

Snow Removal Policy

New Market Township maintains over 50 miles of roads and streets, and over two dozen cul-de-sacs. Our first priority is to make the roads safe for the traveling public. The Road Supervisor is responsible for initiating and monitoring this activity.

This **generally** means one pass in each direction on all streets and cul-de-sacs and applying traction control (sand and/or salt) on curves and hills as a first pass. Then, the equipment will make additional passes to push the snow back to the road's edge and maybe off the shoulder, and then clean out cul-de-sacs. During heavy snow periods this may not occur for one or two days after the snowfall. This allows the crews a chance to rest.

Snow plowing is often done at night when vehicle traffic and personal activities are lightest.

If you have a problem with snow removal or slippery roads, call the **Road Supervisor**. Contact information can be found on the Contact Us page of the website.

Several things can be done by Township residents to facilitate better plowing.

Do not park vehicles on the roadway or shoulder until the snow has been pushed off the roadway. In the case of steep driveways or driveways filled with snow, park at the mouth of the drive but off the road. Cul-de-sacs should also be free of vehicles. If a car is parked on a roadside or cul-de-sac we may not finish plowing that street, but return several hours or maybe even a day later to complete the work.

Similarly, **garbage and recycling containers** should not be placed or left on the roadway during a snowfall. The Township suggests not placing containers on the roadway before 7 p.m. the evening before pickup and removing the containers no later than 7 p.m. the day of pickup. Even with these precautions, containers on the roadway may be struck by snow moving equipment or cause the street to not be completely plowed for several days.

When shoveling/clearing your driveway, **to minimize the snow plow's packing of snow into your driveway**, either leave the last six feet of your driveway uncleared, or clear the roadway half way across and the ten feet before the driveway. Leaving six feet of snow at the end of your driveway will allow the snow being pushed by the plow to remain on the plow and not dumped onto your driveway. If you clear the snow from the roadway and along your property there will be little snow on the plow when the plow crosses your driveway. Similar clearing ahead of a mailbox will help to prevent snow packing against the mailbox.

Property owners are reminded that it is **illegal (Minn. Stat. § 366.016)** to place **snow on a roadway from private property** (driveways). This includes placing snow from a private drive into a road ditch. Property owners may be liable for any damages which are incurred by such snow left on the roadway or in the ditch and may be billed by the Township for removal of such snow.

Snow will be plowed to the edge (where possible off the edge) of cul-de-sacs. Snow will not be removed from cul-de-sacs unless a road hazard exists.

Traction control is the application of salt or sand or a mixture of them to both melt ice and provide some grit for better traction. The materials and their application are expensive, may be harmful to grasses growing along the roadway, and may require street sweeping in the spring. However, if a roadway is slippery and a hazard please call the Road Supervisor as noted above.

Most Township roadways are 66 feet wide: 33 feet from the center of the roadway to the edge of the right-of-way. The Township may use all of this width to hold snow from road plowing and may cause minor damage to vegetation growing between the edge of the driven roadway and the edge of the right-of-way. If **damage occurs to fences, trees, or other structures on private property, that is, beyond this 33 foot right-of-way**, please call the Road Supervisor.

Home owners are permitted to have **mail boxes** in the right-of-way. Snow plow operators make every effort to remove snow as close to the curb as practical and to provide access to mailboxes for postal carriers. Because it is not possible to provide ideal conditions and not damage mailboxes, the final clearing adjacent to mailboxes is the responsibility of each resident. The U.S. Postal Service is not required to deliver mail if a mailbox is not cleared.

The Township accepts responsibility for mailboxes if the damage is caused by being struck by a snow plow vehicle or blade or other piece of equipment. Mailboxes should be constructed and maintained to withstand the force of snow rolling off a plow. Damage to a mailbox resulting from snow (even that rolling off the end of a plow) is the responsibility of the resident.

If the Township damages a mailbox beyond repair it will replace the unit with their recommended mailbox support as detailed in another section of the Road & Bridge webpage or pay the owner of the mailbox the value of the recommended mailbox support.

