

**CITY OF HANOVER  
WRIGHT / HENNEPIN COUNTIES  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**SNOWPLOWING POLICY**

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### **800.01 INTRODUCTION**

The City of Hanover believes it is in the best interest of the residents for the city to assume basic responsibility for control of snow and ice on city streets. Reasonable ice and snow control is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. The city will provide such control in a safe and cost effective manner, keeping in mind safety, budget, personnel, and environmental concerns. The city will use city employees, equipment, and/or private contractors to provide this service.

### **800.02 OPERATIONS**

The Public Works Supervisor, as appointed by the City Council, along with City staff shall determine when snow and ice control operations shall begin. Criteria for commencing operations are as follows:

- A. Snow accumulation with continual snowfall;
- B. Drifting of snow that causes problems for travel;
- C. Icing and/or freezing rains affecting travel; and
- D. Time of snowfall in relationship to heavy use of streets.

Snowplowing operations will be conducted at a time determined which allows effective and efficient removal of snow and ice from the roadways. Public safety will be a factor in determining the best time to conduct snowplowing operations.

### **800.03 SUSPENSION OF PLOWING OPERATIONS**

Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of city employees and equipment. Factors that may delay snow and ice control operations include: severe cold, significant winds, and limited visibility. Operations may also be terminated as deemed necessary to allow personnel adequate time for rest.

### **800.04 LEVEL OF SERVICE**

The intent of this policy is to provide safe winter driving conditions appropriate for the type of travel necessary on City streets. The level of service described herein shall be considered a guideline with the understanding that immediately after a storm, the level of service provided may be less than described and may vary in the City depending on storm conditions and other circumstances.

Streets shall be plowed and/or salted/sanded to allow intersections and curves to be as safe as conditions allow. The city will use sand, salt, and other chemicals when there are hazardous ice or slippery conditions. The city is concerned about the effect of such chemicals on the environment and will limit its use for that reason.

During light to normal snowfall, streets shall be plowed to their full width as soon after the initial pass as possible. During heavier snowfalls, the streets shall be widened as the storm intensity

lessens. After the storm passes, clean-up operations shall begin to clear intersections and snow storage areas along corners and road right-of-ways. It is the City's intent to complete the initial plowing and widening operations within twenty four (24) hours of cessation of the storm. It is the City's intent that cleanup operations be completed within twenty four (24) hours for light snow fall and within seventy two (72) hours for heavy snowfalls. Extreme weather conditions (i.e. blizzards/high winds, ice/rain, or other unusual weather events) may require additional time to complete operations.

#### **800.05 PLOW ROUTES – PRIORITIES**

The City has classified city streets based on the street function, traffic volume and importance to the safety and welfare of the community.

- A. First Priority: Major collector roads and Hanover Fire Hall;
- B. Second Priority: Streets providing access to commercial businesses and high density neighborhoods, as well as the City Hall parking lot;
- C. Third Priority: Low volume residential streets and opening cul-de-sacs;
- D. Fourth Priority: Other City parking lots, curb-to-curb snow removal, clean-up of cul-de-sacs; and
- E. Fifth Priority: Recreational Trails

Depending on weather conditions, roads with steep hills and curves shall be placed at a higher priority to ensure the safety of the public.

#### **800.06 PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

On-street parking is not compatible with efficient snow plowing operations. The City of Hanover does have a "Snowbird Ordinance" which will be enforced.

SEC. 5.03 D. "It is unlawful to park or leave standing any vehicle on any street between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. every day from November 1 to April 1 of the following year. If snow has fallen, the prohibited hours on any street shall be from 2 a.m. to such time as snow plowing curb to curb has been completed."

Violators of this ordinance will be ticketed and/or towed at the discretion of snowplow operators or the sheriff department.

#### **800.07 SNOW STORAGE**

Ongoing snow and ice control efforts require the use of City owned right-of-ways and easements for storage of plowed snow. Depending on the volume of snow, storage within the right-of-way could create sight obstruction at intersections because it is impossible financially and practically to remove all snow from intersection corners.

**800.08 SIDEWALKS**

The City will maintain the public sidewalks that are not abutting private property. If the sidewalk abuts private property it shall be the owners or tenants responsibility to remove such snow and/or ice within twelve (12) hours after such snow and/or ice has ceased to be deposited. (See Section 5.04 of the Hanover City Code) Violators of this ordinance will receive an Administrative Penalty citation.

**800.09 TRAILS**

The City annually budgets a sum of money for winter maintenance of public trails. Taking into consideration the financial and personnel resources available to the City, it is the policy of the City to remove snow and ice from the most frequently used trails in accordance with the standards set forth in this section.

The following standards are adopted for providing winter maintenance to designated trails:

- A. The designated trails are normally plowed when the measured snowfall depth exceeds two inches;
- B. Snow removal should commence approximately twenty four (24) hours from the end of any snowfall with an accumulated depth exceeding two inches;
- C. The designated trails should be cleared as thoroughly as possible but need not be cleared of all ice and snow, nor need they be maintained to bare pavement;
- D. Chemical agents and sand should not be used in the snow removal process; and
- E. Snow removal should normally be done by City of Hanover employees or its agents.

**800.10 PROPERTY DAMAGE**

Snowplowing operations can cause property damage in spite of proper care and precautions taken. The City of Hanover practices the following property damage policy:

- A. Mailboxes and mailbox posts, which meet current USPS regulations, physically hit by a plow will be repaired or replaced at the expense of the contractor or City. Cost of replacement shall not exceed \$40.00.
- B. Damage caused by the weight of the snow is not the responsibility of the City or contractor.
- C. Boulevard damage is the responsibility of the resident and will not be repaired by the City or contractor
- D. Damage caused to private improvements within the right of way is the responsibility of the property owner.

*Therefore, the City will assume no responsibility for damage to underground lawn sprinkling systems, exterior lighting systems, and similar landscaping installed in the public right-of-way.*

### **800.11 RESPONSIBILITY OF RESIDENTS**

Snow storms create numerous problems. Residents have certain responsibilities in minimizing these problems. Therefore, the following is requested from residents:

- A. Keep updated on current and predicted weather conditions;
- B. Be aware of the snow removal equipment. Please, **DO NOT CROWD THE PLOW**;
- C. Expect snow removal equipment to back up frequently;
- D. Obey the “Snowbird Ordinance” by not parking vehicles on City streets during the prohibited hours;
- E. Be patient – plowing and sanding takes time;
- F. **DO NOT** plow, push or blow snow onto or across the street;
- G. Clean snow from around mailboxes, newspaper delivery tubes and fire hydrants;
- H. Group mailboxes when possible;
- I. Place garbage and recycling containers away from the edge of the road. Keep garbage and recycling containers off the street during snow events;
- J. Decorative rock, landscaping items, lawn sprinkler heads, fences or other obstructions are not allowed in the right-of-way. These items need to be removed as they are viewed as a hazard;
- K. Residents should be aware that they may need to clear their driveways several times until their street has been plowed to its full width.

### **800.12 COMPLAINTS**

Complaints regarding snow and ice control or damage shall be taken during normal office hours. They will be handled in accordance with the City’s procedure for handling complaints. It is the City’s intent to treat all residents uniformly and to ensure that the provisions of this policy are complied with.