

Policy statement

Leduc County provides a safe multi-modal transportation system for residents and stakeholders by providing snow clearing services on county roadways, parking lots and trails in accordance with established priorities and thresholds.

Definitions

Call of the Director means that when thresholds are met and Budget, equipment and staff are available, the Director, Road Operations and Agricultural Services will direct the initiation of the clearing program.

Emergency Access Required means emergency response vehicle, being police, fire or ambulance, can not safely and quickly get to an emergency call and clearing is required.

End of a snow or wind event means when the snowfall reduces to a point where snow is no longer accumulating on the roadway or when the wind reduces to a point where snow is no longer drifting onto a roadway.

Freezing Rain means rain maintained at temperatures below freezing by the ambient air mass that causes freezing on contact with roadways or other surfaces.

Industrial/Commercial Arterial Road means a road that serves as the primary transportation corridor in a community to move traffic from a highway or freeway into other areas of the community. Industrial and Commercial Arterial roads are paved roadways with a design speed of 60-90km/hr and accommodate longer trip lengths with high traffic volume.

Industrial/Commercial Collector Road means a road that serves to connect a variety of service centres and less intense development areas like retail centres, office centres and industrial business parks. Industrial and Commercial Collector roads are paved roadways with a design speed of 50-80km/hr and accommodate average trip lengths with moderate traffic volume.

Industrial/Commercial Local Road means a road that functions primarily to provide access to industrial and commercial properties with low traffic volumes and low speeds. Industrial and Commercial local roads are paved with a design speed of 40-60km/hr and move traffic from properties to collector and arterial roadways.

On request means when snow clearing will be completed when requested by an authorized individual subject to the terms of PG-04 Snow Clearing Private Driveways in the case of private driveways or by an authorized individual in the case of churches, halls and the Ministik Lake parking area.

Pathways means multi-use trails or sidewalks that are not directly adjacent to a residence or business and maintained by the municipality.

Roadways means the roads that are under the care and control of Leduc County and is recognized as a county roadway.

Rural Arterial roads means a road that serves as the primary transportation corridor in a community to move traffic from a highway or freeway into other areas of the community. Rural Arterial roads are paved with a design speed of 80-120km/hr that accommodate longer trip lengths with high traffic volume.

Rural Collector roads means a road that serves to connect a variety of service centres and less intense development areas. Rural Collector roads are paved roadways with a design speed of 70-100km/hr and accommodate average trip lengths with moderate traffic volume.

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Rural Local roads means a road that functions primarily to provide access to rural residential properties with low traffic volumes and low speeds. Rural local roads can be paved or gravel with a design speed of 60-90km/hr and move traffic from rural residential properties to Rural collector and arterial roadways.

Snow Pack means accumulated snow on the roadway that has been packed by vehicle traffic. Snow pack will be averaged across the entire road and neighbourhood.

Subdivisions means a multiple lot subdivision that has an internal roadway.

Surfaced roads means roadways that have an asphaltic surface or surface treatment.

Time to clear means the average time period within which snow clearing activity for a priority category, is expected to be completed after a snowfall/wind event has ended. The time to clear may be exceeded if there is additional snowfall or a wind event before the snow clearing activity from a prior snowfall or wind event has been completed.

Transit Stop means the designated boulevard area immediately adjacent to a Roadway that is used for the purpose of transit bus passenger loading and unloading.

Urban Residential Collector roads means a road that serves to connect a variety of service centres and less intense development areas. Urban Residential Collector roads are paved roadways with design speed of 60-90km/hr and accommodate average trip lengths with moderate traffic volume.

Urban Residential Local roads means a road that functions primarily to provide access to urban residential properties with low traffic volumes and low speeds. Urban local roads are paved or hard surfaced with a design speed of 50-70km/hr and move traffic from urban residential properties to Industrial and Commercial or Rural collector and arterial roadways.

Wind event means an event where the wind speed and direction is conducive to snow drifting on the roadway.

Windrowed means a row of snow created by plowing snow when completing snow removal.

Policy authority

Legislative implications:

- *Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000*

Policy implications:

- PG-04 Snow Clearing Private Driveways

Bylaw implications:

- Leduc County Traffic Bylaw, latest revision thereof

Policy standards

1. Snow clearing and sanding operations will commence in priority order in accordance with this policy during a snow or freezing rain event. When heavy snowfalls and adverse winter conditions are continuous, or follow closely one after the other, operations will be repeated or continued on the highest priority until completed before moving on to the next highest priority.

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2. Leduc County snow clearing services will, at a minimum, commence and be prioritized according to Table 1: Snow Clearing Priorities – Surfaced Roadways, Table 2: Snow Clearing Priorities – Gravelled Roadways, and Table 3: Snow Clearing Priorities – Pathways.

Table 1: Snow Clearing Priorities – Surfaced Roadways

Surfaced Roads	Time to Clear	Snowfall Depth
P1 – Industrial/Commercial, Rural Arterial and Collector Roads	12 hours	2-5 cm
<i>Airport Road, Nisku Spine Road, Sparrow Drive, 4th Street, 5th Street, Rural Paved Grid Roads</i>		
P2 – Industrial/Commercial Local Roads	24 hours	5-7 cm [†]
<i>Remaining roads in Nisku Business Park</i>		
P3 – Rural Residential Local	72 hours	5-7 cm
<i>Country Residential Subdivisions, hamlets, and Lakefront communities</i>		
P4 – Urban Residential Collector Roads	96 hours – Call of Director	15 cm or emergency access required
P5 – Urban Residential Local Roads and Lanes	120 hours – Call of Director	10 cm snow pack or emergency access required

Table 2: Snow Clearing Priorities – Gravelled Roadways

Gravel Roads	Time to Clear	Snowfall Depth
P1 – Rural Local Roads	72 hours	5-7 cm ^{††}
<i>Gravel Grid Roads</i>		
P2 – A) Churches & Halls B) Ministik Lake Parking Area	N/A	Upon Request
P3 – Driveways	N/A	Upon Request ^{††}

Table 3: Snow Clearing Priorities - Pathways

Pathways	Time to Clear	Snowfall Depth
P1 – Adjacent County Facilities and Transit Stops	12 hours	2-5 cm
P2 – Remaining Pathways	72 hours	5-7 cm

[†] Subject to the Priority 1 being completed.

^{††} Snowplows & graders may be deployed prior to the threshold being met during wind events. It is the foreman's and early watch personnel's discretion on whether the threshold is met.

^{††} As per Snow Clearing Private Driveways Policy.

3. Regardless of the service levels outlined in Table 1 and Table 2, calls received for snow clearing from emergency services (police, fire, ambulance) supersede and will be given the highest priority for snow clearing.
4. Snow clearing of surfaced and gravel roadways will be completed concurrently as the different road types and areas require different snow clearing equipment.
5. The Director, Road Operations and Agricultural Service may authorize the use of rental equipment or contracted equipment and operators in emergent situations.

6. Generally, the starting point for snow clearing within each route will be alternated, from east to west, except where local conditions dictate a higher priority starting point for snow clearing (i.e., isolated drifting, localised snowfall, isolated ice control), as per the area foreman’s and early watch personnel’s discretion.
7. While Leduc County Road Operations strives to achieve these policy standards, persistent weather events and availability of staff and resources may impact our time to clear.

Urban Residential Collector and Local roads snow removal

8. When thresholds are met and resources are available, the Director, Road Operations and Agricultural Services will initiate the clearing of Urban Residential Collector or Local roads.
9. Snow removal practices in cul-de-sacs may include stockpiling snow on boulevards or parking spaces for potential removal at a later date as resources allow.
10. For snow removal on Urban Residential Collector and Local roads, snow will be windrowed to the middle or one side of the road to be picked up as part of the removal process. Hours of operation will normally be between 0700 and 1600 Monday to Friday.
11. Sequencing of snow removal on Urban Residential Collector and Local roads may be scheduled or altered to accommodate garbage collection.
12. The sequence for Urban Residential Collector and Local road snow removal is adjusted prior to each season to promote fairness in service delivery.
13. Prior to the removal of any snow on Urban Residential collector and local roads, signs will be placed a minimum of 24 hours in advance at the entrance to each neighbourhood. Signs should indicate no on-street parking between fixed dates and times to allow efficient and safe removal of snow.

Pathways snow clearing

14. Snow clearing of pathways will be completed concurrently with paved and gravel roads as per the priority system.
15. Where a snow fall event causes heavy accumulation, high drifting, or a combination of both, delays in pathway clearing may occur until staff and specific equipment can be redeployed to remove snow in these areas.

Policy responsibilities

Council responsibilities:

Council will,

- Review and approve the Snow Clearing County Roads policy, ensuring that the policy meets the needs of the municipality and is balance fiscally.
- Review and approve an operating budget required to meet the service level outlined in this policy.

Administration responsibilities:

Director, Road Operations and Agricultural Services will,

- Maintain, update, and adhere to this policy.
- Ensure that the appropriate resources are available to meet the service levels.

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- Determine snow accumulations for the purpose of this policy.

Manager, Operations will,

- Ensure staff and equipment resources are assigned to meet service level.
- Review customer and program concerns to make recommendations on policy improvements.

Monitoring and updating

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County’s website.
- This policy will be reviewed at least once every four years.

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