

# City's Snow Plan



- ◆ At a time when many communities have cut budgets for snow removal operations and may only be plowing during one shift, the City of Fort Wayne remains committed to keeping City streets open for our residents, businesses and schools. Fort Wayne's Street Department operates 70 trucks for snow removal and we work around the clock when needed to keep you safe.
- ◆ There are more than 1,200 miles of streets to plow inside the City. Streets are prioritized and split into 18 routes.
- ◆ Primary streets are plowed first. These are main arteries such as Anthony, State, Paulding, Aboite Center, Washington Center, Jefferson, Clinton and Coldwater.
- ◆ Secondary streets are plowed after the primary streets. Secondary streets are commonly referred to as collector streets. Collector streets include South Harrison, Reckeweg, Barr, Dickie, Butler and Raymond.
- ◆ Residential streets are plowed when there is more than 3-inches of snow and after the primary and secondary streets have been plowed.
- ◆ If snow continues to fall, the primary streets may be cleared a second or third time before crews move to the secondary and residential streets.

A detailed map showing the City's snow routes may be found at [www.cityoffortwayne.org/publicworks/street-department](http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/publicworks/street-department).



CITY OF FORT WAYNE

Tom Henry  
Mayor

# Snow Plowing

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** Sometimes I see two or more snow plows following each other. What are they doing?

**A** They really are not just following each other. If you look closely you'll see that they are plowing more than one section of the roadway. The first truck is throwing snow into the other lane, not quite to the edge of the street. The second truck follows and throws the snow to the edge of the street or onto the park strip. This method has proven to be more efficient in battling snow and keeping streets as clear as possible with wide travel lanes. We encourage our drivers to work together, which increases the City's snow clearing abilities.

**Q** At 7:30 in the morning, the snow was coming down hard and I didn't see any plows. Why weren't City crews out working?

**A** The timing of each snowfall affects the efficiency of plowing. At 2:00 AM, when few vehicles are out, snow plow trucks can accomplish a lot. But if the snow storm is hitting during morning or afternoon rush hour the volume of traffic on streets hampers plowing efforts. When there's a high volume of traffic, such as during rush hour, snow plows face the same challenges as any motorist. They are not considered emergency vehicles, so snow plows must also wait at traffic signals. High volumes of traffic, and the need to maneuver around parked cars can severely decrease our snow plowing effectiveness and slow down the process.

**Q** How does the City prioritize streets for plowing?

**A** Arterial streets – the main streets that connect the City – are critical for emergency vehicles and for getting residents to hospitals, schools, work and to businesses such as grocery stores and pharmacies. These streets are the first priority for plowing. If the snow continues to fall, crews must make repeated passes on these arterial streets to keep them passable for emergency vehicles. This can delay the ability for crews to get to the secondary and residential streets. During snowfalls of more than 3-inches, City snow plow trucks work around the clock until all of the streets have been plowed. Residential streets are plowed when we receive 3-inches or more of snow. Plow trucks will check residential streets as time allows between snowfalls for snow and ice accumulation.

**Q** What product does the City use on streets to melt snow and ice?

**A** Fort Wayne uses rock salt and calcium chloride. Calcium chloride acts as an accelerant helping the salt work faster and in colder temperatures.

Please be a good neighbor!

# Help Keep Sidewalks Safe When it Snows



Most people in Fort Wayne use sidewalks every day walking to work, school or shopping. We use sidewalks for exercise and to wait for buses. Sidewalks are a vital part of our transportation system. Without a wide clear path through the snow and ice it can be difficult for anyone to use the sidewalks safely. It can be especially difficult for children, senior citizens and people with disabilities. Please help the City keep sidewalks cleared of snow and ice this winter.

- ❄ Sidewalks should be cleared by 9:00 AM if snow has fallen overnight.
- ❄ Remove snow along all of the sidewalk adjacent to your property. If you live on a corner lot, you may have sidewalk on two sides.
- ❄ Pile the snow on your yard or the park strip.
- ❄ Please don't push the snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the street and don't cover crosswalks with snow.

Taking responsibility for your sidewalks helps to provide a safe, continuous path for pedestrians in your neighborhood and it is required by the Fort Wayne Municipal Code.

# PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION

## A VITAL ROLE FOR THE WATER UTILITY

Did you know the very first public water systems were developed to fight fires? Providing a reliable water supply for public fire protection continues to be an important function of Fort Wayne's water utility.

Reliable public fire protection requires that water utility facilities be built bigger than would be needed for everyday household uses. These larger systems are necessary to provide the massive amounts of water and pressure needed to fight fires. The larger pipes, pumps and water towers cost more to build, operate and maintain, but having these facilities also helps keep your homeowner insurance premiums lower.

Beginning this month you will see a **Public Fire Protection** item in the water section of your monthly City Utilities bill – if you are a City Utilities water customer. In the past, the cost of public fire protection was paid for with tax dollars. The City of Fort Wayne collected taxes and then paid the water utility for public fire protection. In 2013, the Fort Wayne City Council approved a policy to have these fees collected on utility bills rather than being paid with property taxes.

Moving the collection of the public fire protection cost to the water utility bill helps ensure that all who benefit share in the cost. This new charge on your water bill funds only water utility costs related to public fire protection.



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