Snow Plowing in North Pole

The City uses a private contractor to plow the City's streets because the Public Works Department does not have the needed heavy equipment. Depending upon conditions, the threshold for plowing City streets is a snowfall of 3 inches or greater. The City will also have the streets plowed after a series of small snowfalls that result in an excessive accumulation of hardpacked snow on the streets. The City will not typically begin to plow streets until snowfall has ceased. As part of snow plowing, the City does not provide custom plowing services; for example, plowing the length of a private driveway or clearing snow from private property. Because of the expense, the City does not haul snow as part of snow plowing. Depending upon conditions, plowing of the 18 miles of City streets requires 16 to 18 hours or longer.

As a community service, the City clears the entrances to residents' driveways as part of the city-wide street plowing. Snow cleared from driveway entrances is pushed onto the road right-of-way (ROW) to either side of the driveway. The edge of the paved road surface is rarely the property line. The ROW is city property and typically extends between five to 10 feet or more from the edge of the paved road surface. The snowplow contractor is responsible for damage to private property located outside of the ROW. (You can use the link to the Road List in the menu to the right to estimate the width of the ROW in front of your property.)

No permanent structures or obstructions like fences, flower boxes, landscaping, parked cars, etc., are permitted in the ROW. The City is not responsible to restore landscaping planted in the ROW damaged by snow plowing. Mail boxes are allowed in the ROW provided they meet the US Postal Service Guidelines (See link below for these guidelines). Neither the snowplow contractor nor the City are responsible for private property placed in the ROW damaged by the City's snow plowing. Should the contractor’s snow plowing equipment be damaged by private property in the ROW, the property owner is liable for these damages. It is against the North Pole Municipal Code for residents to push snow into city streets or on to city ROW. Individuals are subject of a civil fine of up to $1,500 for pushing snow onto city roads or ROWs. (North Pole Municipal Code, Title 12 Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places, Chapter 12.04.)

Should you have questions or concerns about City snow plowing, contact Cody Lougee, Public Work Supervisor at 907-388-7002; cody.louge@northpolealaska.org.