Winter in the Soo can be a spectacular time of year! Blankets of fresh snow and frosted-tipped foliage decorate our landscape. As beautiful as the winter is, it can affect the services we provide to our residents. Keep this guide handy throughout the season.

**SNOW PLOWING**
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**KEEP YOUR PIPES WARM**
Avoid frozen pipes and costly repairs....**PAGE 6**

**WINTER FUN**
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We're constantly improving our winter operations. That's so we can deliver the highest level of service to our community.

Our plow operators use de-icing materials on major streets to minimize snow and ice. Pretreating material may be applied to bridges, hills and curves before a snow event, if needed. We work hard to minimize our salt use.

Our primary goal is to clear all roads of snow within 12-24 hours of a weather event.

Here's how we clear snow across the City

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This is part of our commitment to environmental sustainability and being a good steward of funds. Less salt is better for our rivers and streams – there's less runoff. Plus, many of our plow trucks have side wings that plow an additional half lane of snow.

Priority Plowing Routes

The major high-traffic roads in our city are first-attention streets for snow plowing. These streets are plowed throughout the night and as needed throughout the day. Salt is applied to all first-attention streets. Examples of first-attention streets include:

- I-75 Business Spur
- E. Portage Avenue
- M-129
- Ashmun Street
- School & Hospital areas

When are secondary (local) streets and alleys plowed?

Staff monitor weather conditions and clear secondary streets and alleys when there is more than 3 inches of snow accumulation. These streets are cleared throughout the day. De-icing sand is typically applied to secondary streets. Salt may be used on secondary streets if there are hills, severe curves, or special circumstances in the City.

Weather conditions may require our snowplow crews to leave secondary streets and return to first-attention roads to ensure safety on high-traffic streets.
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- Priority plowing on first-attention routes

Residents enjoy the walkability of our neighborhoods – even in the winter. Cleared sidewalks ensure you and your neighbors are able to use them. When sidewalks remain clear in the winter, residents who do not drive can walk to the bus or get to work, school or their favorite businesses. Residents – including seniors, children and individuals with disabilities – remain safe when our sidewalks are clear of snow and ice.

**The City ordinance for sidewalk snow removal says:**

- The clearing of ice and snow on sidewalks is the property owner's responsibility.
- No person within the city shall deposit snow or ice from any premises or sidewalks and driveways leading to the premises onto the portion of any street or adjacent public right-of-way which is being plowed and maintained for winter pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

**ARTICLE III. OBSTRUCTIONS AND ENCROACHMENTS**

**Sec. 22-47. - Deposit of Snow or Ice.**

**Shoveling Tips**

Our primary goal is to remove snow from the streets. There is frustration when plows push snow into driveways, sidewalks, fire hydrants and mailboxes. Here’s how you can avoid frustration and help:

- If on-street parking is your only option, change where you park throughout the week.
- Pull far enough into your driveway to ensure your vehicle's safety from the plow and snow load.
- At the end of your driveway, clear an area large enough to hold the snow coming off the plow to help reduce the need to shovel a second time.

**Ensure that the end of your driveway remains clear of snow after plows pass**

- Place shoveled snow from the end of the driveway here
- Clear an area large enough to hold the snow coming off the plow to help reduce the need to shovel a second time
- Shovel in the direction of traffic
We have seasonal parking restrictions across our city so we can treat and clear roads to provide you and our service and emergency vehicles with safe streets in the winter.

Our plow crews work hard to clear streets of snow in line with parking regulations. That’s why they need your help. If you park on a restricted side of the street and the plows come through, your street won’t get completely plowed and your car may get buried in snow.

Seasonal parking restrictions are in effect December 1 to April 1. Keep in mind that the normal regulations apply to all streets. These include distance from:

- Curbs
- Driveways
- Fire Hydrants
- Stop Signs

Seasonal parking restrictions are enforced whether or not there’s snow.

Follow these rules to avoid a parking ticket:
- No parking on any City street or alley between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. ($50 fine)
- No parking at any time on the odd-numbered-address side of any street or alley, unless the prohibited side is designated for metered parking spaces, designated for permit parking, or where one side of the street is already designated as no parking. ($25 fine)

Think ahead before you go to bed!
If there's a fire hydrant near your house, do your part to keep it accessible in the winter:

**CLEAR-AWAY ZONE**

- Remove any snow and ice
- Clear a wide enough perimeter around the hydrant for street crews and firefighters to work (about 3 feet)
- Clear a path from hydrant to street

**DON'T CROWD THE PLOW**

- Plow trucks travel between 25-35 MPH
- Allow enough time & space to safely stop/slow down
- NEVER PASS ON THE RIGHT
- Plows push snow to right shoulder & may use a wing (often 6-8 feet long) which is difficult to see
- Don’t assume the plow driver can see your vehicle.
- THE DRIVER’S FIELD OF VISION IS LIMITED
- You may see them, but they may not see you

**HELP KEEP THEM CLEAR**

- Trucks release salt and sand from the back of the truck - if you’re too close to the truck, materials could hit your windshield & obstruct visibility.

**TREE RECYCLING**

We offer free drop off sites for Christmas trees after the holiday. The sites, open December 28th to Jan 15th

**FREE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**

- CITY GARAGE
- COMMUNITY GARDEN ON PECK ST.
- SHERMAN PARK ENTRANCE
- 8TH AVE. & MERIDIAN ST. BALLFIELD PARKING LOT

**Note:** All trees must have all decorations, ornaments, tinsel, lights, and strands removed. Flocked trees cannot be recycled.

**City of Sault Ste. Marie | 2020-21 Winter Preparation Advisory**
**Protect your water meter**
Knowing where your shutoff valve is located when a pipe bursts anywhere in your home ensures you can turn off the water at the valve. Be sure everyone in the home knows where it is and what it does. This helps you and others to find the valve in an emergency.

**Here are some tips:**
- The water shutoff valve is located near the meter where the water line enters the home or building.
- The water meter is installed by the Water Department. It is the property owner’s responsibility to protect the meter from damage.
- Make sure the space where the meter is located is heated to protect it from freezing.
- If the meter is frozen or damaged, there is a charge to the property for replacement.
- Take extra precautions during extreme temperatures.
- Pipes located next to an outside wall are most susceptible to freezing temperatures. The same is true for pipes located in a garage or another unheated building.
- Exposed pipes in these areas should be wrapped, insulated or shut off and drained before winter.
- Open cupboard doors under sinks and pipe chases.
- Where plumbing is in an exterior wall, access to interior heat helps to keep pipes warm.

**If your water pipes freeze:**
- Open a furnace vent or an inside basement door to help thaw a frozen pipe and get heat into the basement.
- Don’t use electrical appliances in areas of standing water – you may be electrocuted.
- Contact a licensed plumber to avoid damage when pipes thaw.
- Assume frozen lines are broken or split and buy repair clamps at a plumbing store or contact a plumber and be prepared to turn off the water when the pipes thaw.

**Note: If there’s no water to your home, the problem may be in the street if the water has been shut off for a water main repair. Call 906.632-3531 to confirm.**
Season Varies Due to Snowfall
Call 2 Weeks Prior to Book Hill for Groups

Sault Seal Recreation Area
Chalet: (906) 635-6961
Parks Office: (906) 632-5768
Located at 2601 Minneapolis St. (East of M-129)

Various Activities Permitted: Tubing, Sledding, Snowboarding, Snowshoeing, Cross Country Skiing, and Downhill Skiing.

Downhill Skiing/Snowboarding - 80 Foot Vertical Drop, 1,000 Foot Run with Lights for Night Use!

Thur-Fri 4pm-8pm
Sat-Sun 1pm-8pm
Holiday Hours 1pm-8pm
(Weather Permitting)
Adults $10/day
Children/Students $6/day

Heated Chalet and Concessions On-Site!

City of Sault Ste. Marie | 2020-21 Winter Preparation Advisory
Snowshoeing & Cross Country Skiing

Sault Seal Recreation Area
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Parks Office: (906) 632-5768
Located at 2601 Minneapolis St. (East of M-129)
Not Lit for Night Use

Algonquin Ski Trail
W. 16th Avenue
9 miles of groomed trail
Lit at Night time

Chi Mukwa (Big Bear)
(906) 635-7465
1.4 Mile Trail Through a Wooded Area
Snow Shoe Rentals are Available
Not Lit for Night Use

For information on the SSM Snowmobile Association visit:
www.sootrails.org/index.html