



Public Works Department
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December 14, 2011

Dear City Council Members:

As snow season approaches I would like to invite each of you to ride with one of our crew members as they clear the streets of snow and ice. Riding with our snowfighters will provide an opportunity to see first-hand the skills and challenges involved in making our streets passable during the winter months. With the passage of the sidewalk snow removal ordinance, new procedures for street snow removal have been implemented to assist property owners in clearing sidewalks adjacent to City streets.

As part of the newly adopted sidewalk snow removal ordinance, notice has been mailed to all property owners identified within the three snow removal districts that the ordinance was adopted. Attached is a copy of the notice.

If you are interesting in riding along, please contact me at 217.384.2380 to schedule a time.

Sincerely,

William (John) Collins
Operations Manager



NOTICE

CITY OF URBANA SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE ADOPTED

The Urbana City Council approved an ordinance on December 5, 2011 to require property owners to remove accumulations of snow and ice from public sidewalks abutting their property. The purpose of the ordinance is to improve public safety and mobility for pedestrians following snow/ice events. Each winter, concerns over safety and mobility are brought forward by citizens when property owners do not voluntarily shovel sidewalks. Efforts by City leaders over the past few years to encourage and motivate citizens to voluntarily clear sidewalks have achieved some results, but not to the extent desired. To bring about sidewalk clearance on a larger scale, an ordinance was developed and adopted.

The requirements are specifically focused on three distinct districts that have high levels of foot traffic. You have been identified as a property owner within these areas. These areas are:

Downtown District: an area bordered on the north by Water Street, on the east by Vine Street, on the south by Illinois Street, and on the west by Race Street. Public sidewalks on both sides of the aforementioned boundary streets are included within this district.

Campus District: an area bordered on the north by Springfield Avenue, on the east by Lincoln Avenue, on the south by Florida Avenue, and on the west by Wright Street/Urbana corporate limits. Public sidewalks on both sides of boundary streets Springfield Avenue and Florida Avenue are included within the district. Public sidewalks on the east side of Lincoln Avenue are included from Springfield Avenue south to Michigan Avenue only. Public sidewalks along Western Avenue are not included. Public sidewalks along Wright Street are already included in a Champaign sidewalk snow removal program.

South Philo Road District: an area along the east side of Philo Road from Florida Avenue to Windsor Road and on the west side of Philo Road from Florida Avenue to Silver Street. Public sidewalks along Philo Road within these areas are included within the district.

Other areas of the community which also have high rates of pedestrian travel could be added in future years depending upon the information gained by implementation in the first three districts.

The ordinance is similar to the one in Champaign. Once a snow of 2" or more, or any accumulations of ice, falls, the Public Works Director is authorized to publicly declare the sidewalk snow removal requirements in effect. The declaration will typically be made around the time of completion of initial street plowing activities. Property owners will be given 24 hours from that public declaration to clear public sidewalks adjacent to their property. Property owners who do not comply will be given a one-time additional 24 hour warning period. If compliance is still not achieved following the warning period, then a public nuisance will be declared and Public Works (or their contractor) will be authorized to clear the sidewalk. Property owners could receive a bill for the clearance, plus a fine (starting at \$25 per offense) and administrative fee (\$55).

Further information on this program, including a copy of the ordinance, district maps, and a Frequently Asked Questions document will be posted to the City website (www.urbanainllinois.us) within the next week. For additional information, contact the Environmental Compliance Officer at Urbana Public works at 217-384-2416.

Your cooperation with this public safety measure is greatly appreciated!