

RM of Edenwold No. 158

Winter Road Maintenance Policy



Approval Date: January 10th, 2023

Takes Effect: January 17th, 2023



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1. Purpose of Policy

1.1. The Rural Municipality of Edenwold No. 158 (RM) Winter Road Maintenance Policy provides maintenance levels of service for roads and walking paths. This policy outlines which roads and paths have priority for snow clearing and gives staff, Council, and residents a better understanding of when certain roads will be cleared, including roads and paths in rural areas, rural subdivisions, and Emerald Park.

2. Background

2.1. The RM maintains over 725 kilometres of roads in rural areas, including 19 country residential subdivisions and 9 commercial and industrial business districts. The Emerald Park residential subdivision further includes residential, commercial, and industrial development.

2.2. The municipality has a winter road maintenance fleet of 2 snowplow trucks, 3 tractor-mounted snow blowers, 4 graders, a bobcat, and a toolcat with a snow blower used on pedestrian pathways. These vehicles are deployed from a public works shop in Emerald Park (urban), and another north of Highway 46, 2 miles west of Balgonie (rural). This fleet of equipment ensures safe passage along roads and paths under the jurisdiction of the municipality for residents, visitors, and other stakeholders.

3. Scope of Policy

3.1. This policy applies throughout the entire RM to all agriculture, residential, country residential, commercial, and industrial roads and paths.

3.2. This policy does not apply to the service roads adjacent to Highway #1, as Regina Bypass maintains them. This policy also does not apply to Highways #33, #46, #48, and Provincial Roads No. 362 and No. 364, as the Ministry of Highways maintains these roads.

3.3. Snow clearing and removal will begin after the snowfall event (defined below) has ended and public works staff can safely reach the public works shops and use the equipment. Where the snowfall event lasts longer than 24 hours, or generates between 5-15 cm of snow and strong winds create snow drifts, the RM may deploy the fleet during the snowfall event. In these circumstances, the fleet will only be deployed if visibility is greater than 400m and public drivers can easily identify and avoid the municipalities equipment

3.4. The RM may also choose to deploy the fleet if high winds have the potential to create unsafe snow drifts, even without new snow accumulation. The RM will inspect areas of concern and deploy equipment as necessary.

3.5. Snowfall Events

3.5.1. A Level 1 event is defined by snowfall amounts less than 5cm. During level 1 snowfall events, roads and paths do not require full snow clearing. Equipment deployed during level 1 events may include the 2 snow plow trucks, followed by sanding/salting at all intersections or when the road changes direction. In rural areas, snow clearing will primarily focus on asphalt-paved roadways.

3.5.2. A Level 2 event is defined by snowfall amounts between 5-15cm. During level 2 snowfall events, roads and paths may require full snow clearing depending on the

quantity of accumulated snow and drifting. The RM will pay particular attention to drifting snow in the northern areas of the municipality. In most cases, these areas can be cleared with the 2 snowplow trucks, though the RM may require additional equipment. Following clearing, snow blowers will blow snow into urban or country residential ditches within 24 to 48 hours.

- 3.5.3. A Level 3 event is defined by snowfall amounts greater than 15cm. During level 3 snowfall events, most roads and highways will be closed, especially if the wind has created drifting snow through the RM. Once the storm event has ended, the RM will begin clearing and removing snow. This process may take up to 3 days, depending on OH&S regulations for hours of work. The RM will clear the roads on a priority basis following an inspection by the Foreman or a designated RM staff person.

3.6. Priority Routes

3.6.1. Urban

- 3.6.1.1. 1 – Arterial Streets: South Plains Rd., Emerald Park Rd., Huber Dr., and Percival Dr.
- 3.6.1.2. 2 – Collector/Industrial/Municipal Facilities/School: Kingsmere Ave., Kingsmere Pathway, Emerald Dr., Sapphire Dr., Industrial Dr., Fire Hall, and Municipal Office
- 3.6.1.3. 3 – Residential Crescents, Bays, and Cul-de-sacs
- 3.6.1.4. 4 – Walking Paths and Dog Park

3.6.2. Rural

- 3.6.2.1. 1 – Paved Roads and School Bus Routes (including Country Residential)
- 3.6.2.2. 2 – Gravel Roads and Grid Roads
- 3.6.2.3. 3 - Main Farm Access Roads

4. Private Property Snow Removal

The RM prohibits residents and businesses from piling snow on the road surface, pushing it across the road, or piling it where it blocks the ditch drainage while clearing snow from private property. Snow may not be stockpiled or stored on municipal property. Snow from driveways must be pushed into or piled on private property.

Piles of frozen snow on the driving surface or off the road are hazardous to vehicles and municipal equipment. Leaving a pile of snow adjacent to driveway approaches also creates a higher potential for snow drifts to form on the driveway.

5. Summary

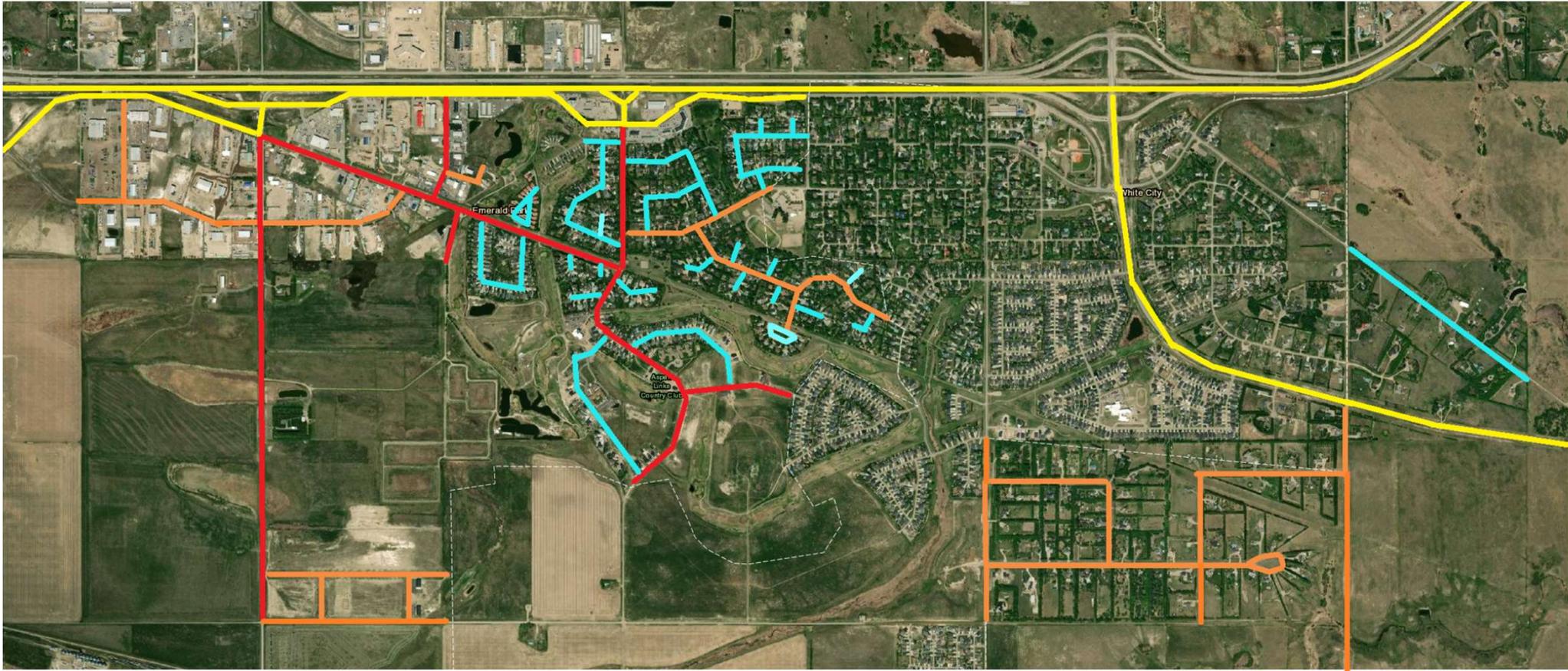
- 5.1. The RM is committed to providing timely and effective snow clearing while utilizing resources efficiently. To be most effective, the RM will wait until a snowfall event has ended or a storm has passed before performing winter road maintenance. This reduces the number of passes required to restore the surfaces to good driving conditions.

5.2. The RM strives to provide fair and equal service during and after snowstorms. Main high-traffic grid roads and urban and country residential developments receive top priority. The RM clears bus routes while clearing all other roads. In extreme conditions, the RM prioritises clearing bus routes.

5.3. The RM will strive to achieve the following objectives for clearing snow following a winter storm event:

	Urban Service Level Objectives				Rural Service Level Objectives		
Snowfall Event	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Level 1	< 4 Hours	< 4 Hours	N/A	N/A	< 8 Hours	N/A	N/A
Level 2	< 6 Hours	< 6 Hours	< 10 Hours	< 36 Hours	< 12 Hours	< 24 Hours	< 48 Hours
Level 3	< 10 Hours	< 10 Hours	< 48 Hours	< 72 Hours	< 12 Hours	< 48 Hours	< 72 Hours

Appendix – Priority Maps



Legend

- Priority Route #1
- Priority Route #2
- Priority Route #3
- Ministry of Highways

Emerald Park Snow Routes ❄️