

Purpose:

Princeton Township has developed this Snow Removal Policy in order to allow the residents of Princeton Township a better understanding of snow removal operations and procedures. An informed public will ultimately reduce complaints and problems for the township staff and the residents of the township. The goal is to efficiently and safely remove snow and ice from the roadways to bare road surface. The Township reserves the right to deviate from this policy at any time due to weather conditions, manpower shortage, material shortage, equipment failure, or any other unforeseen problem.

Princeton Township contracts with an outside contractor to provide snow removal services. This contractor is called into duty at the discretion of 2 Supervisors. The contractor provides trucks with snow plow and salt/sand spreader capabilities.

There are approximately 42 miles of Township maintained roads, which includes approximately 7 miles of maintained roads in with Wyanett, Greenbush and Bogus Brook, and Baldwin Townships based on a joint agreement that the Township has.

The Township does remove snow from some of the State Roads, primarily intersections. Any problems or complaints concerning the State or County Highways should be taken up with the proper authority regarding the road

Trigger:

Snow Plowing will start with the accumulation of **3" or more and occur within 24 hours** after the snow has stopped falling. Depending on the timing of the storm, trucks will try to be called out before the storm is done ensuring that the roads are plowed before traffic has begun and further packing the snow into the road. During certain persistent storms, that require the roads to be plowed several times, sand and salt are not put down again until the end of the storm is near.

Salt/Sand Usage:

The township must consider cost, environmental impact, public safety and availability of staff & equipment when determining the application of de-icing products. State legislation imposes the following limitations on the use of salt by Road Authorities:

“In order to (1) minimize the harmful or corrosive effects of salt or other chemicals upon vehicles, roadways, and vegetation; (2) reduce the pollution of waters; and (3) reduce the driving hazards resulting from chemicals on windshields; road authorities, including road authorities of cities, responsible for the maintenance of highways or streets during periods when snow and ice are prevalent, shall utilize such salt or other chemicals only at such places as upon hills, at intersections, of upon high speed or arterial roadways where vehicle traction is particularly critical, and only if, in the opinion of the road authorities, removal of snow and ice or reduction of hazardous conditions by blading, plowing, sanding, including chemicals needed for free flow of sand, or natural elements cannot be accomplished within a reasonable time.” Minnesota Statute §160.215.

To the extent de-icing products are applied, priority will be given to the following areas in the order listed:

1. Hills, controlled intersections, bridges and curves.
2. Major arterial and collector streets.
3. Bus routes
4. Residential areas.
5. Rural areas.

Snow plowing will conduct when weather conditions permit. Should the weather pose an unreasonable risk of danger, operations may be suspended until conditions improve. Factors include but not limited to: Severe Cold, Freezing Rain, Significant Winds, Limited Visibility, Rapid Accumulation of Snow.

The sequence of snow removal is determined by the traffic counts that normally use a particular road. The main roads (bituminous) will be cleared first, followed by the secondary roads (gravel)

Role of the resident during snow removal:

When a storm occurs during the week the snow removal operation is significantly slower as the plows must deal with heavier traffic. The public is asked to please limit their trips during snow events.

There is no other place for the snowplow to push snow than off to the side of the road. The drivers cannot take the time to keep driveways clear. If you have to clean your driveway before the trucks plow the road, place the snow on your yard. Please do not shovel your snow onto the roadway as it will be plowed back to the side of the road or into your driveway when the snowplow passes. Shoveling snow out into the road can create a hazardous condition because it can freeze and cause a driver to lose control of their vehicle.

Mailboxes:

Drivers do not try to hit mailboxes, however, on occasion this does happen. Most mailboxes are knocked down from the snow as it comes off of the plow. Make sure your mailbox post is strong and able to withstand snow hitting it. Check the box to make sure that it is firmly attached to the post. Mailboxes are considered a structure in the right-of-way. A sound post and securely attached box will not be knocked over by snow coming off the plow. All drivers are instructed to drive as slow as realistically possible during wet snows in order to minimize the problems with mailboxes. If a driver physically hits a mailbox with the truck, they are instructed to report it and the Township will reimburse the property owner \$30 replace (based upon Elite Post-Mount Mailbox, Medium Black Steel Model#E1100B00, \$26.99 from Marv's True Value 8-25-2022) the damaged mailbox. Mailboxes knocked down because of snow are the responsibility of the resident. To report damage, please submit a claim form to the township which will be reviewed by the Princeton Township Supervisors.

Objects in the Right of Way:

Princeton Township road right-of-ways are governed under the authority of the township and for the benefit of the public. The township's priority is to keep the roadways reasonably clear of snow and ice. The township hires independent contractors to ensure the roads are maintained properly. The township also holds land owners & residents responsible to keep their private property out of the way of snow and ice removal equipment. The Township nor its Contractor(s) shall be responsible for damage to resident installed/planted obstructions located within the road right-of-way. The township makes claims 33' from the center of the road. A good rule-of-thumb is that the Township owns, or has interest in, at least twenty-one feet off the edge of the tar, including cul-de-sacs. Obstructions include, but are not limited to; retaining structures, rip rap, posts, irrigation, trees, shrubs and other such landscaping items. Vehicles shall NOT be parked in or on the roadway during winter months – November 1st through May 1st. Obstructions shall be removed by the property owner **within 24 hours of placement or within 3**

hours notice If a resident fails to comply, Princeton Township may remove the obstruction itself. Costs incurred by the Township to clean up the roadway may be assessed to the offending property owner pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §429.101.

Snowplowing Personal Property:

The Township, nor its contractor, will not provide snowplowing or ice control for private property residents, EXCEPT when requested to do so by law enforcement or emergency agencies, to provide access during an emergency event. If private property is used with the written permission of the landowner, for the purposes to turn equipment around or store snow, the Town may snowplow the private property as needed to accommodate the Town's use of the property/land.

Complaints/Concerns:

The Town is responsible for approximately forty-two (42) miles of roadways. Residents shall **NOT** attempt to stop equipment operators, approach snow removal equipment or impede snow removal in any manner. Stopping plows to discuss your concerns is counter-productive to getting the 42 miles of Town roads cleared, a safety hazard to you, the plow operator and the traveling public. Concerns about the manner in which the road is being plowed, delivery of ice control products or other comments are to be directed to the Township Supervisors.

Notification

Plowing updates will be posted on "Princeton Bulletin Community Group" on Facebook, trying to reach the maximum amount of people as possible in "real time." Many problems occur during snow storms: duration of the storm, amount of snow, equipment failures and fatigue – all hinder the snow removal process. Princeton Township is committed to providing the best service possible. The patience and cooperation of township residents makes the snow removal process much easier. These posts have been well received by the community and have shown to reduce phone calls to the township office as well as fewer calls to township supervisors.

Adopted October 18, 2022