

TOWN OF LANARK
Portage County, Wisconsin
WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE POLICY

PURPOSE:

The overall goal is to establish a realistic, meaningful, and practical policy for winter road maintenance that has the flexibility required to make adjustments commensurate with the character of the snow and ice control needs for any given event.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT:

It shall be the general policy of the Town of Lanark to mechanically and efficiently as possible, remove accumulated snow or ice from the travel portion of the town roads within a reasonable time. (By state statute [893.83](#) the town has three (3) weeks to remove natural snow and ice accumulations.)

This does not mean bare, dry pavement should be expected after each snowfall or ice storm. Motorists will be expected to modify their driving in accordance with the road conditions.

Planning and preparing for snow and ice removal operations is difficult due to the uniqueness of each storm. The inter-relationship of factors such as rate of snowfall, moisture content, accumulation, temperature, time of day and wind velocity determine the operational response for the proper clearance of the roads.

Under this policy the goal of winter maintenance is to 1) minimize hazards of slippery road conditions to motorists 2) facilitate handling of emergencies 3) restore traveling conditions for the convenience of the general public, all within the limitations of equipment, manpower, resource conservation, facility & personnel protection and environmental concerns.

SNOWPLOW OPERATIONS:

Plowing usually begins when snow accumulates to 2"; it is still snowing; and the forecast is for two or more inches. Earlier implementation of maintenance may be necessary if combined with freezing and icing conditions, occurrence of an ice storm or freezing rain.

Plowing of snow may be limited in storms in late Spring due to the lack of frost to support the snowplow. Operations may be suspended or reduced if there are equipment breakdowns, qualified operators are not available or other conditions occur beyond the town's control. The town chairperson has the authority to suspend snow and ice control operations in severe storm conditions when there is danger to operators or it is not practical or cost effective to continue.

Operators of snow equipment shall not perform work of greater than fourteen (14) hours per day, plus two (2) hours for emergency show up, as regulated by the Commercial Driver's License rules of Wisconsin.

The main objective of snow removal operations is to plow the blacktop surfaces to shoulders to open roads, and then on subsequent passes to clear shoulders and wing back drifts. Roads with the highest traffic volume, school bus routes and dangerous hills have highest priority. All roads shall be cleared as expeditiously as is economically and operationally practical to provide reasonable traffic service. In order to provide efficient operation it may be necessary to partially complete a lower class of service requirement to reach an area of higher priority. It may also be necessary to clear a route for fires, ambulance calls or other such emergencies.

The discretionary act of ordering personnel and equipment into service for a winter maintenance operation shall be primarily with the maintenance supervisor, the Town Chairperson and/or Town Board.

ICE REMOVAL:

The town uses an abrasive sand treated with rock salt. This mixture will be applied at curves, most intersections, hills and steep grades. Other road surfaces may receive an application of sand/salt as may be required or directed, to provide a safe surface for traffic. Certain weather conditions may allow the sand/salt mixture to promote a thawing or clearing of compact snow or ice. Salt shall be used only when absolutely necessary as determined by the maintenance supervisor or Town Chairperson, in dangerous conditions. Salt may have adverse effects on the environment and shall be used with this in mind.

DRIVEWAYS:

Driveway maintenance is the property owner's responsibility. The Town does not have any obligation to clear snow from blocked driveways as a result of snowplow operations. State Statute [86.01](#) & [346.94](#) prohibits plowing any snow from driveways onto State, County or Town roads. No snow or ice removal from private property shall be deposited in the roadway and then expected to be cleared by personnel from the town. Pushing, blowing, or carrying and depositing snow or ice onto a public roadway is prohibited. Such activities are dangerous and could cause injury or accidents and may not allow for safe passage by the public.

MAILBOXES:

Snowplow operators are instructed to be cautious near mailboxes. In most cases a properly installed mailbox will permit a snowplow to clear underneath it. Most cases of damaged mailboxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. The town will repair or replace a mailbox installation if it is hit by the plow and the town is notified. If a new box is necessary the maximum amount of \$15.00 is allowed for the town or owner to purchase one. Owners may be asked to move mailboxes if they hinder or obstruct snowplow operations.

PARKING REGULATIONS:

The public shall refrain from parking on all road right-of-ways during and after a storm until snowplow operations are completed. Vehicles parked illegally or abandoned on roads are subject to towing at the owner's expense.

MAINTENANCE REQUESTS & EMERGENCY CALLS:

All courteous calls will be handled promptly and with discretionary judgment by town board supervisors. The response to such calls may vary depending upon the availability of the person called and status of snowplow operations. Emergency calls should be directed to 911 for the quickest service possible. Complaints or comments should be made at the monthly town board meetings.

The Winter Road Maintenance Policy shall be deemed to be in effect after its adoption by the Town Board