



City of St. Albert  
**CITY COUNCIL POLICY**

Snow and Ice Control

AUTHORITY	APPROVED	Res. No.	mm dd	REVISED	Res. No.	mm dd
City Council		C607-2009	11 02			

### Purpose

To establish consistent and systematic service levels within Council's approved budget parameters.

### Policy

Snow and ice control shall be managed within specified service level standards and priorities to provide motorists and pedestrians with roads, sidewalks and parking lots that are as safe as reasonably possible.

The budget, available equipment and resources, and extreme weather conditions may impact service levels.

Depending on road conditions, a fair and equitable approach to residential snow removal shall be established through an alternating pattern of snow removal from neighborhoods.

### Definitions

#### 1. Priorities for roadway clearing:

- a. "Priority 1 Roads" are:
  - i. Ray Gibbon Drive
  - ii. St Albert Trail
- b. "Priority 2 Roads" are all Arterial Roads
- c. "Priority 3 Roads" are:
  - i. Collector roads
  - ii. Roads within the Commercial & Industrial sectors
  - iii. Roads within the Downtown
  - iv. Transit Routes
  - v. Rural roads

#### 2. Priorities for sidewalk clearing:

- a. "Priority 1 Sidewalks" are trails and sidewalks adjacent to civic buildings and shall specifically include:
  - i. River Valley Trails
  - ii. St. Albert Place
  - iii. Transit Terminals



- b. “Priority 2 Sidewalks” are sidewalks and trails that typically function as major pedestrian corridors and include:
    - i. Arterial Sidewalks and Trails
    - ii. Collector Sidewalks and Trails
    - iii. Bus Stops
  - c. “Priority 3 Sidewalks” are sidewalks and trails that are typically located through parks, municipal reserves and connectors to outdoor recreation facilities and include:
    - i. Internal Trails
    - ii. Connector Sidewalks
3. “Parking lots” are City-owned or leased parking lots that provide support to the public, City staff, and community agencies.
4. Snow Clearing Terminology:
- a. “Arterial Roads” - highest traffic volume corridors.
  - b. “Collector Roads” – provide property access, transit service, and traffic circulation within neighbourhoods.
  - c. “Residential Roads” – provide access to properties.
  - d. “Sidewalk” – a concrete or asphalt surface specifically adapted for pedestrian use.
  - e. “Arterial Walkways” – highest volume of pedestrian traffic.
  - f. “Collector Walkways” – provide pedestrian access within neighbourhoods.
  - g. “Connector Sidewalks” – connect sidewalks to trails through walkways.
  - h. “Internal Sidewalks” – provide pedestrian access through parks.
  - i. “Sanding” – the application of abrasive materials or salt to a road, parking lot, sidewalk or trail surface to improve traction or reduce ice formation.
  - j. “Snow Plowing” – the grading of snow to the middle or sides of roadway or sidewalk surfaces.
  - k. “Snow Removal” – the grading of snow from a road surface onto a boulevard or removal of snow from a road or parking lot surface to a snow storage site.
  - l. “Snow Accumulation” – the amount of loose snow on a roadway surface.
  - m. “Snow Pack” – the amount of compacted snow on a roadway surface.

## Service Level Standards

### 1. Snow Plowing and Ice Control on Roads

Snow plowing of roads shall normally occur after a 2 to 5 cm accumulation of snow. Ice control will be provided on an ongoing basis during snow events, frost, freezing rain or any other event that may adversely impact vehicle traction. Plowing and ice control will be completed in accordance with the following standards unless ongoing weather conditions required continuous focus on Priority 1 Roads.

- a. Priority 1 Roads shall be plowed and sanded within 8 hours following the end of a snowfall.
- b. Priority 2 Roads shall be plowed and sanded within 12 hours following the end of a snowfall.
- c. Priority 3 Roads shall be plowed and sanded within 24 hours after a snowfall and normally after all Priority 1 and 2 Roads have been completed.



## 2. Snow Removal

- a. Collector, commercial and industrial roads – snow removal shall normally occur after a 20 to 30 cm snow accumulation and cleared within 4 days (emphasis on hill sections and school zones).
- b. Roads within the Downtown – snow removal shall normally occur after a 5 to 10 cm snow accumulation on parking lanes, and removed within 48 hours. Removal activities typically start on the second night after a snow event.
- c. Residential Roads – snow removal shall normally occur after an average of 12 to 15 cm of snow pack or when snow pack is softening and vehicle mobility is becoming severely compromised. Snow removal shall also occur in the event that 10 cm of snow pack is reached by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Snow will normally be removed within 10 days with the exception of piles in cul-de-sacs, which will be removed as resources allow. After March 7<sup>th</sup> residential roads will only be plowed and snow will be left to melt.
- d. Residential Monolithic Sidewalk Roadways & Lanes – snow removal shall normally occur after an average of 12 to 15 cm of snow pack.

## 3. Snow plowing of sidewalks shall normally occur after a 1 to 5 cm accumulation of snow and follow the priorities outlined:

- a. Priority 1 Sidewalks – normally swept to bare concrete or pavement within 8 hours after accumulation of 1 cm snowfall.
- b. Priority 2 Sidewalks – normally plowed within 48 hours and after accumulation of 2 to 5 cm snowfall.
- c. Priority 3 Sidewalks – normally completed after Priority 1 and 2 and normally plowed within 72 hours and after accumulation of 2 to 5 cm snowfall. At the discretion of the Manager of Operations not all Priority 3 sidewalks may be plowed.

## 4. Parking lots shall normally be cleared after an accumulation of 5 to 10 cm of snow. Snow will be initially stockpiled within the parking lot and removed at a later date.

## 5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the following additional sidewalks locations will be cleared by the City under Priority 2 sidewalk snow plowing:

- a. Erin Ridge Drive west side (Boudreau Rd to Empire Court)
- b. Oakmont Drive (Bellerose to Oak Vista Drive)
- c. Oakmont Drive, Streets Flanking (Boudreau Rd to Empire Court)
- d. Oakridge Drive South, Flankages at (Ormandy Pl, Ouellette Pl, Overton Place, Opal Ct, Onesty Pl, Orchard Ct, Outlook Pl, Otter Cres, Orlando Dr, Oasis Cres, and 26,32 Oakridge Drive south).

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**Legal References:** *Municipal Government Act*

**Cross References:** Snow Route Maps; Salt Management Plan; Traffic Bylaw 18/2005, Part 9, Removal of Snow, Ice, Debris from Sidewalks and Highways

