

A Word About Winter:

The City of Conneaut experiences an annual snowfall of approximately 100+ inches. The severity of winter storms off the lake determines to a large extent the methods we must use to keep our streets clear of snow and ice and the relative effectiveness of those efforts. Some questions on our snow removal program keep reoccurring. We've listed those below and tried to answer them in ways we hope you'll find beneficial.

When Does The City Remove Snow?

As it begins to accumulate, we concentrate on major streets, hills, hazardous intersections, school areas, bridges and the railroad tracks. Then, attention is shifted to residential areas.

Why Do Residential Areas Get Plowed Last?

The first streets that receive attention are the major arterial or "Priority I" roads (see the reverse side for a listing). As long as the snow keeps falling, the City's first priority is to keep the main roads open and passable. In such instances, it is unlikely that residential roads will be reached immediately because the main roads must be repeatedly plowed and kept open.

Our priority is to keep major streets open in order to allow emergency vehicles and residents traveling to work a way to get to all parts of the City. As soon as the major streets are clear, equipment is immediately moved into residential areas. Under normal circumstances, cul-de-sacs and dead ends are the last residential streets to be cleared. Cul-de-sacs and dead ends are plowed last because they carry the lowest volume of traffic among the different types of streets.

How Much Equipment Is Plowing At Any One Time?

We try to keep 8 to 10 vehicles on the road at all times during severe weather. When snow begins to accumulate, we plow around the clock to try and stay ahead of the weather, or at least, keep up. During winter hours we work three 8-hour shifts. This means that we have staff working 24 hours a day in order to ensure the snow and ice is removed from major arterial streets.

How Much Salt Does The City Use?

Anywhere from 12 - 17 hundred tons per season, depending on conditions. We are trying to reduce salt usage where possible not only because of its high cost, but, for ecological reasons. Salt damages trees and runs off into our streams and the lake. Incidentally, when the temperature drops below 20 degrees, salt becomes less and less effective. It is dormant at zero or below and does little or no good.

Why Doesn't the City Salt Residential Streets?

Due to the limited budget and the number of snow storms we experience in Conneaut, it is not possible to salt all residential streets. Our major objective is to apply salt and/or grit to the major streets as well as intersections. For this reason, we encourage drivers to take extra precautions such as slowing down and breaking well before the intersections in residential neighborhoods.

Why Are Some Residential Streets Always Plowed First?

Drivers are instructed to continually change the sequence in which they plow residential streets so that a particular street is not always the last to be plowed.

Why Do The Plows Push Snow Onto The Sidewalks And Into Driveways?

Unfortunately, it is impossible to keep snow from being deposited on your driveway and/or sidewalk during plowing, as the plow cannot be lifted or stopped at each driveway as it passes.

If you shovel or have your driveway plowed before the street is completed, here is a tip that will help minimize the amount of snow left in front of your driveway – try to push the snow behind the sidewalk and to the right of the driveway entrance (standing in the driveway facing the street). Then, when your street is plowed, it will be plowed to the right of your driveway, rather than into its path. Please, do not empty snow from your driveway into the street, as it slows down the overall plow operation. Also, if snow that is placed in the street freezes, it can create a traffic hazard.

Am I Supposed To Keep The Sidewalk In Front Of My House Clear Of Ice And Snow?

Yes, it's supposed to be cleared after a snowfall. Otherwise, children going to school, the elderly, anyone ... can slip and be badly injured.

If you have a fire hydrant on your property, please clear the snow away from the area around it. This will greatly assist fire crews in the event of an emergency.

What About The City's Parking Ordinance?

It prohibits parking along certain streets during a snow or ice storm in order to allow the City snow plow crews to better clear the roadways. It also allows passage by emergency vehicles.

Streets designated as snow routes include major thoroughfares and those streets that have the appropriate signs placed along them. Please observe any signs posted on your street. Everyone is urged to remove their vehicle from the street as soon as it begins to snow. This allows snowplow crews to clear the street better without the added fear of striking someone's car or plowing the snow around the car.

Okay ... Who Do I Call If I Have A Problem With Snow Removal?

Call the Public Works Department at 593-7430. In addition, we've set up a special 24-hour phone messaging machine at 593-7430 to answer your most frequently asked questions. Please call the Public Works Department between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. at 593-7430.

