



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

YOUR GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING **WINTER MAINTENANCE** IN FORT MCMURRAY

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO CLEAR A PATH THROUGH WINTER.

In Northern Alberta, snow happens! Regular winter maintenance is done on more than 510 roads in Fort McMurray, but how snow is cleared depends on the kind of road. The busier roads (Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Routes) are prioritized and not included in the Winter Maintenance Zone (WMZ) program.

You're probably wondering how winter maintenance is performed on your street, so let's find out!



STEP

1

Determine if your street is included in the WMZ program

Scan the QR code or go to rmwb.ca/wmz to use the "Find Your Zone" tool. You can also look for posted signage on your street.



NO

If you **do not live** on a street included in the WMZ program go to **STEP 2a**.

YES

If you **do live** on a street included in the WMZ program, continue to **STEP 2b**.

STEP

2a

You don't live on a street within the WMZ Program

Learn how winter maintenance is performed on Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Routes!

Winter maintenance happens frequently

If your street is not included in the WMZ program, it is a Primary, Secondary or Tertiary route. These high-traffic roads are prioritized and plowed regularly to keep them safe and accessible for the many people using them.

Driveway windrow removal is up to you

If you live on a Primary, Secondary and Tertiary route, your street receives regular winter maintenance, resulting in driveway windrows that you are responsible for removing.

Parking on the street

You can park on your street when it is being plowed, as the street is big enough for the plow to go around parked vehicles.

Watch for temporary "no parking" signs on your street. **These signs are placed 24 hours in advance of scheduled snow removal on your street so you can plan ahead.** Start dates for snow removal on Primary, Secondary and Tertiary routes are shared on social media, WMZ email alerts and by calling Pulse. If you are unsure, do not park on the street when the signs are out.



STEP 2b

You live on a street within the WMZ Program

Know your Subzone and designated day for maintenance

Your street has been assigned a Subzone and one designated maintenance day when winter maintenance may occur. You can find this information on posted signage in your neighbourhood or by using the online Find Your Zone tool.



Your designated maintenance day never changes, but there may be weeks when your Subzone is NOT active. Usually, **your Subzone will alternate each week between being activated and relaxed**. This means you are only asked to move your vehicle off the street on your designated maintenance day, once every two weeks. Bi-weekly weekly Subzone maintenance started in the 2020-2021 season when driveway windrow removal was introduced.

It is unlikely our crews can get to every street each week, so Subzones allow for more on-street parking options and keep things running smoothly.



STEP 3

Watch out for on-street parking restrictions

It is important to check the status of your Subzone every week during the winter.

When your Subzone is active and it's your designated maintenance day, parking restrictions are in effect between 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. When your Subzone is relaxed, you may park on the street without worrying about being ticketed or towed.

Keep up to date on the status of your WMZ



Sign up for WMZ Alerts to receive weekly email updates



Check rmwb.ca/wmz



Watch for electronic signage



Follow the RMWB on Facebook and Twitter @rmwoodbuffalo



Contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or rmwb.ca/pulse

There will be times when your Subzone is active and no maintenance occurs on your street

Sometimes not every street in a Subzone is completed. This happens when crews are removing snow or after a recent snowfall, requiring the busier roads to be prioritized. This can also happen if there are vehicles parked in active Subzones, slowing down winter maintenance.

If your street didn't receive maintenance when your Subzone was active, it will be tracked and scheduled for future maintenance

Driveway windrows being removed to make your winter easier

On the day your street is plowed, windrows (snowbanks) that are larger than 15cm are removed from the end of your driveway. Please be patient as this may not happen immediately after the plow goes by.



Winter Maintenance information for everyone

Snow plowing happens regularly; snow removal typically happens once or twice a winter



Snow Plowing Operations



Snow plowing operations are different than snow removal operations. Crews plow snow to the sides of your street to maintain at least one traffic lane, creating windrows in the process.



Snow Removal Operations



Once there is a large amount of snow on your street, crews will begin snow removal operations. This is a big job and takes crews longer as it involves loading snow onto trucks and hauling it away to a storage site. It is impossible for every street to be completed each week. A snow removal operation will typically be done once or twice on your street each winter.

A community effort is needed to keep streets safe and accessible!

Crews and heavy equipment need room to do their work and keep your street safe. Your neighbours also rely on you to help keep sidewalks and roads clear.

Do your part by following these guidelines:

- ☒ Follow on-street parking restrictions.
- ☒ Park as close as possible to the windrow (snowbank) on the side of the street.
- ☒ Clear the sidewalks next to your home within 48 hours of a snowfall.
- ☒ Do not shovel snow back onto your street.
- ☒ Keep a safe distance from equipment.
- ☒ Be cautious when crossing windrows and do not climb on streetside or cul de sac snowpiles.



YOU CAN AVOID TICKETING & TOWING

The RMWB would much rather educate residents about on-street parking restrictions than ticket and tow vehicles. The Municipality doesn't receive any revenue from towing.

Scan for ticketing, towing and impound information



SNOW ANGELS

Help your older neighbours get through winter.

Sign up to be a Snow Angel at rmwb.ca/snowangels

Have questions? Connect with Pulse at 780-743-7000 or visit rmwb.ca/snowplow

