

Sidewalk Snow Removal Policies CAST Survey Responses- January 2019

Town/City Name	Level of Service				Sidewalk Services Provided			Laws	Infirm Service
	Plow All Sidewalks	Plow Tier 1	Plow Trails/Public Areas	Property Owner	Parks	Contractor	Public Works	Muni Code Enforcement	
Avon, CO				X		X	X	X	
Breckenridge, CO	X				X				
Crested Butte, CO		X		X	X			X	
Estes Park, CO			X	X					
Frisco, CO		X	X				X		
Grand Lake, CO		X					X		
Jackson, WY		X		X	X			X	
Ketchum, ID				X					
Montrose, CO		X	X		X			X	
Pagosa Springs, CO			X	X	X		X	X	
Park City, UT		X		X	X			X	X
Steamboat Springs, CO				X				X	
Telluride, CO			X	X		X		X	
Affirmative Responses	1	6	5	9	6	2	4	8	1

Equipment Used for Sidewalks

- Belos W/ Vplow
- Hand Shovels
- Skid Steer
- Snow Blower
- 4-Wheeler

Tier 1 means certain high traffic or critical use areas

Trails/Public Areas are detached trails/commuter connections and areas abutting public buildings or in parks.

Muni Code enforcement means that the municipality spoke of using their code and utilizing it to enforce policy.

Information above is based on email responses and does not reflect the entirety of a community's snow removal policy

**CAST Survey:
Sidewalk Snow Removal Policies
January 2019**

Pagosa Springs is wondering if any CAST members are providing clearing of snow and ice on sidewalks within their communities.

If so, is it done by staff or through contractors?

Is it limited to certain areas or is the whole city being cleared?

Currently in Pagosa Springs, with the exception of sidewalks adjacent to town facilities and parks, the responsibility for clearing snow and ice is placed on the adjacent property owner.

Avon

Snow removal is a collective effort between our Public Works department and a private contractor. All of our bus stops and a few of our Town parking lots are addressed by a private contractor. Similar to Pagosa Springs, with the exception of sidewalks adjacent to town facilities and parks, the responsibility for clearing snow and ice is placed on the adjacent property owner.

Is it limited to certain areas or is the whole city being cleared? *Every sidewalk is cleared. If there are sidewalks that are not the Town's responsibility that are not being cleared by the adjacent property owner, we follow the provisions in our municipal code to enforce.*

Breckenridge

The Town of Breckenridge plows all of the 22miles of sidewalks in town. 7 full time parks staff and 2 seasonals work 18 hours a day 7 days a week on sidewalk snow removal. The town owns 4 sidewalk plows and also have a hand shovel route. Please feel free to give me a call if you would like additional details.

Crested Butte

By Ordinance it is the responsibility of the owner of the properties to clear the snow off of the sidewalks. However, we always had problems with empty lots and some people that just didn't stay on it. We have for many years plowed the sidewalks along Elk Avenue (our Main Street), walkways to our school, and walkways through our parks with Bobcat snowblowers. We use town staff and town equipment and plow if there is 1 inch of snow or more.

Crested Butte does clear all of the sidewalks in Town. That being said, we don't have very many sidewalks. See the "blower route" on the attached map. Our Parks crew performs this snow removal work in the winter on sidewalks while public works takes care of the snow removal on streets.

Although, the Town does take on this activity, our code does still say that snow removal is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner and we do send out a mailer every fall reminding property owners of this responsibility. Several property owners have installed snow melt systems in the sidewalks adjacent to their buildings and they pay the utilities and are responsible for the maintenance and repair of the sidewalk once they have installed such a system. For the most part they blow snow into public property adjacent to the sidewalk. In the commercial areas they blow snow to the “parkway” area between the sidewalk and the street. Some of it makes it into the street and then gets plowed back into that parkway area. As those piles between the sidewalks and streets get piled up we periodically go in and remove all of the snow with loaders and dump trucks. We haul lots of snow around here, so that’s just one more area we haul out periodically.

We blow the sidewalks anytime there is an inch or more of snow. This does not solve all of the problems of snow and ice build-up on unheated sidewalks. The freeze-thaw cycles with snow adjacent to the sidewalks either on private property or on the parkways still causes ongoing problems as it melts onto the sidewalk and then freezes at night.

Estes Park

Estes Park has the same policy (as Pagosa). We clear our parks and downtown plaza areas but the sidewalks are the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

It really depends upon the amount of snow we get and what the future weather will be. If we just get a couple of inches or less and the forecast is for sun in the coming days, we can get it moved off the walkways with our skid steers and let mother nature take care of the rest. Anything above a couple of inches the skid steers coordinate with our loader operator to push the walkway snow into the street. Our loader operator then takes the snow into the middle of the road. Then depending on the amount and sun, the snow crew will come in and remove what's in the middle and haul it off to our fairgrounds until it melts. For this we use the loader with a snow blower attachment and 2 to 5 dump trucks.

Frisco

Here in Frisco, Public Works clears all sidewalks in the core area of town (Main Street and avenues to one block on either side of Main). We also clear all bike paths throughout the town as well as at the parks. All other sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owners. We use sidewalk machines that are called Belos, they are a Holder type small tractor. They are equipped with a articulating v-plow. We push all the snow on to the street where it is then pushed by loaders to short term storage areas. From there we haul it away to the “boneyard” and other long term storage areas. Main Street and other core area streets and sidewalks as well as several collector streets are the first priority and at times when the snow is heavy, clearing begins at 2AM otherwise we start at 5 or 6AM. When there is a heavy snow event, all snow is windrowed to the center line of Main Street where we then use a large blower to load dump trucks and haul it away. Let me know if you have any more questions.

Grand Lake, CO

Our public works department does all the boardwalks in town.

Jackson, WY

1. Certain sidewalks in the core district, key connectors, and in front of public buildings are plowed by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Maps of sidewalk plowing attached.

2. Public Works is responsible for clearing streets. This snow removed from streets and taken to a large area for storage.

3. Citizens not in the sidewalk overlay are responsible for clearing the sidewalk in front of their residences by Municipal Code.

Code attached. Public information attached.

We've had several spirited debates over level of service for sidewalk clearing and enforcement. Videos of these meetings are archived on our town's website.

Here is the Winter page information that has access to sidewalk snow removal routes, town ordinance (Jackson Municipal Code 12.20.020(A)), etc....

<http://townofjackson.com/255/Winter-Information>

Ketchum, ID

In the city of Ketchum, adjacent property owners are required to remove snow on sidewalks. There are some areas in town where city staff and city contractors remove snow on sidewalks, but those areas are limited and typically adjacent to public parks and town square. Below is the requirement in the Ketchum Municipal code.

Every person, whether as owner, tenant, occupant, lessee, or otherwise, in possession or control of any building or lot of land within the city fronting or abutting a sidewalk, shall remove and clear away, or cause to be removed and cleared away, snow and ice from the entire width of such sidewalk which is in front of or abuts on such building or lot of land. Such snow and ice shall be removed from all sidewalk areas within the city on the same day as cessation of any fall of snow, sleet, or freezing rain or within the first six (6) hours of daylight after the cessation of any such fall, whichever period is longer.

However, in the event snow and ice on the sidewalk has become so hard that it cannot be removed, the person or entity charged with removal shall put sand or other abrasive on the sidewalk to make pedestrian travel reasonably safe. (Ord. 545 § 1, 1990: Ord. 402 § 2, 1985)

Park City, UT

For Park City Municipal:

- *Our Parks crew acts as our sidewalk snow removal crew – this helps us keep talented year-round staff, rather than laying everyone from Parks crew off in winter. We do not contract out for sidewalk clearing.*
- *Our snow removal teams, made up usually of about 8 people (7 day per week coverage)*
 - *plow/hand clear 14.4 miles of sidewalks & bike paths. Our team has 3 sidewalk plows (two track machines, one rubber tire machine). We do not clear all sidewalks, just what we call Tier 1. Snow removal for other Tiers is the responsibility of the business/property owner.*
 - *Hand shovel entrances to 12 City buildings*
 - *Hand shovel 22 staircases in our historic Old Town area*

We have performance measures for removing snow from City facilities – which includes the sidewalks in our Main Street area (largest retail district)

City Facility Snow Removal: *Percent of sidewalks and stairs cleared of ice and snow within 10 hours*

following the end of a storm. Target: 90% Actual: 90%

Here is our Municipal Code addressing snow clearing on sidewalks:

14-4-9 Sidewalks To Be Cleared

Tier 1

Park City Municipal Corporation will provide snow removal services on the pedestrian Spine System Sidewalks, as identified in the [Park City Snow Removal Guide](#). Property owners are not required to remove snow from stairs and sidewalks at the perimeter of their property if those stairs and sidewalks are included within the Spine System Sidewalks.

Tier II

It shall be the duty of a property owner to clear the sidewalks and stairways at the perimeter of his/her property within eight (8) hours from the end of each storm if the sidewalks and stairways do not receive City services and are identified as critical to pedestrian movement in the [Park City Snow Removal Guide](#). It shall be unlawful for a property owner under a duty to remove snow to permit an accumulation of more than eight inches (8") of snow to remain on the sidewalks or stairs for more than eight (8) hours at a time.

Tier III

Park City Municipal Corporation will not remove snow from sidewalks not listed in the [Park City Snow Removal Guide](#) nor are adjacent property owners required to remove snow from sidewalks and stairs not listed in the [Park City Snow Removal Guide](#).

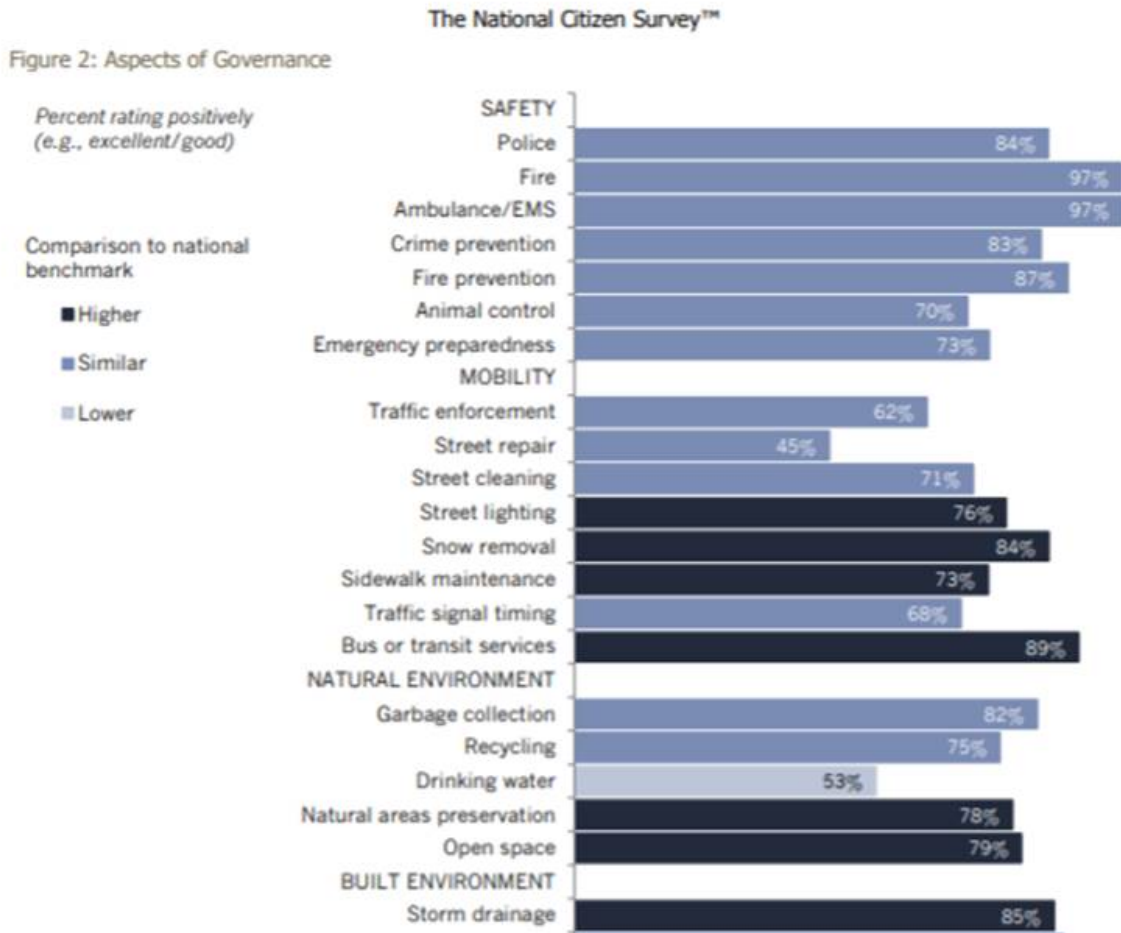
Property owners required to remove snow may request relief from this ordinance through the City's Request for Elevated Level of Service process. A decision under this process will be based on the seasonality, location and outlet of the path or sidewalk. Property owners not under a duty to remove snow may request a higher level of service through the same process.

HISTORY

Amended by Ord. [08-43](#) on 11/6/2008

Here is a link to our Snow Removal Guide: <https://www.parkcity.org/home/showdocument?id=2778>

Lastly, we participate in the National Citizen's Survey. Our citizens, as of 2017, are generally satisfied with our snow removal and sidewalk maintenance and our scores in these two areas as higher than the national average: <https://www.parkcity.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=48672>



Steamboat Springs

Here is the section of our sidewalk ordinance:

Sec. 20-5. - Removal of snow and ice from sidewalks, parking areas, and curbs.

(a) Generally. The owner, occupant or agent of the owner of any building, property or vacant lot is required to maintain the sidewalks, the parking area and the curbs (the area from the property line to the gutter) adjoining the building, property or vacant lot in a clean condition and to remove snow and ice

from adjoining sidewalks immediately after every snowfall. The snow removal shall occur on at least a daily basis during the time period from November 20 through April 15 of each year.

(b) Nuisance declared. Any violation of this section is a public nuisance which may be summarily abated pursuant to Sections 15-4 and 15-5 of the Steamboat Springs Municipal Code.

(c) Civil liability imposed. Any person who controls, owns or occupies property that abuts or adjoins any sidewalk, parking area and curbs (the area from the property line to the gutter) open to the public owes a duty to all persons using such sidewalk, parking area and curbs to comply with the provisions of section 20-5. Any person injured by the breach of such duty shall have a cause of action for damages against the person who failed to comply with such duty, it being the express intent of this paragraph (c) to impose civil liability on private property owners for injuries incurred on public sidewalks, parking areas and curbs within the city as a result of a failure by any such private property owner to comply with section 20-5.

Even with this, we get complaints every year. Council made one exception where the city clears the sidewalk along Highway 40, b/c it's used as a commuter trail, buried in snow by CDOT, and the adjacent residents are located a ways up the hill. So, we do a short stretch for general public benefit. I wish we had a program to help the elderly and disabled, but that would have to be voluntary and not sure how that would work on a consistent basis. There is some research out there where some cities are prioritizing sidewalks and clearing only those deemed worthy. I know if we did that, folks would "cry foul" and want the whole town done. To do them all would cost us millions every year.

Telluride

In Telluride, Town hires contractors to remove snow from sidewalks on Town-owned properties (although this is a constant challenge getting the contractors to actually show up when there's plenty of private work whenever it snows!). It is the private property owner's responsibility to remove snow from sidewalks across private property within 24 hours of a storm, and our code enforcement division does issue a lot of reminders and an occasional ticket to perpetual offenders.

Our sidewalks are typically on the properties, as opposed to being part of the town-owned right-of-way.