

Operations Manager Corner

Date: October 24, 2016

Subject: Winter Road and Trail Maintenance

Each year (soon after the first snow event in which we plow the roads) there are questions in reference to our methods of tackling the snow and ice with our maintenance contractor. This memo will hopefully answer your questions and explain a little on how we operate.

Before our contractor plows the roads we are in communication to determine the best course of action in what needs to be done. Generally they know to start on the main roads first since they support the most traffic, the secondary roads and finally the cul-de-sacs. We plow to the Municipality of Anchorage standards, so when plowing the roads they generally do not remove berms from the end of the driveways. This decision was made at the inception of Eaglewood based on keeping the costs down and best practices. The Municipality does not plow the ends of driveways in order to control cost and we face the same issues in that regard. An exception to that practice is when we bring a grader in to scrape the hard snow and ice pack from the roads we will have a truck or loader behind them cleaning up in front of driveways.

In the cul-de-sacs the snow storage is generally on the island in the middle. The snow will be plowed and stacked there all winter. Sanding the roads is determined by conditions and ordered by the Operations Manager. I determine what amount of sand is needed based on driving in a two wheel rear drive vehicle on our streets at a speed appropriate for conditions. This also relates to the Municipality standard I mention above. I will not over sand the roads.

Sidewalks in Eaglewood will be cleared with a snow blower. In addition the pathways to the schools will also be blown off and sanded as needed. Also, residents that have a fire hydrant on their property are required by Municipal ordinance to keep it clear of snow. That's critical if an emergency arises! Similarly, addressees are required by Postal Regulation to keep their mailboxes clear. So, after a snowfall please take a few moments to take care of these important tasks.

It's important to keep in mind that we live in an area that has a lot of ice and snow for 6 months of the year. We own our roads and trails and the city has reduced our tax rate for the ownership and associated costs. Winter maintenance is the biggest budget item. We can't control the weather but we can control the costs to a certain extent.

Enjoy the outdoors!

Ops.