

Document Number:	25-06-07
Document Name:	Snow Removal - Roads
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1.0 Purpose

To clearly outline when plows will be out on Town of Oulu Roads.

2.0 Policy Details

The Town of Oulu has nearly 58 miles of roads in its jurisdiction, and an average of 117 driveways to plow with minimal staff to perform the maintenance tasks year-round. Snow and ice removal is a vital public service, keeping roads safe and passable for residents, visitors, and rescue vehicles during winter storms. Snow removal is a large task when winter storms are active. In fact, it is probably the number one most taxing activity the Town undertakes in terms of personnel resources and toll on equipment.

Variations in weather conditions across town, time, temperature, moisture content and snowfall rates all affect the time and energy it takes to clear roads during and after a storm.

Our plow operators face multiple hazards and obstacles during every winter storm. Parked cars, garbage cans, vehicles traveling too fast or too close to the plow trucks, mailboxes too close to the road, other plow drivers and home owners operating in the road or depositing their snow in the road.

Do not park on the roads during or after snow events.

CARS ON ROADWAYS DURING SNOW EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO TICKETING AND TOWING AT OWNERS EXPENSE

The Town of Oulu is not responsible for any damage caused to mailboxes.

All mailboxes must be in compliance with the accepted US Postal Services street setback and height requirements. A copy of the USPS street setback is available online [here](#).

3.0 Policy Scope

Covers all roads in Oulu, gravel and asphalt. Type of road, road conditions, weather, and equipment availability may lead to differences and intensity of snow removal methods used.

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4.0 Related Policies

See Snowplow Policy – Driveways 25-06-08.

5.0 Policy Owner

The policy is approved and implemented by the Oulu Town Board of Supervisors, and Town employees.

All Policies are reviewed every odd year to maintain relevance and to make changes, if needed

6.0 Definitions

Roads – all roads in the Town of Oulu for which the Town receives road tax money for maintenance.

7.0 Procedures

The following chart is a basic outline of when snowplowing is done and what general procedures are used for various weather events:

Sand and salt will be applied as needed in areas where traction is needed such as hills and intersections.

Initial plowing procedures are to open roads to allow emergency vehicles and school buses to proceed as normal. Other non-bus route roads will follow. Depending on the amount of snow, operators may plow to the ditch line as needed.

Driveways will follow road opening as soon as possible while following all operator hours of operation rules and rest periods.

- The process of plowing the roads will lead to additional snow deposits at the end of driveways. Some houses located on turns or cul-de-sacs will receive more snow deposits than a house located on a straight section of street. It is an unfortunate side effect of plowing.

8. Exhibits / Appendices / Forms

Basic Snow Plowing Procedures		
Type of Precipitation	Amount / Accumulation	Procedure
Ice Storm; Freezing Rain	-	Salt all roads before ice can adhere to roadway. No driveways plowed.
Snow Flurries	Trace to 1"	Will not plow. May salt/sand intersections, hills, and curves. No driveways plowed.
Snow	1-2"	May start plowing roads. Continue to salt/sand intersections, hills, and curves. No driveways plowed.
Snow	2-5"	Will plow to maintain all streets on normal plow route. Continue to salt/sand intersections, hills, and curves. Driveways plowed only after roads are completed, and crew has had adequate rest time to comply with safety and legal requirements, after 4 inches of snow accumulation for each snow event.
Snow	6" Plus	Will continue to plow to maintain all mains for emergency vehicle travel. (Plow operators may be directed to clear paths for emergency vehicles.) Additional part-time operators are called in to assist. Driveways plowed only after roads are completed, and crew has had adequate rest time to comply with safety and legal requirements

9.0 Document History

This Snow Removal – Roads Policy was previously numbered 202302-01

Formalizing existing policy implemented over many years.

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