

SNOW INFORMATION FROM THE CITY OF GAITHERSBURG

*Roadways within Fernshire Farms HOA are maintained by the City of Gaithersburg.
Please read the following information carefully:*

Residents and HOAs are asked to direct all snow-related correspondence only to snow@gaitHERSBURGMD.gov. This site will be monitored during significant storms and staff will triage the issues and respond accordingly. In true emergencies such as downed wires or trees blocking your doorway, call 911.

Residents are encouraged to monitor the City's website for updates: www.gaitHERSBURGMD.gov. The City also provides current snow information on Facebook and Twitter (@GburgMD)

Residents may register for Alert Gaithersburg to get emergency notifications delivered simultaneously to devices you identify. Sign up at www.gaitHERSBURGMD.gov/alerts.

Ticketing of cars parked illegally on snow emergency routes will be enforced. Whenever possible the City will announce that a snow emergency will be put in place in advance of its effective time, giving residents the opportunity to move their vehicles. Those parked on routes once the snow emergency takes effect will be subject to ticketing and towing. Warnings will not be issued.

Find out which jurisdiction is responsible for maintaining which road at this website: <http://www.mdOT.maryland.gov/knowyourroads.html>

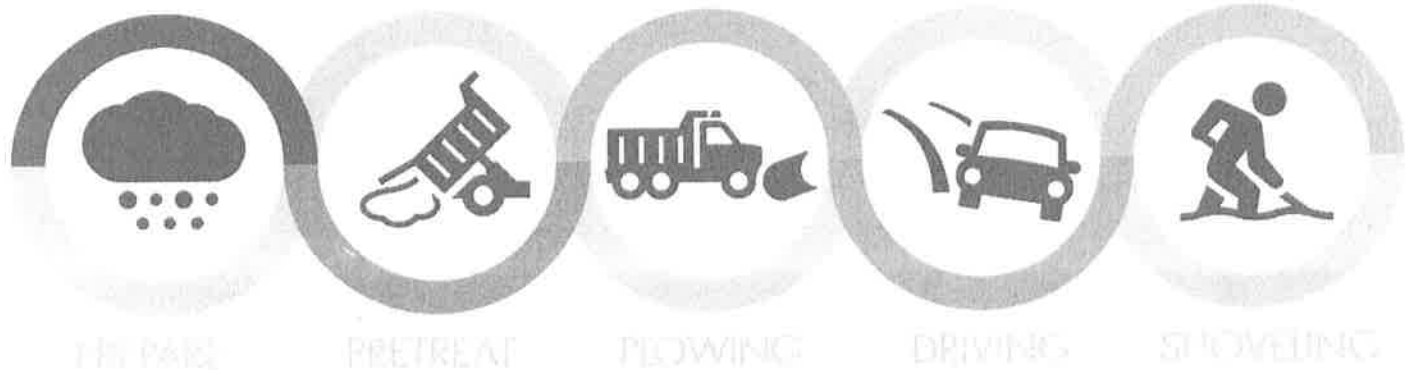
There is a prescribed order of snow plowing which is determined by the City of Gaithersburg and is referenced in the article and in the graphic.

The City asks that residents NOT shovel snow back into roadways or parking lots. We understand it is sometimes difficult to find places to put all that snow, but putting it back into the roadway slows down snow removal efforts and often creates safety hazards. It was one of the biggest challenges the City faced last January.

Please comply with City laws about removing snow from sidewalks and bus stops. It is imperative that pedestrians, including school children, have a safe place to walk.

Say it Ain't Snow!

Weathering Winter in Gaithersburg



As our Public Works crews get ready to combat snow, now's the time for you to prepare as well.

Let's start with the basics. Ever wondered who's responsible for plowing which roads? All numbered roads in the City are state roads, cleared by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Gaithersburg streets that are the responsibility of Montgomery County include Muddy Branch Road, Diamondback Drive and portions of Longdraft Road. Use the map locator at www.mdot.maryland.gov/knowyourroads.html to see who's responsible for what.

Gaithersburg crews plow 93 miles of public streets within City limits. Property owners or HOAs are responsible for private streets, alleys, driveways, parking lots, and entranceways. Not sure if your street is within the Gaithersburg limits? Find out using the GIS Map & App Gallery on the City's website at gaithersburgmd.gov.

Pretreatment

Two days before a single flake of snow is predicted to fall, our crews treat the roads with salt brine. Once snow actually begins to stick, salt will be applied until streets are passable.

Before the storm is the perfect time to mark your nearest hydrant so the fire department can quickly locate it if it gets buried. Please shovel out hydrants and keep them clear during and after a storm.



Now is a good time to locate and mark the nearest fire hydrant. This will help the fire department quickly locate hydrants covered in snow. Don't forget to shovel out hydrants and keep them clear of snow during and after a storm.

Parking

One of the best ways to help City crews do their work faster is to get your car off the street. Use off-street parking if possi-

ble; the City allows overnight parking in the Olde Towne garage during snow storms. Once plowing begins, streets will be cleared from curb to curb. This provides space for our crews to operate, allows for better traffic flow, keeps storm drains clear, and makes curbside parking possible sooner.

If you must park on the street, try to keep cars in clusters, obey No Parking signs, and park as close to the curb as possible. Do not park in courts or at the

end of a dead-end street. The plows won't be able to maneuver around you.

Certain City streets are desig-

nated as Snow Emergency Routes. It is illegal to park on these roads or on cul de sacs during a declared snow emergency, which is communicated as far in advance as possible through local media outlets, Alert Gaithersburg, and the City's web and social media sites. Cars parked in violation are subject to ticketing (\$60) and towing (upwards of \$270+) at the owner's expense. Keep in mind, some streets prohibit parking on one side of the road during a snow emergency, even though that street might not be designated a Snow Emergency Route.

Plowing

Plows can't operate until at least two inches of snow accumulates. "We deploy more than 65 crew members in 40 vehicles to clear 90+ miles of City maintained-streets," says Public Works Operations Division Chief Mark Scafile. "It takes seven to eight hours to plow all of the City's streets one time. We work around the clock and will come back as many times as necessary until all

roads are cleared, but remember that you might not see the first plow until eight hours into the storm if your street is towards the end of our list.”

So where is your street in the pecking order of snow plowing priorities? Primary roads such as Perry Parkway, South Summit Avenue and East Diamond Avenue are the first to be cleared since they lead to state and county roads. Plows then tackle secondary roads like Rabbitt Road, Main Street and Victory Farms Drive. Neighborhood roads are cleared next, and those with courts are last. “We have to follow this order or you would leave your neighborhood only to get stuck on unplowed primary and secondary roads,” says Scafile.

Do keep in mind that while your neighborhood street and others maintained by the City may be clear (we regularly earn high marks in citizen surveys for our efficiency), those maintained by the county and state may not have been fully plowed yet. Please use extreme caution when venturing out during or shortly after a storm.

Shoveling

So you braved the weather and shoveled your driveway, only to have the plows come by again and bury you back in. We’ve all been there. Plows push snow, they don’t remove it. Unavoidable mounds of snow (windrows) are always left along the right side of the plow. If you clear the windrow before the crews have made their final pass, another one will be created when they come by again.

For those in single family homes, you can avoid the “second shovel” by clearing an area to the right of your driveway (as you stand facing your home from the road). That gives the snow on the plow blade a place to empty before it gets to your driveway. Better yet, unless you enjoy the cardio workout, con-



sider waiting to shovel until our crews have finished plowing.

These windrows might be tempting “mountains” for children to climb. Please don’t allow that. Crews often make multiple passes and might have to push the windrow back to widen the street. It might be difficult for them to see children playing on the other side of it.

“One of the biggest challenges we encountered during the blizzard of 2016 was peo-

Hopefully this information has helped you better understand how we do what we do to clear the City of snow. If you have a comment or concern during or immediately following a storm, please don’t hesitate to contact us. But do know that during an emergency we are busy trying to return the City to normal. We will respond – it just might take us a bit.

City Streets

E-mail snow@gaitHERsburgmd.gov or leave a message at 301-258-6370

County Streets

Call 311

State Roads

Call 1-800-543-2515

Who Maintains Your Road?

www.mdOT.maryland.gov/knowyourroads.html

Sign Up for Emergency Alerts at

www.gaitHERsburgmd.gov/alerts

ple shoveling snow back into streets,” said Scafile. “We know that especially in townhouse communities it’s challenging to find somewhere to put all that snow, but throwing it back in the street creates hazardous conditions when it refreezes, and it really slows down our crews, preventing us from making headway and moving on to other neighborhoods.”

Sidewalk clearing is especially important immediately

following a storm. Many people in our community rely on public transportation, and once school has resumed, our kids need a safe place to walk. Residents and business owners are required to remove snow and ice from any public sidewalk abutting their property within 12 hours of the last precipitation. Please help us keep people from having to walk in the streets by doing your part. 🗣️

