

Snow Removal Ordinance: Implementation Plan

Updated 2019

Requirements

Methods of Achieving the Requirements

<p>1) Provide reasonable criteria for exempting individuals who are handicapped, over the age of 65, or otherwise incapable of complying with the requirements.</p>	<p>Commercial Properties - Will be expected to be compliant. Single Family Residential Properties - It is hoped all will try to be in compliance. Enforcement action only where complaints received or public safety issue; reasonable bases for establishing exemption.</p>
<p>2) Provide for an exemption from the ordinance in circumstances where additional snow or ice is redeposited on the sidewalk as result of government action after the cessation of snowfall.</p>	<p>Although owners are exempt from the Ordinance if snow or ice has been redeposited by government action on cleared sidewalks, they will be urged to comply as soon as possible to help ensure public safety.</p>
<p>3) Develop mechanisms to facilitate assistance to persons who qualify for exemptions.</p>	<p>Main mechanism for assistance is through volunteers, as County employees are unlikely to be available. A snow volunteer blast will be sent to the entire existing volunteer base. Specific information regarding volunteering to help with snow removal/clearing has been added to the volunteer homepage and applications. Interested volunteers will be directed to their Civic Associations. A guide for working with volunteers, that can be shared with groups, has been developed.</p>
<p>4) Initially target enforcement efforts to locations and situations that pose a safety hazard or impair access to transit or essential services (e.g. schools, hospitals or medical facilities, groceries).</p>	<p>Enforcement efforts will involve a two-step process: first, notification by telephone or in person with education on ordinance and encouraging voluntary compliance; before citation. Citations will occur when notification and warnings do not work, in response to repeated complaints, and public safety concerns. Priority will be given first to areas of high pedestrian traffic and priority routes, safety concerns, or egregious violations. Low density residential areas would be given low priority for enforcement, with emphasis on education and voluntary compliance.</p>
<p>5) Provide method for charging Civil Penalties for not clearing snow from sidewalks and one for imposing Criminal Penalties for moving snow from private property onto public property.</p>	<p>County's first efforts will be to notify owners about the ordinance and seek compliance. Where enforcement is needed, staffing, forms and a process for warnings and enforcement are in place.</p>

<p>6) Provide a method for abatement of snow on sidewalks and snow dumped from private property onto public property and/or easements.</p>	<p>County will use existing "handyman" contracts to provide small crews when determined needed to clear identified priority sidewalks that are the responsibility of private owners after attempts have been made to identify and notify the responsible parties. Staff will manage contract crew(s) and document before and after conditions to provide basis for cost recovery. A similar process will be followed for dumped snow but using heavy equipment.</p>
<p>7) Develop the plans such that the County Manager may, at their discretion, extend the time frames required for compliance with the ordinance, reduce the required widths and/or suspend enforcement of the ordinance.</p>	<p>Reduction in width requirements and suspension of enforcement and/or extension of timeframes will be options available to the Manager for each snow event, based upon such variables as the amount of snow or ice, current and projected weather and temperatures.</p>
<p>8) Develop an easy to use system for reporting non-cleared sidewalks and/or snow dumping on public property or right-of-way.</p>	<p>New simple online form on webpage for reporting all snow concerns (roads and sidewalks) accessible 24/7 by the public; can be filled out by County staff for public without internet access who phone in; will be single database for all sidewalk-related complaints. View the snow report a problem tool.</p>
<p>9) Prepare procedures that will ensure the County takes responsibility for clearing snow from sidewalks on, or abutting, County property.</p>	<p>County staff have worked with Arlington Public School (APS) staff and the community to develop a plan that prioritizes all sidewalks (as well as some essential paths) that are on, or abut, County or APS properties, as well as those which are on, or abut, state and federal land without structures, assigns clearing responsibilities among agencies, and maps all sidewalks. This first winter we will learn more about what is needed for the County to meet the Ordinance's timelines and additional resources that may be needed.</p>
<p>13) Address Trails (bicycle and pedestrian).</p>	<p>Incorporated priority trails into overall clearing plans as noted in #9.</p>
<p>14) Coordinate plans for clearing snow at Metro Rail stations.</p>	<p>Metro has developed a detailed snow clearing plan and identified staff for each Metro Rail Station in Arlington and the County has coordinated our efforts with Metro.</p>