



Snow Removal Frequently Asked Questions

Who is responsible for snow removal in the streets?

The Village of Huntley currently has jurisdiction and maintains approximately 132 centerline miles of road and 173 cul-de-sacs. State, county and township roads that coincide within the Village jurisdiction are managed by their respective jurisdictions. For instance, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) plows and maintains IL Route 47. Algonquin Road and Main Street west of Lois Lane are serviced by the McHenry County Division of Transportation. However, it is fairly common for Village crews to supplement plow service while travelling on these roads if needed.

How long does it take to plow Village streets?

The Village's overall goal is to clear all roadways of snow accumulation within a reasonable timeframe. Typically, eight (8) hours after the snow has stopped is a reasonable expectation. However, because of many uncontrollable variables, a truly attainable result would be to meet the standard of a twelve (12) hour completion for 80% of the storms in any given season.

Which streets are plowed first?

The roadways most heavily traveled are the arterials and collectors, and are therefore considered higher on the list of priority streets and generally serviced first. Once the arterials and collectors are plowed and/or deiced they must be kept open and accessible to traffic. The next order of priority is the plowing and/or deicing of the local roads and cul-de-sacs within the subdivisions. These roads are to be cleared while keeping a watchful eye on the condition and drivability of the arterials and collectors. The cul-de-sacs and dead end streets will be kept open during the storm event, but, due to the much smaller amount of traffic and the extended length of time necessary to clear the cul-de-sacs and dead end streets, final curb-to-curb clean-up will not take place until arterials, collectors, and local streets are fully cleared and the storm has subsided.

What are the parking regulations during snowfalls?

On-street parking is currently prohibited between the hours of 2:00 a.m. through 6:00 a.m. and at any time within eight (8) hours after a snowfall of two (2) inches or more has occurred.

Why do the snowplows push snow into my driveway after I shovel?

The design of the snowplow is to direct snow to the right of the snow plow truck, as this is the direction toward the curb and away from traffic. As crews plow the streets, snow and ice from the road is inevitably pushed back into driveways and other property entrances. Unfortunately, this is an unavoidable aspect of snow removal operations. Timing Village plow route patterns to coincide with each property owner's variable schedule for clearing driveways is impossible. Village crews will work to minimize snow and ice deposits in excess of those normally encountered during snow plowing. However, crews cannot return to spot plow at individual driveways which have had snow plowed onto them during normal plowing operations.

Why can't the driver raise the plow when going past my driveway?

If the driver raises or turns the plow when approaching any given driveway, the snow in front of the plow at that time will be dumped in a pile in the street. The result would be an even greater amount of snow piled by the end of the driveway and also result in areas of packed snow and ice on the pavement. Also, with approximately 132 centerline miles of streets to clear and thousands of driveways, it would not be possible for each driver to meet special requests, remember addresses, or even see house numbers late at night. Shoveling snow at the end of the driveway is not a fun job, but unfortunately there is no way to avoid the plow trucks from depositing snow there.

Who is responsible for snow removal on the sidewalks?

The Village encourages all residents to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks in front of their homes and property. The clearing of snow makes it easier for school children and all residents to move safely and quickly throughout the Village on a pedestrian path and not in the street. Please be a good neighbor and remove the snow and ice from your sidewalks as soon as possible following a snowfall and help all school children and pedestrians.

Can snow from private driveways be pushed into the street?

Depositing snow from driveways and walks into the street is prohibited by Village ordinance and creates a traffic hazard by leaving windrows or piles of snow in travel lanes. When clearing driveway aprons, property owners are encouraged to deposit snow in the parkway to the right side of the driveway (as you face the street) and as far away from the curb-line as possible. This will limit the amount of snow that the Village plow deposits into driveways as the streets are cleared.

If possible, such as in low accumulating snow events, property owners might consider clearing driveway aprons only after the snow plows have stopped plowing and the street is cleared of snow. This will eliminate the need to remove snow multiple times after the snow plow has come down your street. However, in heavier snow events, property owners should consider clearing driveway aprons multiple times to prevent unmanageable amounts of snow and ice on the apron due to multiple passes of the street plows and the accumulating snowfall.

What is the Village's salting and de-icing policy?

Salt is applied at a rate that balances optimum deicing performance with environmental and cost control factors. Salt alone is effective to fifteen (15) degrees Fahrenheit. The Village treats road salt with a brine and beet juice solution making the salt product effective down to a road surface temperature of about five (5) degrees Fahrenheit. The ability to melt snow and ice with deicing chemicals is not unlimited and a combination of tire traffic and/or sunshine is needed to enhance the effectiveness of deicing treatments.

What are the gray line bands seen on the roadways during the winter?

If weather conditions are suitable to be effective, the Village applies a pre-storm anti-icing surface treatment consisting of a salt brine/beet juice liquid mix. This application will dry and remain on the pavement ready to work for up to three (3) days without the need for reapplication. This treatment will begin to melt the snow as soon as it contacts the roadway surface, which prevents the snow and ice from bonding to the pavement. This provides great opportunity in better managing a storm right from the start. The Village is able to realize less labor, fuel, wear and tear on equipment, and salt consumption all while using anti-icing chemicals more sensibly and mindful of environmental impacts.

What will the Village do if my mailbox or parkway is damaged by a Village snowplow?

If a mailbox is damaged by Village snow removal operations, a Public Works representative will inspect the damage. The Village will replace damaged mailboxes with standard issue boxes provided that the original mailbox was placed in compliance with Village Regulations and was actually hit by a Village plow truck. If your box or post was damaged, please contact Public Works at (847) 515-5222 to report the damage and discuss replacement options.

If damage has occurred to the public right-of-way (i.e. ruts or turf damage) due to snow plowing, contact Public Works immediately to report the problem. Staff will follow-up in the spring when black dirt is available to restore the parkway (generally not before May 1).

Can I clear snow around the fire hydrant in front of my property?

Please consider clearing the snow from around the fire hydrant in front of your home when you clear your driveway and sidewalk during the winter. By doing so, you save the Fire Protection District precious time when called to the scene of a fire. With over 2,100 fire hydrants on the Village water system, it is impossible for the Public Works Department and/or Fire Protection District to clear the snow from the hydrants. If residents, however, cleared a 2-3' radius around the fire hydrant in front of each home making the hydrant visible, firefighters can concentrate on their job, and you will be doing a great service to yourself, your neighbors, and your community. Please, adopt a fire hydrant this winter!