

Linwood Township Snow Removal Policy

Overview

With the advent of Minnesota snow season comes the concern about access to work, school and business. The safety and convenience of the traveling public is a main concern of Linwood Townships Public Works Department. The goal of the Public Works Department is to have all Township streets passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped.

Linwood Township does not assure a completely bare road and will not salt/sand entire sections of roadway. Users of the roadway system are reminded to exercise caution and drive with care.

Dispatching Snowplows

Linwood Township will usually not dispatch snowplows until after a snowfall has stopped. During extended periods of snowfall, exceptions may be made. Snowplows will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility or other hazard conditions.

Asphalt Operations

Asphalt will be plowed with a 3" snowfall or at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Generally, the clearing of roads will consist of three phases. Dependent upon the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time:

- Phase 1. Make the road passable: Clean one lane in each direction. Generally, plow and wing are used.
- Phase 2. Widen the lanes to the edge of the shoulders.
- Phase 3. Clean up and remove ice and slush off the roadway after salt and sun have been allowed to work. Cul-de-sacs, hammer heads, and intersections will be cleaned up at this time.

Gravel Operations

Generally, the clearing of gravel will not be done until the roads have a snow packed base. Once a snow packed base is in place the gravel will be plowed when 3" of snow has accumulated, or at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Depending on the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time.

- Phase 1. Make the road passable: Clean one lane in each direction. If Public Works cannot use plow and wing due to gravel conditions, belly plows will be used. Roads will not be plowed at full width with the use of belly plows. When gravel road conditions improve roads will be plowed completely.
- Phase 2. Widen the lanes to the edge of the road. If road is frozen, Public Works will wing off the road to the full width of the road.
- Phase 3. Clean up and remove ice and slush off the roadway after salt and sun have been allowed to work. Cul-de-sacs, hammer heads, and intersections are cleaned up at this time.

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Salt/Sanding Operations

Sanding will be done at the discretion of the Public Works Department. Salt, sand/mix, or a trap rock material will be used on asphalt or gravel roads. High traffic and high demand roadways may be plowed or sanded more often.

Personal Properties

Driveways: As snow is plowed, the Township is not responsible for snow left across property owners' driveways.

Plowing across roadway: It is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across Township, County, or State roads per Minnesota Statute 160.2715(a) (1). This is a misdemeanor and may be punishable by a fine.

Mailboxes: Residents are encouraged to review the Township mailbox policy for compliance information. The Township will only do repairs to the mailboxes that comply with Minnesota Department of Transportation mailbox support swing-away type as described in the policy guidelines and that are physically hit by the Township snow removal equipment.

Heavy or large amounts of snow discharges from the plowing equipment causing damage to the mailbox will not be repaired by the Township. Mailboxes that are damaged because of nonconformance to the design standards are the homeowner's responsibility. You can obtain a copy of the standard from the Township, or on the Township's website.

Garbage Cans: Linwood Township is not responsible for the damage of garbage/recycle cans if hit by snow or direct contact with the snow plow equipment. Garbage cans should not be placed on the road surfaces, instead should be placed 2' to 3' off the road surface at the end of the homeowner's driveway.

Right-of-Ways: Linwood Township is not liable for damages to any objects within the Township right-of-way, including but not limited to fences, vehicles, sod, sprinkler systems, or landscaping. Property owners may be liable in a civil lawsuit for any damages caused by objects that are placed within the Township right-of-way.

Stranded Motorists. The Public Works Department may assist stranded motorists by contacting law enforcement/emergency personnel. The Public Works Department will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.

Questions or concerns regarding snow removal and/or road conditions should be directed to Linwood Townships Public Works Departments email at maintenance@linwoodtownship.org or the Township office at 651-462-2812. Emergencies may be reported to the Anoka County Sheriffs by dialing 911.