and most efficient time possible. With your cooperation we will all benefit during a snow storm. If you have any questions concerning the snow and ice operations as it is explained, call City Hall at (952) 446-1660 for more information.

Gary Peters

Superintendent of Public Works