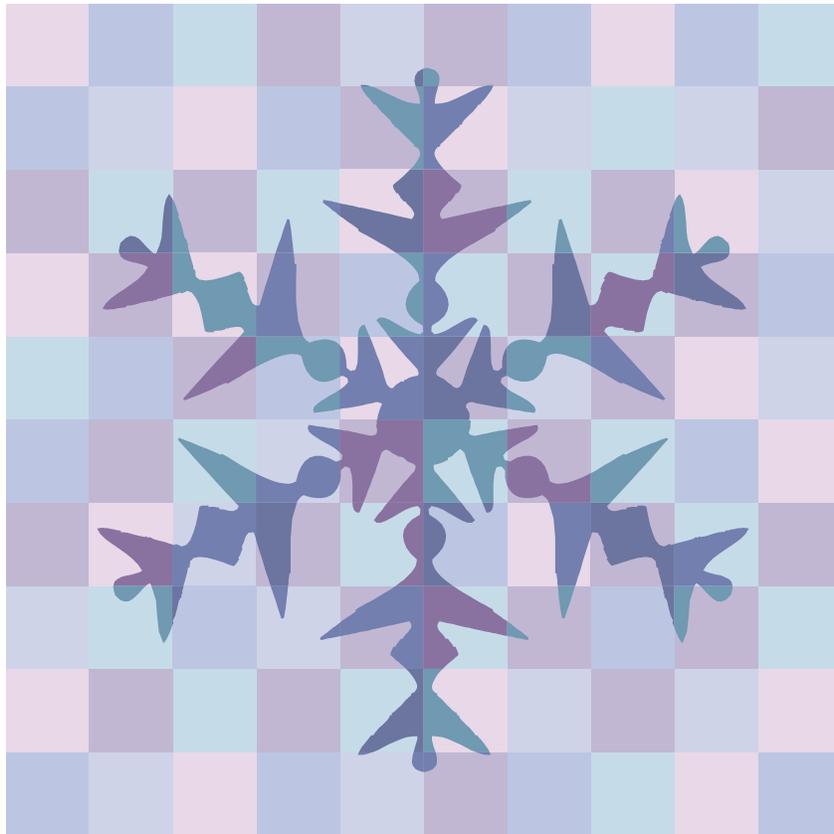


CITY OF MASON, MICHIGAN

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STREET DIVISION
KEN BAKER, SUPERINTENDENT**

517-676-9155



Snow Control Operations

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

One of the primary objectives of the City's Public Works Department is to provide a plan for the safe and orderly movement of emergency equipment, vehicular traffic, and pedestrians in the City of Mason. A snow control plan has been developed to facilitate this objective as it relates to street maintenance during adverse weather conditions. The procedures presented in this plan serve to outline the manner in which the Public Works Department directs City crews to solve problems of snow accumulation during both ordinary and emergency situations. The City of Mason Public Works Department plows City Streets as well as assisting the cleaning of Parks and City owned parking lots.

What Is Our Goal? Our main goal is to provide an expedient and efficient snow removal operation. There are actually two steps implemented to accomplish this. (1) During snowfalls, snow fighters concentrate on keeping our main arterials passable for emergency and high volume traffic flows, and (2) after the snowfall subsides the crews concentrate efforts on clearing snow from all streets for public use as promptly as possible. So yes, **neighborhood and residential streets will be cleared last**, but all streets are generally cleared within 18 hours.

Average snowfall in Mason is about 49 inches per year, which can be exasperated by strong winds. Because of the cost of equipment and labor, the City cannot economically justify removal of all accumulations of snowfall from every street in the City. The City's policy is to provide maximum service on major arterial streets first and other local streets comprising a network to safely and orderly move the majority of the City's traffic, and to provide access for emergency vehicles, school buses, and at critical locations such as the urgent care facility and schools. In addition, however, this plan assures all areas of the city are within a couple of blocks of critical snow removal routes.

Who Begins A Snow Removal Operation? During normal business hours, 7:00 a.m.~3:30 p.m., Monday ~ Friday, the Public Works Superintendent or his/her designee, decides when conditions warrant the commencement of snow removal operations. After hours, Mason Police Officers that are out on patrol makes the determination when conditions including, snow, sleet or freezing rain produce hazardous driving conditions. The Public Works Department provides for twenty-four hours of coverage if needed.

Who Clears the Sidewalks & Bike Pathways? The City of Mason clears the snow from the City owned sidewalks. Business owners in the downtown business district are required to clear the snow from the walks in front of their businesses. It is recommended that resident clear their walks in the morning for the kids that have to walk to school.

When Are Streets Plowed? Snow removal operations generally begin when snowfall accumulations have exceeded more than two inches. If the snowfall continues, clean up may be delayed until after the snowfall event has subsided. In all cases, clean up procedures will commence before four inches of snow accumulation. During significant

snow storm events our crews are called in to begin operations between 5:00 to 7:00 a.m. and remain on duty until the event has subsided or becomes manageable. During a normal snow fall event during the week starting in January through April there are staff come in at 4:00am to get the Major street cleared to get a start on local streets and parking lots.

Which Streets Are Cleared First? As previously stated, our number one goal is to maintain the main arterials for emergency response equipment. **Priority 1** –Emergency vehicle access and bus routes) **Priority 2** –All main arterial collectors and business districts, **Priority 3**—all other streets. At times some flexibility is required to this plan due to the amount of snowfall or equipment break down. During snow removal operations we try to keep all our snow removal equipment plowing rather than moving from one end of town to the other. Other reasons for flexibility are time of day and school bus schedules.

Driveways & Snow Piles - *The City is not responsible for clearing snow Piles from your driveway.* During normal snow plowing events and clean up operations after heavy snowfalls, we endeavor to minimize driveway snow piles but in heavy snow it sometimes cannot be avoided. Please do not blow the snow from your driveway into the road. If you blow the snow in to the right of way it will not end up back in your drive or your neighbors drive. Also it a misdemeanor to blow snow into the street

Who Clears States Routes? The Michigan Department of Transportation clears state roadways within the City of Mason. These roads include the Ash Street and Cedar Street.

How Can You Help? You can assist our employees and equipment operators in several ways.

- Always park your vehicle off of the street. This will save you a possible ticket and/or towing charge.
- Advise your children to ***never play near or in a snow pile near the roadway.***
- Do not follow equipment too closely. Please be patient if you are required to wait behind a piece of snow removal equipment.
- Make certain that your speed is reasonable for conditions.
- Please ***Buckle Up For Safety***, and

Enjoy our Winter Wonderland