

# Snow and Ice Control Plan

## Parks Maintenance Operations



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## **Introduction**

The City of Longmont's Parks Snow and Ice Control Plan guides operations to reduce the impacts of snow and ice on designated City facilities, parks, greenways, the City Center and designated arterial right-of ways (ROW's). The primary goal of this plan is to provide an initial level of service that focuses on public safety in high traffic areas. The secondary objective of this plan is to outline snow removal operations in areas that enhance the quality of life for the residences and visitors of Longmont.

Public Works & Natural Resources Department is responsible for accomplishing the Snow and Ice Control Plan. Park and Forestry Operations uses a variety of equipment to ensure sidewalks and parking lots are clear of ice and snow after or during a snow event. Arterial Roads are the major roads in Longmont that move traffic to emergency facilities, urban centers and major highways. This plan outlines Park and Forestry Operations response plan for the 114 miles of sidewalks and greenway trails along with entrances to seven city facilities in Longmont. Unlike the street snow and ice deployment, the Park and Forestry Operations deployment is not an emergency response 24/7 operation.

## **Snow Plowing Objectives**

The core objectives of the Public Works Division is to provide access to emergency services, maintain the safest possible flow of commuter traffic through the city during the storm, emphasizing access to bus routes and schools and restore normal driving conditions as soon as possible after the storm has ended. Park and Forestry Operations achieves the Public Works Objects by prioritizing the snow deployment. First, we provide safe access to City facilities, schools and the downtown. Second, meet code requirements as outlined in the City of Longmont Municipal Code. Finally, to enhance Park and Forestry Operations maintained areas. Enhancing areas could include continued treatment of icy areas, clearing around benches and playgrounds, widening trails and the removal of snow piles.

Residents are the best judge of personal safety during and after snow events and are advised to use alternate forms of transportation or wait until storm conditions have improved before going outside during and immediately after snowfall. For those wishing to access parks and city facilities, select the appropriate footwear for snow and ice conditions, slip resistant, closed toe, flat bottom shoes or boots. Runoff from private properties on sidewalks or paths may exist and a keen awareness of slip conditions is needed.

## **Deployment Guidelines**

Predicted weather conditions, air and ground temperatures, accumulation and the potential for back-to-back storms information determines if Park and Forestry Operations will deploy snow teams. Deployment information includes the following:

- 1) **Detection:** To forecast the severity of an anticipated snow event, staff monitors regional forecasts, and other weather service products. Additionally, managers, supervisors and on-call staff will monitor local weather instrumentation sites or will observe weather locally.
- 2) **Decide:** Depending on the anticipated level of deployment, park and forestry maintenance employees are informed that snow operations will begin and the time to report for duty.
- 3) **Deployment:** The Supervisor assigned to the snow event is responsible for the deployment of the snow teams.
- 4) **Access:** The Supervisor assigned to the snow event will continually access the needs of each zone and will adjust staffing levels to accommodate the need.

The Park Operations division categorizes snow response in levels of deployment dependent upon several factors including the following: expected accumulation, air and ground temperature, the type of snow, powder, slush, ice, and the potential for back-to-back storms. The Supervisor assigned to the snow event will determine the level of deployment based upon the anticipated impact to residents and transportation.

### **Level One Deployment**

A level one is for snow and ice events with little or no accumulation; no additional snowfall is expected. Deployment for a level-one snow event is typically during regular work hours. Team focus on treatment of ice and snow removal at select City facilities, some downtown areas and shaded areas prone to ice accumulation. Full deployment of all snow team members is not typical at a level one storm, as snow melting typically will occur prior to staff arrival. A limited number of park and forestry maintenance employees will conduct snow removal operations and the rest of the employees conduct regular scheduled work assignments.

### **Level Two Deployment**

A level two deployment is a snow event with minor to medium accumulation with the

possibility of back-to-back snowfall. Level two is a full deployment of all employees for snow and ice response. Staff initially focuses on open city facilities, school routes and designated downtown areas. Once these areas are completed, crews will be dispatch to right-of-ways, greenway and parks. Limited and/or targeted snow removal operations are possible.

Winter storms that result in fallen branches and tree damage will result in a focused approach to manage the fallen branches. Fallen branches may reduce the snow response times in the lower prioritized areas and will resume after the downed branch response is completed.

### **Deployment for Major Storms, Blizzard Conditions, or other Emergency Conditions**

Significant accumulations of wet-snow, blowing-snow, ice storms, spring or fall storms when significant foliage remains on trees and can be particularly problematic and require more complex deployment approaches. Weather forecasts and weather data, along with existing conditions (existing snow and ice occurrence) are paramount in order to formulate an effective deployment strategy for a Major Storm event. The following are strategies to help manage a Major Storm Event:

- Limited and/or targeted snow removal operations in the downtown area, school routes, right-of-ways, greenways and parks.
- Private contractors may assist city crews.
- Plowing priority is to the continuation of emergency services and critical City services including public safety, trash, water, electric and other emergency response needs.

### **Priority Strategy**

The priority strategy illustrates the order in which locations are plowed. In the event of repeating snowstorms with significant accumulation, the plowing efforts will remain focused in the higher priority areas.

#### **Priority One Areas include:**

- **Open City Facilities**
- **Selected Greenway Paths that are primary school accesses routes**
- **Designated bike lane from Hover Rd. to HWY 119 along the Left Hand Greenway**
- **City Fire Stations (Equipment is not available at the Fire Stations to remove snow)**

The prioritization of plowing City facility entrances permits customers to have safe access into City buildings and for City staff to provide critical services to residents.

- City Facilities

- Civic Center/ Library
- Development Center
- Safety and Justice Center
- Quail Campus- Recreation Center and Museum
- Centennial Pool
- Meeker center
- Service Center (Entrance Sidewalks)
- Utility Center
- Youth Center
- Izaak Walton
- Roosevelt Park
- Downtown sidewalks and Parking lots- One cycle of snow plowing will occur per day in the below areas during snow events. It is the responsibility of the adjacent merchants and residents to maintain the sidewalks in front and behind their businesses.
  - Sidewalks from building to curb along Main street from 2<sup>nd</sup> to Longs Peak Ave and side streets to the alleys, including the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues to the alley each side from Main street.
  - Parking spaces along Main Street plowed and the snow will be piled in the last one or two parking spaces along the end of the street segment.
  - Accumulated snow will be piled in the designated locations
  - Designated downtown parking lots
  - Breezeways
  - St. Stevens plaza
  - Sixth Avenue Plaza

**Priority Two Areas-Designated Arterial Street Sidewalks**

Designated arterial sidewalks along major roadways; areas are plowed after the priority one areas are completed. Please note that not all sidewalks in the city are plowed by the City of Longmont and that most sidewalk plowing is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

### **Priority Three Areas- Greenways**

Greenways not designated as school routes or primary bike routes are plowed after the priority one and two areas are completed.

### **Priority Four Areas-Sidewalks and Parking Lots at Neighborhood, Community and District Parks**

Sidewalks and Parking Lots within a park are plowed after all other priority areas are complete.

### **Priority is Safety, Code and Enhancement**

Depending upon weather conditions, the lower priority areas, designated arterial street sidewalks, greenways and park sidewalks, may not be plowed until the snow event has ended and the higher priority locations have been adequately managed. In some cases, completion of snow removal within twenty-four hours after snow has stopped falling might not be possible. This strategy aligns with the Longmont municipal code, but differs from the residential obligation for sidewalk snow removal requirements in the municipal code;

*“LMC 9.04.130 E -The obligations stated above do not apply to a public sidewalk abutting a single-family residential property on one side, and an arterial street, city green way, city park, or city golf course on the other side. Nor do those obligations apply to a sidewalk from which the city regularly removes snow and ice”.*

Park and Forestry Operations strives to provide a parks system that is clean, safe and usable year-round. Typically, completion of snow removal operations is within twenty-four hours but large accumulations of snow can slow down operations and snow removal from Parks may take over twenty-four hours. Parks and forestry staff will continue to enhance snow removal in all maintenance areas in the city for several days after a snow event. The following are excerpts from the City of Longmont’s Municipal Code concerning clearing of snow from sidewalks.

#### ***Longmont Municipal Code***

#### ***9.04.130 Snow and ice on sidewalks - Owner or occupant responsibility.***

- A. *Within twenty-four hours after any snow or ice stops falling on a public sidewalk, it is the duty of:*
1. *Every owner and manager of property abutting the sidewalk; and*

2. *Every tenant leasing an entire premises abutting the sidewalk; and*
3. *Every adult occupant of a single-family dwelling abutting the sidewalk to remove or cause the removal from public sidewalks abutting the property accumulated snow and ice, as this section provides.*

*B. Each responsible person listed above shall remove or cause the removal of snow and ice to expose the abutting public sidewalk for the entire width of the sidewalk or the width of four feet, whichever is less.*

*C. After removing snow and ice as required above, each responsible person listed above shall keep the abutting sidewalk reasonably passable.*

*D. Under this section, snow or ice has not “stopped falling” if additional snow or ice falls within four hours.*

*E. The obligations stated above do not apply to a public sidewalk abutting a single-family residential property on one side, and an arterial street, city greenway, city park, or city golf course on the other side. Nor do those obligations apply to a sidewalk from which the city regularly removes snow and ice.*

*F. As used in this section, “sidewalk” means a paved public way designed and constructed for pedestrian travel, and “Arterial Street” means an arterial street identified in the Longmont Area Comprehensive Plan or accompanying maps.*

*G. Violation of this section is an offense under this code. Public Works and Natural Resources Director, or the director’s designee may notify a responsible person listed above of the city’s intent to correct a violation. If the violation remains twenty-four hours after such notification, the Director or the director’s designee may remove or cause the removal of snow and ice from any sidewalk affected by the offense. Upon a conviction, the municipal court shall add to the sentence of a responsible person so notified the director’s reasonable certified expenses of removal. The city shall collect such added expenses in the same manner it collects other municipal court fines. Assessments against property for abatement costs under other parts of this chapter shall not apply to the city’s expenses under this paragraph.*

*H. The council intends, by this section, to create legally enforceable duties for the benefit of persons lawfully using sidewalks. Subject to applicable rules of law, including comparative negligence and other civil defenses, breach of these duties shall support civil recovery by injured persons lawfully using public sidewalks from each violator, jointly and severally, for damages the violation proximately causes. (Ord. 0-98-28 § 1: Ord. 0-94-61 § 9 (part): prior code § 5-5-9)*

**11.04.115 Part 12 – Parking (excerpt)**



6. *No person shall obstruct and no owner or manager of property shall permit an obstruction to remain on a parking space reserved for use by persons with disabilities, whether on public property or private property available for public use except that only the City shall be responsible for any parking space it causes to be obstructed. For the purpose of this section, an accumulation of two (2) inches or more of snow for 24 hours is an obstruction. (Ord. No. O-2011-01, 1-11-2011; Ord. No. O-2012-59, § 1, 9-18-2012)*

**Clearing Snow from Sidewalks on designated plow routes**

Residents are advised that in certain areas, snow may be inadvertently plowed onto sidewalks or into driveways due to the narrowness of certain roadways despite the City’s best efforts to avoid these conditions. The City’s Municipal Code stipulates that residents have twenty-four hours after a storm ends to remove snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property (LMC 9.04.130). In situations where a snowplow driver has inadvertently created a significant problem, and as resources allow, the city may respond to help clear the sidewalk. It is important to note that the ultimate responsibility for clearing snow from residential sidewalks is that of residents.

**Important Phone Numbers**

- Emergency .....911
- Longmont Police- NON-Emergency.....303-651-8585
- Public Works and Natural Resources .....303-651-8416
- City of Longmont Code Enforcement.....303-651-8695