

VILLAGE OF ALLOUEZ

Allouez Village Hall • 1900 Libal Street • Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301-2453
Phone No.: (920) 448-2800 • Fax No.: (920) 448-2850

Department of Public Works

SIDEWALK SNOWPLOWING

This summary is in regard to the question of increasing sidewalk snowplowing, perhaps returning to the sidewalk snowplowing approach of more than five years ago.

Legislative and Legal Responsibility for Sidewalk Clearing

A municipality with sidewalks is legally responsible for ensuring that sidewalks are clear of snow and ice, and bears legal responsibility for personal injury due to slipping on snow and ice. The adjacent property owner is usually required by municipal ordinance to clear their sidewalk but the municipality is still the responsible party for personal injury. To minimize the risk to a municipality, a municipality develops and administers a sidewalk clearing policy to minimize incidents of personal injury.

Current Village Sidewalk Snowplowing Policy

Attached is the current village policy regarding clearing sidewalks of snow and ice.

The Allouez policy is similar to DePere (city plows Webster Avenue during larger storm events) and Green Bay (plow commercial sidewalks downtown when street plows are operating). However, Green Bay will clear a residents snow covered sidewalk with no notice (and charge for it). Allouez allows 48 hours to clear a sidewalk.

The intent of the Allouez policy is as follows:

1. Assist residents on Allouez and Webster Avenue due to excess snow from county snowplowing on these county roads.
2. Improve sidewalk snow and ice removal (sidewalks are shoveled better by residents) by requiring residents to begin clearing sidewalks of snow and ice rather than the village being the sole party clearing sidewalks.
3. Reduce this village operating cost, especially because sidewalk snowplowing was being done on overtime hours same as street plowing. The cost was over \$30,000 per year.

Village Plowing of Sidewalks

It is important to understand the sidewalk snowplowing performance if additional plowing is considered.

1. When the Village plows sidewalks about ¾-inch to 1-inch of snow remains and cannot be cleared by our equipment. This residual continues to build-up with more plowing. If residents shovel after village plowing (as required by ordinance) this is usually removed.
2. When the Village plows a snow tire track is compacted and remains. This also accumulates over time and is difficult to remove.
3. Plowing on Webster Avenue cannot clear the sidewalk full width because the snowbanks collapse back onto the plowed walk. This becomes worse with more snow.

In summary, Village sidewalk snowplowing only does a rough job of sidewalk clearing and requires residents to shovel the remaining snow. If the expectation is that more Village plowing will improve snow removal that will probably not be the case.

Sidewalk Snowplowing Cost

Back in 2006 and 2007 the sidewalk snowplowing cost was very high—over \$30,000 per year due to the frequency of plowing and the amount of overtime.

For 2013 the amount of sidewalk snowplowing was \$11,000 based on 200 total hours of plowing (about 14 snow events). 2012 was 75 hours of plowing (5 events) which is a \$5,000 cost. A typical winter usually results in 12 sidewalk plowing events.

To add sidewalk plowing for all snow events would likely add 8 to 12 additional events. This is a cost range of \$14,000 to \$22,000 based on 14 hours of sidewalk plowing per event (about \$1,750 per event).

Summary

The current policy is intended to both improve sidewalk clearing because residents can do a better job than the Village, and to reduce the Village operating cost.

It is felt that most residents do not clear sidewalks after Village plowing. Many residents do not shovel their sidewalk after a minor snowstorm. This will not improve if the Village increases plowing. It might improve if the current policy remains in force.

The cost to add plowing for all events is likely to add \$14,000 to \$22,000 to the annual snow and ice budget.

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ALLOUEZ SIDEWALK SNOWPLOWING POLICY

September 1, 2012

Allouez Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal Policy

1. *Allouez residents must shovel their sidewalk after all snowstorms, and maintain their sidewalk clear of snow and ice—even if the sidewalk is first plowed by the Village such as after a major snowstorm of 6-inches or more. Residents have 48 hours after a snowstorm to complete sidewalk shoveling and clearing.*
2. *Property owners on Webster Avenue and Allouez Avenue must shovel after light snowfalls (when the weather bureau reports less than a 3-inch snowfall). The Village may plow if there is significant snow buildup due to street plowing, or heavy wet snow, or severe icing.*
3. *Because Brown County frequently plows large amounts of snow onto Webster Avenue and Allouez Avenue sidewalks, the Village will plow these sidewalks when the weather bureau reports a snowfall of 3-inches or more. Allouez sidewalk plowing on Webster and Allouez Avenue will be done after Brown County finishes street plowing—to minimize the need for repeated shoveling by residents.*
4. *The Village will plow all main sidewalks including Libal Street, Webster Avenue, Allouez Avenue, Hoffman Road, Riverside Drive and primary school routes after major snowstorms of 6" snowfall or more. Property owners must shovel after Village sidewalk snowplowing to maintain their sidewalk clear.*

Sidewalk Clearing Notice to Property Owners

Property owners will be notified via a letter placed in the rear door of a household if snow shoveling or ice removal does not comply with Village policy. This will be at 48 hours after a storm event, with 48 hours allowed for compliance.

Non-Compliance Penalty

The Village of Allouez Policy for Sidewalk Clearing Charge for Non-Compliance is as follows:

1 st Notice	\$50 per lot (up to 100 ft) plus \$10 per each 100 ft
2 nd Notice	Two times the 1 st Non-Compliance Charge
3 rd Notice	Three times the 1 st Non-Compliance Charge plus Citation for Violation of Sidewalk Clearing Ordinance 3.21