

Best Practice

Snow Removal

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THE PRACTICE

The Town of Meadow Lake public works employees strive to keep streets and sidewalks clear of snow all winter long. Immediately following every major snowfall the employees grade all residential and commercial streets and clear snowbanks that obstruct motorists and pedestrians view to ensure safe driving conditions.

THE PROCESS

In an effort to meet the needs of all residents of the town, the Town of Meadow Lake provides a form that residents can fill out and voice their concerns. This gives administration a means to hear directly from residents. The Town of Meadow Lake clears all roadways and sidewalks immediately following a snow fall. The town office often gets phone calls regarding snow build-up and attempts to clear areas that have greater traffic flow first. If residents call the town office about an area of town that needs immediate attention, the public works staff promptly responds and resolves any issues when possible.

The Town of Meadow Lake public works department consists of seven full-time personnel and one foreman. The equipment used includes two graders, one bobcat, one snow blower, two loaders, dump trucks and a sanding truck. As a regular part of snow removal, the town always has minor break-downs and faulty equipment. The town employs a mechanic to address this concern and usually has machinery and equipment fixed within a few days to enable staff to continue snow removal.

THE RESULTS

The benefit of having clear streets and sidewalks is that tax payers are content and that there are safe driving and walking conditions for the residents of Meadow Lake. Removing snow in the winter also assists in the spring when snow begins to melt and water runs off into local storm sewers. Reducing the amount of water that flows into the sewer lines reduces the risk of floods in the community and saves time and money for the town.

LESSONS LEARNED

The municipality has learned that providing services that exceeding the expectations of tax payers is indeed possible.