



Snow Clearing in Irricana

INFORMATION BULLETIN

This bulletin is to better inform our residents about the Town of Irricana 's snow clearing, winter services, and procedures.

Town of Irricana

With the Season changing and Winter on its way, we would like to remind residents to please assist in keeping our community safe and accessible. The Town of Irricana has a dedicated staff who work diligently to try to keep the roads and designated public areas safe as possible for our town residents. With the help and co-operation of our residents, as Irricana strives to be accessible for traffic flow, our goal is to provide the highest level of service in a timely fashion, within budget guidelines.



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Public Works Staffing

The Town of Irricana presently has four (4) full time employees dedicated to all Public Works related duties including:

- Water/Sewer**
- Street and Roads**
- Parks and Rec**
- Building Maintenance**
- Mechanical Repairs**
- Administration Support**

Snow Plowing Equipment

The Town presently has the following pieces of snow plowing equipment and (4) operators.

- Wille Loader** - Snow Plow with side wings and loading bucket
- New Holland Tractor** - Rear angle plow and loading bucket
- Bobcat** - Snow bucket
- 2 Ton 4x4 Dump Truck** - Snow plow with side wings
- 3 Ton Dump Truck** - Used mainly as heavy hauler for snow, road sand and gravel.
- Road Sander Attachment**
- 1445 John Deere with 60" sidewalk sweeper**
- Kabota Side by Side** - with Sweeper attachment

Snow Clearing Procedures

The Town's snow clearing procedures are to create passable lanes for traffic flow.

Initially Public Works staff plow the roads which may create windrows (snow that accumulates at the side of the road from a plow truck or grader after clearing a lane.)

The windrows caused in clearing streets are then piled up in order to be hauled away at the earliest possible time.

Snow piles are then loaded onto trucks and the snow removed and dumped in designated areas as close to the area being plowed as possible.

Snow Clearing/Laneway Maintenance Policy 4.01 (on Town website)

Snow Plowing Priorities



As part of roads and street maintenance, snow clearing in the winter months is a constant challenge because of unpredictable weather. With this in mind after a significant snowfall event, priorities have been established to ensure the safety of the roads. Irricana streets are plowed on a priority basis with the highest volume roads cleared first followed by bus routes and bus stops.

(See attached map for details)

Priority One -

- Emergency services/route
- Arterial roadways
- 2nd Street (main street)
- 1st Avenue

Priority Two -

- Majority Residential Feeder Roads
- 6th Street
- Madison Drive

Priority Three -

- Residential roads,
- Cul-de-sac
- Alleys

Sidewalks/Town Facilities -

- Municipal owned parking lots & sidewalks

Emergency Route

In order to help facilitate a safe and timely snow removal process an "Emergency Route" was implemented. Metal Signs are posted along some residential streets to identify this Route: (ie: 6th Street, Madison Drive, 1st Avenue, Main Street etc).

It is the intention that a priority route be in place to ensure Town roads are maintained in a suitable condition within budgetary limits following a snowfall, which allows for the safe passage of vehicles along these roadways.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

- Temporary Street or Snow Clearing signs *may* be erected on all other roads designated for clearing on a priority basis as dictated by policy and indicated on the attached map.
- Laneways may be plowed and leveled for traffic flow in priority sequence.
- Please be aware that all vehicles parked along the Emergency Route during a snow clearing event may be subject to a fine and/or removal and impound at the sole expense of the owner.

Extreme Snow Conditions

During extreme snow conditions our public works staff make all attempts to keep streets passable. In some instances drifting or blowing snow can make visibility impossible for crews to safely plow the streets. Conditions may have to improve in order for staff to resume plowing. For the safety of your property and our town staff please help by removing any vehicles from all streets in order to make the streets more passable for plows. Driving a snow plow can be a dangerous operation when dealing with additional hazards such as swirling snow, ice and traffic. If you see snow removal equipment in your vicinity please take every precaution to stay at least 10 meters clear of it. Do not assume our operators can always see approaching vehicles.



Frequently Asked Questions

The Town of Irricana has piled snow where I park in front of my house. What can I do about this?

Sometimes we need the area in front of a residence for temporary snow storage. If your car is there we have no choice but to windrow around it. The best thing that you can do is move vehicles off the

street during any snow events until the town is able to clear the street. This increases efficiencies and safety for all parties.

The plow truck came through and plowed snow in front of my driveway. What can I do about this?

In our efforts to clear the streets, snow is being plowed to the gutter.

To minimize snow being pushed back onto the sidewalk, residents are asked to shovel the snow from sidewalks and driveways on to your the lawn. During heavy snow falls large windrows may occur and may not be removed immediately. It is still your responsibility to remove any windrows blocking access to your property.

Snow Removal Budget

Each year council approves a snow clearing budget. This portion of the budget includes funding for operations of town equipment, salt/gravel supplies, and additional contract labour if required. As it is virtually impossible to determine how much snow removal will be required each year, our public works team do their utmost to stay within budgets allotted for street sanding and clearing. Although the town does its due diligence to supply adequate snow removal there are still limitations in order to maintain a reasonable cost to the tax payer.

Sidewalk Clearing

Along with maintaining snow removal on our streets our Public Works staff are also responsible for sidewalk clearing in front of the business sector on 2nd Street, school bus stops and pathways. Public Works convert small mowers with sweeper brooms in the winter in order to accommodate the requirements for snow removal on sidewalks.

Outdoor Skating Rink

During the winter and weather permitting our Public Works staff or other volunteers strive to flood the outdoor skating rink for the enjoyment of all of our residents. Snow clearing by Public Works is only provided when all other priority areas have been attended to.

Thank you

Snow... a good source of moisture and insulation.

Shoveling snow onto your own property can have the additional benefits of moisture and insulation for lawns and plants. Residents shoveling snow onto the streets can add an additional cost to the town and additional maintenance trips for snow clearing equipment.

www.irricana.com

Why the plow trucks do not plow snow to the pavement

During snow plowing operations snow may not be cleared to the pavement. Manhole covers and water valves may impact operator safety when plowing and affect infrastructure and equipment.

**Privately Contracted/
Volunteer Snow Removal**

Each winter several town businesses and residents also contract private snow clearing companies to help with snow removal for their properties. We also have numerous "snow angels" that volunteer their services to help clear sidewalks, driveways, and even public areas. Town equipment is clearly marked with the town's logo to help identify their equipment. Ultimately we are all working to help keep our community safe and accessible. Should you need more information about snow clearing contractors please contact the town office at 403-935-4672 or irricana@irricana.com to get current listings



Contact Information:

Municipal Office

Phone: 403-935-4672

Fax: 403-935-4270

Email: irricana@irricana.com

Web Site: www.irricana.com

The Town also provides information through our Facebook Page

<http://www.irricana.com/siteengine/activepage.asp>

