

The Bedford Public Works Highway Division maintains over 80 miles of roads and 22.5 miles of sidewalk throughout town during the winter months.

Our primary goal during a storm is to maintain passable roads so that emergency crews (police, fire, and ambulance) have access to each property. The secondary goal is to treat the icy surface and/or push the snow aside for safe passage of the general public's use of the roadways. Several variables affect how we deal with the storm which include: Air temperature (before, during and after the storm), time of day, day of week, forecast, and duration of the storm.

Important Reminders to Residents

Town By-Laws

Section 46.10: Clearing of Obstructions on Sidewalks, Placing Snow on Public Way or Town Property: The owner of land abutting a public sidewalk or a sidewalk to which the public has access as licensees or invitees shall insure that no trees, vegetation or brush intrude from his or her land into the area of the sidewalk. No person shall deposit or place or cause to be deposited or placed any snow, other than incidental amounts of snow, on any public sidewalk, street or way which has previously been cleared of snow, nor shall any person deposit or place or cause to be deposited or placed any snow or ice upon town property without express permission of the Director of Public Works or designee, or the Chief of Police or designee, thereof through the provisions of M.G.L., C. 40, § 21D, and the penalty for each violation shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00).

Parking Bans

Article IV, Section 5 of the Traffic Rules and Regulations states: There is no on-street parking in the Town of Bedford between 1:00am and 6:00am. Please avoid parking in roadways. Vehicles impeding snow removal will be towed at owner's expense. For additional snow related parking restrictions see General Bylaws Section 46.15 and 46.16.

Winter Sand

Sand for residential use is available in the parking lot at the entrance to Springs Brook Park, 171 Springs Road.

Fire Hydrants/Catch Basins

All residents that are able are asked to keep hydrants clear. The Fire Department is responsible to clear snow from hydrants. If you know where a catch basin is located, please keep it clear if possible. The DPW & Fire Department appreciate your assistance with this.

Safety

When plows are on your road, use caution while clearing snow from driveways and never allow children to play or build snow forts at the edge of the road.

Snow Removal

Salting Operations: With the onset of snow we send out our town-owned salt spreaders. The Town relies on a private weather forecasting service and the local Police Department night shift officers to advise us of local icy road conditions. We have 6 salting routes and each driver is issued a map of their assigned route. We give priority to main arterial roads, collector roads and hilly areas but also respond to isolated problem areas.

Plowing Operations: Plows are dispatched if a storm results in an accumulation of one to two inches. The town is divided into 22 plowing routes and these routes are serviced by town-owned and contracted vehicles. Each driver is issued a map of their assigned route and is responsible for adequately clearing that route.

Plows make initial passes in both directions starting at the centerline of the roadway to open up the center of the street for adequate passage of emergency and other vehicles. Residential streets are plowed with collector streets. We give priority to hilly terrain where possible. Shorter streets, dead ends, and remotely located streets are addressed last. After all streets in the route are "opened up" the plows return to the streets to push the snow back beyond the pavements edge. This allows the street to open up for normal traffic operations, clears the drains for rain and snowmelt, and makes room for additional accumulations of snow.

We make every effort to minimize the snow plowed into driveways. Please understand, the plow operators do not plow snow into driveways deliberately, this is an unavoidable consequence of clearing roadways. Plow operators cannot lift the plow blades or angle the blades as they pass driveways. It is the property owner's responsibility to clear their own driveway access and it is their choice of when to do this task. (Residents may want to wait until after we return to push back edges to widen roadways to allow for future snow fall).

Sidewalk Plowing: School walking routes are our first priority. Our second priority is to clear the remaining sidewalks on main roadways. We make every effort to have all sidewalks cleared within 3 days after a storm. Sidewalk clearing gets interrupted at times by another storm and we have to start our schedule over before all areas a complete.

Please Note: During these operations, our equipment may need mechanical work and our mechanics make every effort to make repairs quickly so that operations continue as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Please have patience throughout and after storms, your road will be treated or cleared as quickly as possible.

Helpful Information

On most town roads the Town right of way extends 5' to 10' beyond the edge of pavement. The Town owned layout varies in width for each resident's property. The town will not be responsible for damage to any property or personal item which has been placed or left within the roadway or town owned layout such as sprinkler heads, bushes/shrubs/plants, basketball hoops, bicycles, toys, fences or walls.

Mailboxes installed in the Town right of way are placed at the owner's risk. Each mailbox installation should be sufficiently solid to withstand snow-clearing efforts by the Town. A large highway plow moves many tons of snow widening roadways. The rolling action of the snow will destroy or damage all but the strongest of mailboxes and posts. Residents may want to place a brace behind the box to break the force of the snow coming toward it. Place reflectors so the box and post can be seen under poor visibility conditions. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to clear snow around mailboxes to assure mail delivery by the U.S. Postal Service. It is Town policy that mailboxes will not be repaired or replaced unless it is evident that the damage was caused by the plow blade and not the force of the snow. If a mailbox gets replaced, it will be with a standard mailbox and post only.

Our biggest challenge while clearing roads is a car parked in the roadway. In accordance with town bylaws, residents should remove vehicles from the road as early as possible. Basketball hoops and other obstructions are also not allowed in the Town Right of Way.

During storms, please stay off the roads if at all possible and take precautionary measures if your trip is absolutely necessary. The plows can operate more efficiently if the roads are not cluttered with cars.

Residents are requested to please stay back far enough so plows can see you if backing up and never to pass a plow unless they signal you to go around them. Please drive slowly and cautiously in winter weather conditions. Speed is the biggest cause of accidents during snowstorms. Remember that the posted speed limits are for ideal driving conditions and speeds should be reduced and stopping distances increased during winter months.

Patience and kindness go a long way!

Please assist your neighbors that cannot shovel and remove snow from sidewalks where possible in front of your property.

We hope you find this brochure helpful.

Please call 781-275-7605 if you have any questions or concerns.

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A Message from the Director of Public Works

Winter storms can test the patience of residents, commuters, and pedestrians as well as snow plow equipment operators. The Bedford Public Works Highway Division takes pride in keeping your streets, sidewalks and Town parking lots plowed and safe as quickly and efficiently as possible. This brochure is intended to help residents understand the Town of Bedford's snow plowing and sidewalk clearing procedures. We encourage and appreciate your cooperation so that we may continue to provide safe and efficient service to our residents.

This brochure contains general information about our snow removal operations, town by-laws pertaining to snow removal, Town Right of Way and winter parking ban information. This brochure is intended to increase your awareness of how we as a community can provide safer streets and sidewalks during snow and ice emergencies.

The Bedford Public Works Highway Division makes it a priority to keep conditions as safe as possible during and after winter storms. Plows continue to clean, treat, and widen roadways until they are in reasonably safe condition. Our plows and salt spreaders are often operating long after snowfall has stopped.



*Town of Bedford
Public Works Department
Highway Division*

Snowplowing & Snow Removal Procedures



Bedford Public Works Facility

If you have questions or concerns
please call 781-275-7605

