

POLICY TITLE: Snow Plowing	POLICY NUMBER: 011-25	EFFECTIVE DATE: January 9, 2025
ORIGIN: Chief Administrative Officer	ADOPTED BY COUNCIL January 9, 2025	AMENDED DATE:

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish standards and guidelines in order to ensure consistent practices for snow plowing and to provide timely service.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Rural Municipality of Pleasantdale No. 398 maintains All Weather Roads, Primary Grid Roads and several Seasonal roads including roads and streets in the unorganized hamlets of Silver Park and Lac Vert during the winter months.

2.2 In average snowfall conditions, it usually takes 3 days for the municipal roads to be cleared. This time may increase if severe or prolonged snowfall conditions persist.

2.3 Factors that may suspend snow clearing operations include unsafe conditions such as:

- Low visibility
- air temperature
- wind velocity and direction
- wind chill factor
- blizzard like conditions
- mechanical failure
- concern for safety of staff and equipment.

3.0 GENERAL PROCEDURES

3.1 In the occurrence of a snow event, a snow check will be performed by the Working Foreman or designate. If applicable, the Working Foreman will organize to have public roads plowed at his discretion with the entire route done as efficiently as possible with minimal backtracking.

3.2 After a major storm, cleanup operations may be ongoing for several days. In general, it is most effective to wait until the snowfall has ended or a storm has passed before heading out to clear the roads.

3.3 If warranted and at its discretion, the Municipality may choose to hire a contractor(s) to assist the Municipality.

3.4 Snow clearing on weekends and holidays shall be authorized by the Working Foreman or designate. Clearing of snow from municipal roads by unauthorized individuals is prohibited.

4.0 ROUTE DETERMINATION

4.1 The route determination will be made by the Working Foreman or designate. Typically, the order of priority for snow plowing will follow the classification of roads:

Priority 1 - All Weather Road and Primary Grid Road

Snow Accumulation of 5-10 cm

Priority 2 - Defined Bus Routes

Snow Accumulation of 5-10 cm

Priority 3 - Seasonal Roads

Snow Accumulation of 5-10 cm

Priority 4 – Lac Vert and Silver Park Roads and Laneways

Snow Accumulation of 5-10 cm

4.2 A one-pass system may be used to open up roads and restore good driving conditions although some minor roads may be opened prior to or simultaneously to provide efficiency.

4.3 Bus routes encompass our whole road network, so they get cleared as a matter of course with all other roads. Not everyone can be first served, but we will alternate routes each time to be as fair as possible.

4.4 Personal driveways will be snow plowed after all roads have been completed unless it is efficient and at the discretion of the operator to clear the snow while he is in the vicinity.

4.5 Any road(s) that historically have not been plowed (seasonal summer roads, road allowances, etc.) will not be maintained during the winter months with the exception of Mile 151, 152, 153, 154, 213, 214, 215, 322, 323, 522, 603, 604, 609, 656, 657. The Working Foreman, at his discretion, may deem additional seasonal roads to be opened (ie: access to pastures, access to grain bags, bus routes).

4.6 Community halls and cemeteries will be cleared upon request and at no cost subject to availability of equipment and operators.

4.7 If a residential property has more than one access route, the Municipality reserves the right to provide snow clearing on one access route as determined by the Working Foreman or designate.

4.8 In certain circumstances where it is expedient for the operator to enter a yard site to turn around due to the road terminating, and rather than trying to perform a two-point turn, the Municipality will plow the turn route at no cost to the property owner.

5.0 UNORGANIZED HAMLET OF LAC VERT AND SILVER PARK

5.1 Lakeview Avenue in the Unorganized Hamlet of Lac Vert and Centre Street in the Unorganized Hamlet of Silver Park will be maintained by the municipality as part of Priority 1 snow clearing protocols.

6.0 TOWING

6.1 Operators may assist stranded motorists in certain circumstances, however, will not attempt to remove a stranded vehicle unless approved by the Working Foreman or his designate.

6.2 If the Operator is approved to assist the stranded vehicle, they should ensure that the stranded motorist is responsible for hooking up the towing rope to their own vehicle to limit any potential liability.

6.3 If the Operator is requested to hook the tow rope to the vehicle, the Operator must first obtain a signed liability waiver from the motorist for any damages which may result from hooking up and towing the stranded vehicle.

7.0 SNOW CLEARING BY SNOW REMOVERS

7.1 Individual ratepayers, clubs, small business owners or corporations, community associations or others (herein after referred to as “snow removers”) shall not remove or clear snow from public roads, right-of-way, road allowances, ditches, etc. owned by the municipality unless they are authorized by the Municipality .

7.2 Snow removers shall ensure that, if snow is to be removed that, it is not to be placed on, pushed across or piled on the municipal roads, right-of-way, shoulders, road allowances or piled where it blocks a ditch drainage. The snow shall be placed on the property owner’s property or needs to comply with the Snow Piling Restriction Policy.

8.0 RESCIND POLICY

8.1 “Snow Plow & Snow Removal” Policy 488-22 dated October 27, 2022 is hereby rescinded.