

How you can help

There are a few things that homeowners can do to help WCRC provide the best winter maintenance service possible:

- ❄ Remove vehicles from the roads during and after winter storms.
- ❄ Be willing to shovel snow around your mailbox and the end of your driveway after WCRC snow plows come by. Due to the nature of plowing, our trucks will often push snow into driveways or in front of mailboxes. Due to the sheer volume of roads, WCRC trucks cannot plow the ends of driveways or around mailboxes.
- ❄ During or shortly after winter storms, do not place garbage or recycling cans in the roadway. It is difficult to plow a subdivision road that is lined with garbage or recycling cans.
- ❄ Avoid placing rocks at the edge of the road. When it snows, our drivers cannot see these objects. They often get pushed into the lawn, causing damage to both your lawn and WCRC equipment.
- ❄ Avoid installing in-ground sprinkler heads in the road right-of-way (33 ft from the centerline of the road). If our drivers cannot see your lawn they may damage a sprinkler head.
- ❄ Check your mailbox and post to ensure they are secure before winter begins. If the mailbox and post are not secure, they will likely be damaged due to the force of snow thrown from the snowplow WCRC will only replace mailboxes if the mailbox was damaged by Road Commission equipment. WCRC will not replace mailboxes damaged by the sheer force of ice/snow thrown from plows.

WCRC Mission Statement

The Washtenaw County Road Commission is responsible for maintaining a road system that is reasonable safe and convenient for the traveling public.



Plowing Subdivisions

What to expect during and after winter storms

- When will you plow my subdivision?
- Frequently asked questions
- How to avoid the "Second Shovel"
- How you can help



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Questions or Comments?

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For Winter Maintenance Updates:

[facebook.com/washtenawroads](https://www.facebook.com/washtenawroads)

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Why doesn't WCRC hire more drivers and buy more snowplow?

WCRC is responsible for winter maintenance on 1,649 miles of county roads and 581 lane miles of state highways such as I-94 and U.S. 23. WCRC does not have the equipment or manpower to clear all of the county's roads and highways at the same time.

If WCRC invested the amount of money required to acquire the equipment and staff necessary to clear all our roads immediately following a major winter storm, the agency would not be able to perform other necessary road maintenance activities such as pothole patching, repairing traffic signals and grading unpaved roads.

Simply put, it would not be financially responsible for WCRC to acquire the staff and equipment to respond instantly to the type of winter storm that occurs infrequently. Therefore, the WCRC must utilize limited resources wisely and prioritize which roads are cleared first.

Why do snowplows block my driveway with snow after they clear the road?

While plow drivers try to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed into driveways during a winter storm, it is the responsibility of the property owner to clear their driveway opening.

To avoid double-work, try to shovel snow from your driveway after the plow has been by, and shovel the snow to the right side of your driveway as you face

Background

The Washtenaw County Road Commission (WCRC) prides itself on its ability to promptly clear roads following a normal winter storm. However, after a major storm or back-to-back storms, subdivision roads may not be cleared for a few days.

Back when Washtenaw County townships were largely rural, residents knew they lived "in the country" and expected snow removal services reflective of their rural environment. Today many of the county's townships have urbanized with subdivisions, shopping centers, schools, and businesses. As a result, the demand for winter road maintenance has increased dramatically. Unfortunately, funding for road maintenance – which comes primarily from the state's motor fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees – has not kept pace with rising demand and inflationary costs. The expectations of township residents can sometimes exceed what WCRC can provide.

Stay Informed!

To stay informed regarding WCRC's winter maintenance activities, follow us on:

 [facebook.com/washtenawroads](https://www.facebook.com/washtenawroads)

 twitter.com/wcroads

When will you plow my subdivision?

Our response time depends on a variety of factors including the severity of the storm, whether we get back-to-back storms, and the time of day. Back-to-back winter storm events often require plow trucks to stay on higher priority routes, such as state highways and paved primary roads. Under these circumstances it could be four or more days before WCRC begins clearing subdivision roads.

Subdivision roads are a lower priority for the following reasons:

- Subdivision roads carry less traffic than other roads. Public safety dictates that roads with higher volumes and speeds are top priorities.
- Emergency vehicles and school buses cannot get to subdivision roads if primary and collector roads are not cleared first.
- Likewise, residents cannot get to their points of destination if highways and primary roadways are impassable.
- Highway and primary roads support commerce and deliveries to regional and local businesses.

Due to limited resources, WCRC does not perform maintenance on subdivision roads during overtime unless:

- At least 4 inches of snow has fallen
- There has been an ice storm
- Blowing/drifted snow is interfering with vehicular travel
- WCRC Superintendents of Maintenance and Director of Operations deem it necessary

