

## **Wheelchairs in Winter**

Using a wheelchair in the winter can be a hassle, especially with Strathcona County's 8-day snow clearing bylaw. During the winter it can snow more than once during those 8 days and the cycle repeats itself, which means that people can go 2-3 weeks, or more, at a time without clearing their sidewalks because "what's the point, it's just going to snow again". Some people don't shovel their sidewalks at all. I have had a few occurrences where the 8-day bylaw has hindered my ability to independently go out and do things by myself. I am very independent and active in the community, frequently taking buses and other means of transportation to get to sports programs, doctors' appointments, malls, etc.

Below are just some of the issues that I have encountered as a wheelchair user in Sherwood Park's winter weather. These occurrences include, but are not limited to:

- Ice on the pavement. There have been many times where I have been stuck on hilled, trailed areas between streets, unable to move because my tires would just spin on the ice. On such occasions, the temperature was -20 or below, at 11:00 at night. I had to call my dad for help to push me. What if my dad wasn't available? I would be stuck outside all night, with nowhere else to go.
- I was going down the sidewalk one evening, and my front casters got caught in deep ruts that cause me to fall out of my wheelchair. A lady in a van witnessed this and stopped to help me.
- A lot of times, due to sidewalks that have not been shoveled, I have been forced to wheel on the side of the road, as that is the smoothest place, with hard packed snow that I can push my wheelchair.
- Travel time is increased two or three-fold with snow that has freshly fallen compared to having shoveled sidewalks/trails. It can take me two to three times as long to get somewhere if it has recently just snowed than if the sidewalks were clear of ice and snow.
- When snow crews clear the intersections and sidewalk "islands" at the corners of those intersections, they pile up the snow around the traffic light post to be removed later. This build up of snow makes it impossible for me (and other wheelchair users) to access the crosswalk buttons to safely cross the street. I must pay attention to the traffic lights themselves to know when it's safe to cross.

I have lived in Sherwood Park for two years now, and have experienced the above situations along with others that I have not mentioned, many times in those two years.

**Liz Turpie**

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**From:** Kristen Beaudoin  
**Sent:** February 25, 2019 1:44 PM  
**To:** COUNCIL; Support - Council; EXEC-TM; EXEC-TM Support; Mavis Nathoo; Sandy Bugeja; Legislative Officer  
**Cc:** David Churchill  
**Subject:** Information Request - Snow Removal Timeframes

Good afternoon,

The information below is for the Information Request, Snow Removal Timeframes, as requested at the February 12 Priorities Committee Meeting.

**February 12, 2019 Priorities Committee Meeting:**

**Please provide information on the number of days required by the County for each snow removal occurrence (on sidewalks) within the urban service area in 2017, 2018, and 2019 (to date).**

During the 2017, 2018, and 2019 season we have been following the timelines within the [Winter Maintenance Policy – Roads, Sidewalks and Parking Lots](#). Trails and pathways are cleared of snow within 8 days, and pathways at Centre in the Park and Bethel Transit Terminal are cleared within 12 hours.

Every snowfall is a little different, though it typically takes us 6 days to clear all 217 km of trails and sidewalks with crews working 24 hours per day. Trails next to high priority roads, around schools and bus routes are cleared first, followed by trails adjacent to lower volume roads, and finally small connector concrete Public Utility Lot (PUL) walkways.

We will be reviewing the Winter Maintenance Policy again this summer, and will bring forward to discuss with Council in late June or July.

**Kristen Beaudoin**

[Administrative Assistant II](#)

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## Snow Removal Timeframes

Municipality	Sidewalk – Residents	Sidewalk/ Trails – Municipality	Comments
Strathcona County	8 days	8 days	County - 217 km of trails and sidewalks with crews working 24 hours per day → 6 days is what it currently typically takes the County.
Red Deer	48 hours	3 days	
City of St Albert	48 hours	8 - 48 hours	Arterial Walkways and Collector Walkways → use priority ranking to assess city walkways
		72 hours	Connect Sidewalks
City of Leduc	72 hours	48 hours	Sidewalks and multi-ways which are pedestrian corridors used to channel pedestrians to the main business areas and recreation facilities. Also includes bus stops and boarded rinks
		72 hours	Outdoor ice surfaces
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo	48 hours		Sidewalks adjacent to commercial or residential properties must be cleared by the owners, occupants or tenants
City of Airdrie	24 hours	24 hours	35kms sidewalk and 98 kms asphalt City snow removal is based on 3 levels of priority
City of Fort Saskatchewan	48 hours		Snow must be cleared from residential sidewalks, including sidewalks adjacent to your property, excluding Sundays and statutory holidays
	24 hours		Commercial properties
City of Grand Prairie	24 hours		Every occupant, or owner, of property adjacent to a sidewalk, shall remove or cause to be removed and cleared away, any snow or ice, from the adjacent sidewalk and the removal shall be completed within 24 hours following the most recent deposit snow or ice.
			Between Nov 1 to May 1
City of Edmonton	48 hours		
City of Calgary	24 hours		

\* Information sourced from municipalities websites.



## **BYLAW 36-2013**

### **A BYLAW OF STRATHCONA COUNTY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGULATING THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM SIDEWALKS WITHIN THE COUNTY**

WHEREAS pursuant to the Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26 Council may, by bylaw, require the clearing of snow and ice; and

WHEREAS pursuant to Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c. M-26 Council may add unpaid expenses and costs incurred by the municipality for removing snow and ice to the tax roll of a parcel of land; and

WHEREAS the Council of Strathcona County considers it necessary and expedient to keep the Sidewalks within the Urban Service Area of Strathcona County free and clear from deposits of snow and ice;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of Strathcona County, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

#### SECTION 1 – SHORT TITLE

- 1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as Strathcona County's "Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw".

#### SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 "Council" means the Council of Strathcona County of the Province of Alberta.
- 2.2 "County" means Strathcona County in the Province of Alberta.
- 2.3 "Director" means the Director, Transportation and Agriculture Services.
- 2.4 "Non-Slip Material" means a non corrosive/salt free material such as sand or winter chips applied to a sidewalk to maximize traction.
- 2.5 "Notice" means a notice issued under this Bylaw in a form approved by the Director.
- 2.6 "Owner" means any Person having a legal or equitable interest in any Parcel and includes any resident, tenant or occupier of such Parcel.
- 2.7 "Parcel" means any lot or block shown on a plan of subdivision registered in a land titles office.
- 2.8 "Peace Officer" means a Peace Officer appointed by the County to do any act, perform any duty, and enforce any provision outlined in any County Bylaw, and includes a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or a Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

- 2.9 "Person" includes one or more individuals, other than the Municipality or its legal representatives, and specifically includes the Owner of the Parcel that is found to contain Foreign Matter.
- 2.10 "Sidewalk" means that part of a Highway especially adapted to the use of pedestrians along the frontage of a Parcel, or where it is a corner site, that portion along the frontage and that portion along the side of a Parcel.
- 2.11 "Urban Service Area" means the boundaries of the Hamlet of Sherwood Park, as designated in Ministerial Order 700/84 as amended or repealed and replaced from time to time.
- 2.12 "Violation Tag" means a tag or similar document issued by the County.
- 2.13 "Violation Ticket" means a ticket or similar document issued by the County.

### SECTION 3 – APPLICATION OF BYLAW

- 3.1 All Owners of a Parcel in the Urban Service Area shall be responsible to remove all snow and ice from any Sidewalk along the frontage and/or side of the Parcel within 8 days following the initial deposit.
- 3.2 Where an Owner is unable to remove all ice as per Section 3.1, the Owner shall apply a Non-Slip Material to the extent that walking is safe and traction is maximized.
- 3.3 Where an Owner fails to comply with Section 3.1 or 3.2, the County may issue a Notice directing the Owner of a Parcel to clear snow and ice from any Sidewalk or apply Non-slip Material to any Sidewalk; along the frontage and/or side of the Parcel within 24 hours.
- 3.4 Where an Owner fails to comply with a Notice issued pursuant to Section 3.3, the County may cause the snow and ice to be removed and/or Non-Slip Material applied to such Sidewalk; and afterwards, add the cost of remedial work (plus 50% administration fee) to the tax roll of the said Parcel.
- 3.5 For the purpose of Section 3.1, snow and ice will be considered removed when the Sidewalk is cleaned for the entire width of the Sidewalk surface as completely as reasonably possible.
- 3.6 The provisions of this Bylaw shall not apply to any agents, employees or contractors of the County in the performance of their assigned duties.
- 3.7 In the event of an unforeseen climatic condition that creates a problem for residents in keeping their sidewalks clean, the Director of Transportation and Agriculture Services is authorized to suspend the enforcement of this Bylaw.

SECTION 4 – OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

- 4.1 For the purposes of this Bylaw a Notice issued under Section 3.3 shall be deemed delivered:
- (a) either leaving the Notice with an adult person residing in the home; or
  - (b) Posting the Notice at the front door in a prominent location
- 4.2 Under no circumstances shall any Person contravening any provision of this Bylaw be subject to a penalty of imprisonment.
- 4.3 A Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Tag to any Person whom the Peace Officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
- 4.4 Where a contravention of this Bylaw is of a continuing nature, further Violation Tags may be issued by a Peace Officer, provided that no more than one Violation Tag shall be issued for each day that the contravention continues.
- 4.5 A Violation Tag may be issued to such Person:
- (a) either personally, or
  - (b) by mailing a copy to such Person at his last known post office address.
- 4.6 The Violation Tag shall be in a form approved by the County and shall state:
- (a) the name of the Person;
  - (b) the offence;
  - (c) the appropriate penalty for the offence as set out in this Bylaw;
  - (d) that the penalty shall be paid within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the Violation Tag;
  - (e) any other information as may be required by the County.
- 4.7 Where a Violation Tag is used pursuant to this Bylaw, the Person to whom the Violation Tag is issued may, in lieu of being prosecuted for the offence, pay to the County the penalty specified on the Violation Tag.
- 4.8 Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent a Peace Officer from immediately issuing a Violation Ticket for the mandatory Court appearance of any Person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw.

SECTION 5 – VIOLATION TICKET



- 5.1 If the penalty specified on a Violation Tag is not paid within the prescribed time period, a Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to Part II of the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, RSA 2000, c. P-34.
- 5.2 Notwithstanding Section 4.3 of this Bylaw, a Peace Officer is hereby authorized and empowered to immediately issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to Part II of the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, RSA 2000, c. P-34, as amended, to any Person who the Bylaw Enforcement Officer has reasonable grounds to believe has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.

SECTION 6 – SEVERABILITY PROVISION

- 6.1 Should any provision of this Bylaw be invalid, then such provision shall be severed and the remaining Bylaw shall be maintained.

SECTION 7 – EFFECTIVE DATE

- 7.1 This Bylaw takes effect on October 1, 2013.

READ a first time this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013

READ a second time this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013

READ a third time and finally passed this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013

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MAYOR

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DIRECTOR  
LEGISLATIVE & LEGAL SERVICES

August 12, 2013  
DATE SIGNED

SCHEDULE "A"

SECTION	OFFENCE	PENALTY
3.1	Failure to remove snow and Ice from a Sidewalk within 8 days	\$100.00
3.2	Failure to apply a Non-Slip Material	\$100.00