



Snow Removal and County Right-of-Way

White fluffy snow. Summit Park certainly gets its share of it each winter. Whereas it can be beautiful and fun, it can also be a pain (usually back pain!) to move it from our driveways as well as being potentially treacherous when driving through it on our narrow, winding, and often steep roads. Both your neighbors and snow removal operators will thank you if common sense and a few simple rules are followed:



Cannot Deposit Snow in Streets and Public Right-of-Ways (*Summit County Code 7-3-5*). While clearing your driveway is certainly not a crime, the way you clear it can still get you in trouble. Except for the actions of road authorities (typically, snowplow operators) it is unlawful to push, plow, blow, or shovel snow across or into the street to get it out of your driveway that would otherwise impede the reasonable flow of traffic. Access to fire hydrants must also always be maintained, which includes not placing snow on top or around them.



Snow Storage Must Be Kept On-Site (*Summit County Code 7-3-4*). All residents must contain all snow – including that in driveways – on their property (or that of another property with their permission). Not doing so creates a hazard to plow operators and drivers. Snow pushed into streets also often ends up in front of a neighbor's driveway as plows pass by, potentially making for some very unhappy neighbors who then have to deal with the snow that is pushed or placed onto the road!

Seasonal Limitations on Parking (*Summit County Code 7-3-3*). With few exceptions, no on-street parking in Summit Park is allowed between November 1st and May 1st (unless otherwise posted). Vehicles which hamper government snow removal operations or the movement of emergency vehicles will be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense. Owners also assume liability for damage to any vehicles parked on the street or other obstacles (such as tipped over mailboxes) that fall into the street. Damage to snow removal equipment resulting from contact with vehicles which are illegally parked or other obstacles placed in the County right of way shall be the responsibility of the vehicle owner or persons responsible for the obstacles placed in the County right of way.

Improvements Installed at Owner's Risk (*Summit County Code 7-3-10 and 7-3-11*). The County right-of-way for most roads is wider than the paved area to allow space for utility services and snow storage. Property owners may install sprinklers, mailboxes, lights, plants, or install other above grade landscaping in these areas at their own risk. The County shall not assume any liability for damage to improvements or landscaping in the County right-of-way which results from normal snow removal activity.

County Snow Plow Operations. Summit County snow removal hours are from 4:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. Plow operators are only allowed to drive up to 11 hours in any 24-hour period and up to 60 hours a week. When a storm rolls in overnight, all operators report at 4 A.M. If a storm rolls in during the night and continues throughout the day, the number of crews will drop by 1/3 beginning at 12:00 P.M. and move back to 2/3 capacity beginning at 4:00 P.M. When the number of plow crews are reduced, the focus is on main roads and arteries and not residential streets.