



City of Newburyport
Department of Public Services

SNOW AND ICE PLAN

2024-2025 Season

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Introduction:

The City of Newburyport Department of Public Services takes great pride in making our public roadways as safe as possible under the worst of winter conditions. Keeping our public ways safe and accessible during snow and ice events is of highest priority in order to reduce the likelihood of personal injury to the general public, automobile crashes and property damage. Our goal is to quickly open the streets and make them passable so that essential vehicular traffic can safely negotiate roadways. Residents can help us do this by working together.

Snow Emergency Parking Ban:

DPS will implement a Snow Emergency Parking Ban when it is predicted that we will receive two or more inches of snow accumulation. If a parking ban is in effect, it will appear on the City's website www.cityofnewburyport.com. To receive email notifications, go to the city website and select the "Notify Me" tab on the homepage and sign up. In addition, fifteen (15) flashing blue lights will be activated throughout the city, typically 6 hours in advance before a declared snow emergency. The locations of these beacons are:

March's Hill at Bromfield St.

Route 113 @ Park and Ride

Graf Rd at Low St

Route 113 at Artichoke

Water St. at Shandel Dr.

Market Square

Griffin House at Atkinson Common (3 Roads)

Malcolm Hoyt Dr. at Parker St.

High St. at State St.

Route 1 Rotary and State St.

Route 1 at Merrimac St.

Merrimac, Moseley and Spofford (Roundabout)

Storey Ave. (113 East) at 95 South Ramp Entrance

Green St. at Merrimac St

Turkey Hill at Hale St.

You may also contact The Department of Public Services Weather Event and Emergency Information Line at 978-463-0472 to find out the status of the parking ban. Parking regulations are strictly enforced to ensure that streets remain accessible for snowplows, Fire apparatus, and other emergency vehicles. **Any vehicle that impedes the snow removal process may be fined and towed at the owner's expense.**

Alternate Delegated Parking Areas:

The City of Newburyport offers alternative designated parking areas for on-street cars that include the following: Green Street Municipal Lot (except in areas posted no parking during snow emergency), Cushing Park (Washington Street), Waterfront Lots East and West, Hales Court Lot (corner of Hales Court and Prince Place), the C&J Park and Ride Lot at 90 Storey Ave, and the State Street Lot (corner of Harris Street and State Street). All alternate delegated parking areas are park at own risk. In order for DPS to clear these lots, temporary parking bans and vehicle removal may be posted and announced on the City website, social media and Weather Event and Emergency Information Line at 978-463-0472. After snow removal is complete in a lot, lots will open for parking.

PLEASE NOTE: All vehicles must adhere to any parking regulation in the above listed lots within 12 hours following the cancellation of the snow emergency (weekends included) or vehicles are subject to fines.

SNOW EMERGENCY CANCELLATION INFORMATION may be obtained by checking www.cityofnewburyport.com or calling the Weather Event and Emergency Information Line at (978)-463-0472.

DPS will rescind the city-wide Snow Emergency parking restriction as soon as possible. The city-wide parking restriction will only be lifted when the DPS Director, Deputy Director or General Foreman determine that on- street parking will not cause a public safety issue to emergency response vehicles. DPS may seek advice from the City Marshal or Fire Chief to assist in making this determination.

On some narrow streets, the DPS may post temporary no parking signs after the snow emergency has been lifted in order to maintain a safe and adequate vehicle travel lane. The majority of these narrow streets are located in Wards 1, 2 and 3. DPS will evaluate these streets on a daily basis to see if these signs may be removed once the roadway has an adequate travel lane width.

Snow Plowing:

The following is a general description of how the Department of Public Services (DPS) clears snow from City streets.

Step 1. Pretreatment (1"-2" of accumulated snow)

When a snowstorm is predicted, DPS begins by pretreating all main and secondary roads prior to the storm starting. This serves two purposes: to keep traffic safely moving and to prevent the snow from bonding to the pavement. If the snow event is less than 2" inches of accumulated snow, DPS may halt salting operations once all of the roads have been pretreated and evaluate if additional treatment is required.

Step 2. Snow plowing/clearing (2" or greater)

Snow plowing begins when snow accumulates two (2) or more inches. Over 48 city and privately-operated snow clearing vehicles/equipment may be dispatched to respond to a snow plowing event. DPS crews and private contractors will continue to plow until the snow event ends. DPS will continue to monitor the conditions of the roadways and determine if additional snow clearing equipment is needed or if equipment may need to be reassigned to another section of the city.

Step 3. Post storm clean-up and clearing

Once the snow event has concluded, DPS conducts city-wide final snow clearing operations. This procedure includes one last round of snow clearing and placing salt to prevent freezing issues. General cleanup then occurs to make the roadways safe for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Snow removal from corners, piles, etc. operation may take days or weeks, depending on total amount snow accumulation. DPS will prioritize this operation based on the following in order of importance.

1. Main streets and school routes are treated to achieve the safest possible conditions.
2. Secondary roads and major intersections are treated to improve safety.
3. Snow piles at intersections are removed from the corners to improve sight lines for existing vehicles.
Snow may be removed from narrow streets to improve the access for emergency and public service vehicles. Snow removal is time consuming and labor intensive; the DPS Director or Deputy Director will prioritize these streets solely based on public safety.

SAFETY REMINDER: When driving, please stay 200 feet behind any snowplow and NEVER pass a plow truck. Snowplow operators do not have adequate visibility.

Sidewalks:

The removal of snow and ice from sidewalks is the responsibility of tenants, occupants and property owners. The City of Newburyport clears designated sidewalks following each storm, but only after all of the roads have been cleared. These sidewalks are in the downtown areas, surrounding schools and other city-owned property.

The City’s Code of Ordinances (Sec. 12-52) requires tenants, occupants and property owners to remove snow and ice from their bordering sidewalks within six hours after the snow ceases to fall if it ceases to fall in the daytime and before 12:00 noon if it ceases to fall in the nighttime. If a property owner/occupant neglects to do so, he/she shall be subject to fine of \$50 per event. Violations of this section may be enforced by any Police Officer, Health Director or his/her designees.

Driveways

DPS tries to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed across driveways, however, snow plows cannot “go around” driveways. Plow blades cannot be lifted as they pass by a driveway. Unfortunately, snow will be plowed into driveways during curb-to-curb plowing. You may wish to clear your driveway several times during the storm or wait until the storm and plowing activities have ended.

Snowplowing, shoveling, or throwing snow back onto the street when clearing driveways, yards, roofs or sidewalks is prohibited by City Ordinance Sec. 12-7 and violators can be fined \$50.

Mailboxes, Fences & Shrubbery Damage

The City will not pay for damaged mailboxes, fences, and shrubbery **unless actual contact is made**. Residents should mark out such items in drift prone areas. Claims for these damages should be submitted to the Auditor’s Office no more than 30 days to be considered for replacement or reimbursement at the City’s option.

Notifications

All residents and business owners are strongly urged to sign up for announcements or urgent alerts from any or all City departments. On the City of Newburyport’s website homepage, click on the large gray button that reads “Notify Me” to choose your notification preferences. Weather-related and other emergency notifications are provided by the City via news announcement posted to the website. If you are signed up for notifications, you will receive an e-mail alert letting you know that a new announcement has been posted by the city. This is especially useful in receiving the latest messages about parking restrictions and other information.

GPS Communications:

DPS has GPS units in all plowing vehicles allowing for accurate record keeping of time, location, fuel consumption, speed and safety. DPS and contracted plowing vehicles are all equipped with the units. The GPS units also help with making sure roads are cleared in a fair amount of time, helps alleviate damage claims to property and break downs.

Please note that this plan is always a work in progress. DPS learns from our experiences and technology changes, DPS may find different ways to conduct pretreatment, snow clearing and snow removal with greater efficiency and lower cost.