

After every snowfall, residents often wonder when and how their streets will be plowed. All 54 miles of Township-owned streets are cleared by the Public Works Department. An additional 20 miles of state maintained highway are cleaned by PADOT. The Public Works Department currently has eight full time employees and nine vehicles that have plowing capabilities. Township roads are plowed using six pre-established routes that are each approximately nine miles long.

Each of these six routes have certain designated “priority roads” that are plowed or salted immediately upon the onset of a snowstorm. These designated roads, along with the aprons to all the fire stations, are plowed and/or salted regularly until the snowfall recedes, and continue to be plowed and/or salted with the other roads. This arrangement is important as it keeps the main roads open and clear in the event that emergency vehicles must be out on the roads.

Depending on weather conditions, salting will occur once snow sticks to the roadway surface. Plowing begins when the snow has accumulated to about three inches. This allows the salt to activate and begin melting the lower portion of the accumulation and, once plowed, should leave a cleaner roadway surface. Since salt loses its effectiveness with lower temperatures and actually stops working below 15-20 degrees, the three inches of snow acts as an insulator to keep the salt relatively warm. Traffic also helps reduce icing on salted roads by mixing the salt into the snow, making the accumulation easier to plow off.

Once plowing has started, the crew will continue to clear just the center of the roads until the snow stops. After the snow has stopped (and under ideal conditions) it can take the plow up to eight hours for three to four complete additional circuits of the route to clear back to the curb. If in this time it begins to snow again with accumulation, the plow will start all over again.

Obviously during all this time, the driver of the plow is given time to rest and eat and if the storm lasts too long, the driver is sent home to shower and rest for a period of time. Because of the duration of the typical storm and the long hours needed to just clear the roads, intersections and cul-de-sacs are left to be fully cleaned off until after the roads are completed. Sometimes this occurs the day after the storm due to the number of intersections and cul-de-sacs within the Township and the time needed to clean them up.

Arthur Rothe P.E.,
Township Engineer

Priority Roads

East Forge Road
West Forge Road
Valley Road
Painter Road
War Admiral Lane
Rampart East to War Trophy Lane

War Trophy Lane to Riddlewood Drive
Riddlewood Drive to Pennell Road
Springhouse Lane
Mt. Alverno Road
Harvard Drive
Linvill Road
St. Andrews Drive
Iris Lane
South Old Middletown Road - Portions
Elwyn Avenue
Church Road
Indian Lane - Portions
Media Station Lane
East Knowlton Road
Fox Road
High Meadow Drive
Ridley Creek Drive – Portions
Black Horse Lane
Old Baltimore Pike
School Lane
Penn Charter Drive