

# Executive Summary

The City of Charlottesville Snow and Ice Management Program is designed to serve as an operational guide for the City of Charlottesville snow response outlining the effective use of resources, identifying effective communication strategies and defining the levels of service residents can anticipate. This plan strives to maximize services while minimizing the impact to the environment as well as being cost efficient.

The goal is to remove snow and ice from Charlottesville roadways and travel areas as rapidly and practically as possible. This does not always mean pavement will be bare and dry, but it will be passable. While the severity of each winter storm is unpredictable, the City will continue to work within its resources to maintain the highest level of customer service possible while balancing efficiency in snow and ice control.

Snow and ice events can cause significant disruptions to the safety and well-being of our community. Therefore, a well planned and executed winter operations plan is imperative. Preparation includes an analysis of the previous year's issues and challenges, equipment readiness, resource availability, emergency equipment rental, training, material inventory and current technology. To better serve the Charlottesville community, the City's snow response is centrally coordinated through the City's Snow Operations Team, a multi-departmental group made up of staff from: Public Works, Utilities, Parks and Recreation, Neighborhood Development Services, and Charlottesville Area Transit.

The City of Charlottesville Snow Operations Team is responsible for coordinating winter operations for approximately 165 centerline miles of roadway, 31 miles of Safe Routes to School sidewalk segments, 18 miles of City property sidewalk segments, 20 municipal parking lots, 10 school parking lots, 16 Parks and Recreation parking lots, the Downtown Pedestrian Mall, and enforcement of the sidewalk clearing ordinance. Prioritization of routes are determined by traffic volume, access to emergency routes, access to public transportation, and access to schools. The priority plan for snow removal divides streets into primary routes, auxiliary routes, and secondary/residential routes.

During a typical winter, Charlottesville can average 16 to 20 inches of accumulation with average temperatures of 25°F and above. A variety of factors are considered when preparing for a snow-and-ice event. Factors include:

- Rate and accumulation of snowfall
- Moisture content
- Presence of sleet and freezing rain
- Temperature during and after storm
- Time of day
- Storm duration
- Intervals between storms

These various factors are considered when establishing response levels. Depending on the response necessary for the event, snow removal operations will include primarily the DPW Divisions: Public Service, Facilities Maintenance, Fleet, and the Departments of Utilities and Parks and Recreation. However, this may include other City agencies and staff depending on the magnitude of the weather event. Making the City of Charlottesville's Snow and Ice Control Plan effective requires the cooperation of many partners.