

City of Muscatine

Public Works Department

Snow “Push Back” Policy



The purpose of this policy is to define and outline snow “push back” objectives and procedures as established by the City of Muscatine. This policy supersedes all previously written documents or unwritten policies of the City of Muscatine regarding snow “push back”.

In General

The intent of establishing the City of Muscatine’s Snow “Push Back” Policy is to provide a uniform understanding of the priorities and procedures used snow removal operations. Each winter storm has unique characteristics. The Snow “Push Back” Policy will be implemented when the following criteria are determined to be met by the Public Works Director and Roadway Maintenance Supervisor:

- Snow removal operations are complete to the appropriate levels of service on all Class I, II, and III roadways.
- There is enough snow accumulation that it must be pushed back to the curb.
- There is a large enough gap between predicted snowfall events to provide time to complete a city-wide push back.

The steps involved in this policy are outlined below:

1. The policy will not be implemented without first notifying the public to give them as much notice as possible. The goal for this notice shall be 24 hours in advance.
2. Notification shall be through the City of Muscatine Communications Department. This department will determine the proper methods of the announcement including: city website, social media, notification of news media, radio announcements, and other available forms of mass communication.
3. Upon notification, an “odd/even” parking plan will be put into place.
4. Streets that normally permit parking on both sides of the street will be subject to “alternate side of the street” parking. On odd-numbered days of the month, parking is permitted only on the odd-numbered side of the street. Likewise, parking is permitted only on the even-numbered side of the street on even-numbered days.
5. On all streets where parking is allowed on one side only, if the permitted side (where parking is allowed) is even numbered, vehicles can park on that side only on even-numbered days. If the permitted side (where parking is allowed) is odd-numbered, vehicles can park on that side only on odd-numbered days.

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6. On even days Public Works plow crews will push snow back to the curb on the odd side of the street. On odd days they will push back snow on the even side of the street.
7. It is anticipated that snow removal crews can achieve push back on one side of the street within 24 hours of public notification. After the even side of the street is plowed, crews will move to the odd side of the street on the following day, and vice-versa.
8. The transition time for moving cars from one side of the street to the other will be between midnight and 7:00 a.m.
9. Cars parked on the inappropriate side of the street will be plowed around and may be ticketed or towed. Crews will only return to an area that was plowed around if they have time.
10. The downtown Central Business District (area bounded by Mulberry, Third, Mississippi Drive and Pine Streets) is not affected by these parking rules. Existing parking restrictions will remain in effect.