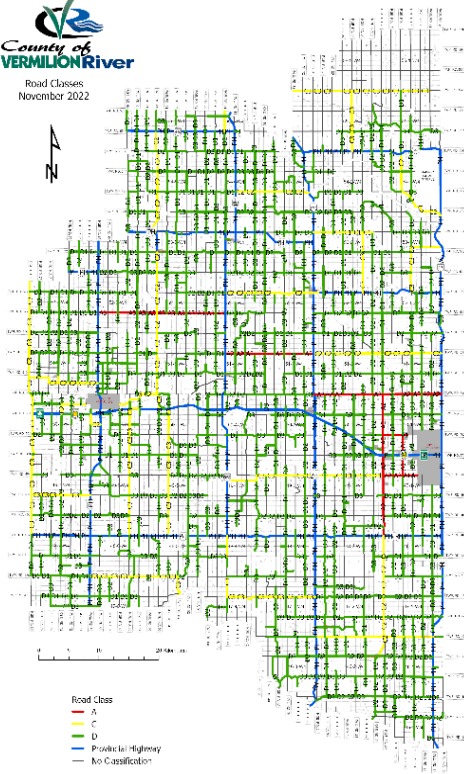


WINTER OPERATIONS SNOWPLOWING LEVEL OF SERVICE



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

https://www.vermilion-river.com/living_here/public_works.html



**Click on the map above for
2022 Road Classes.**

The County of Vermilion River aims to maintain our county roadways in a safe, fiscally responsible, and effective manner. The management of snowplowing and road conditions is the responsibility of the Public Works department and is guided by policy set by County Council. County Council often discusses, debates, and revisits the snow removal level of service deemed appropriate, while maintaining financial responsibility to our residents.

Using a newer fleet of snowplow trucks and graders and employing well trained equipment operators, we maintain 252 kms of hard surface roads, 2855 kms of gravel roads, 8 Hamlets, 17 Residential Subdivisions and 3 Industrial Parks. The Government of Alberta is responsible for snow and ice removal on all numbered highways (#16, #17, #41, #45, #893, #897, #619, #640, #641).

We monitor and inspect roadways before, during, and after each winter weather event.

The severity of the snowfall or ice conditions dictates the maintenance required. We use different equipment for hard surface and gravel roads, which allows us to clear both types of road surfaces at the same time. It is important to note that in periods of continual snow or where multiple snow events occur in a short period of time priority one roads may be cleared more than once before we can attend to all roads and driveways.

Plow trucks are used to clear hard surfaced roads following a designated route; however, the route may vary depending on road conditions and emerging priorities. Graders are used to clear gravel roads. We have 17 grader operators working in 16 designated areas maintaining our gravel roads. Grader operators start plowing in alternating locations within their areas to ensure that no one is always first or last to be plowed out. Most County roads require two passes; the first to open the road and the second to wing snow back from the shoulders. The priority is to make sure all roadways are open before the second pass is made. Snowplowing is undertaken in a manner to minimize backtracking and excessive road travel.

ROAD PRIORITY RANKING FOR SNOW REMOVAL

PRIORITY ONE:

Class A1, A2, A3, C1 and C2 paved roads to be cleared averaging 24 hours after a snowfall

PRIORITY TWO:

Class C3, D1, D2 and D3 roads that are connector roads and bus routes to be cleared averaging 72 hours after a snowfall

PRIORITY THREE:

All other class C3, D1, D2 and D3 gravel roads to be cleared averaging 72 hours after a snowfall

PRIORITY FOUR:

Driveways where a snowplow flag has been purchased will be given last priority and will be plowed once all other roads are cleared

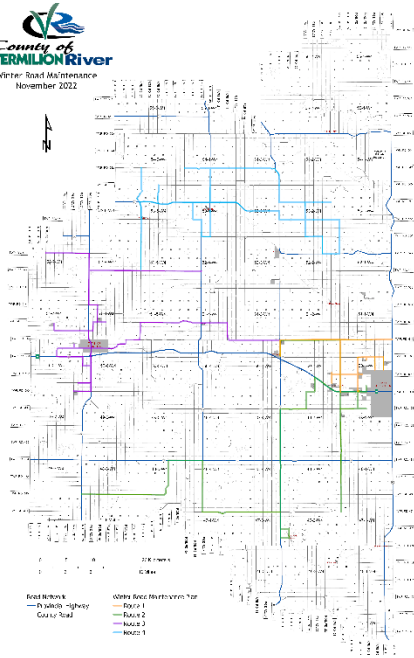


WINTER OPERATIONS SNOWPLOWING LEVEL OF SERVICE



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Click on the map above for
2022 Plow Truck Routes

The County provides private driveway snow removal for an annual fee. Driveways are only plowed after an application is made to the administration office by signing a liability waiver and indemnity agreement. Where there are renters, the agreement must be signed by both the landowner and the renter. On new applications, the driveway has to be inspected by the County and deemed 'accessible for snowplowing'. Once all steps have been completed and payment has been received a 'Flag' is issued to be displayed on the driveway. For insurance purposes a new liability waiver and indemnity agreement must be signed every year before a new flag is issued. Driveways are the last priority for snow removal. Buffalo Trails Public Schools (BTPS) advises the County on their bus routes for each school year and provides updates as necessary. BTPS will determine if a driveway is considered an essential turn around requiring a snowplow flag.

Please help us protect yourself, neighbors, road users, County equipment and operators, and refrain from pushing the snow from your private driveway onto County roads. This practice can result in large ridges of snow being left on the roadway that as they melt and refreeze can cause driving hazards that can throw a vehicle out of control, including our snow removal equipment.

The job of snowplowing can be extremely stressful and dangerous as the operators are working in all weather conditions and feel the pressure of trying to open the roads as quickly as possible. Factors such as blowing snow, drifts and continued snow fall can lead to complications. The County may suspend winter road maintenance operations, except in the event of an emergency, if the safety of employees and the public becomes a concern. Operations will resume when employee and public safety is no longer at risk.

Snow removal can be challenging; however, our staff takes pride in their work and in our County. They will be out after each and every storm and will work as quickly as possible to ensure that our transportation routes are open and accessible. If you would like further information about snow removal on surfaced roads, please see our Surfaced Roads Winter Maintenance Operations Plan. For further information on the snow removal level of service please see policies PW 007 Quality Standards for Snow Removal and PW 008 Quality Standards for Winter Conditions.

ROAD PRIORITY RANKING FOR SNOW REMOVAL

HAMLETS:

Hamlet streets to be cleared averaging 48 hours or less after a snowfall

SUBDIVISIONS:

Subdivisions will be treated as any other County road and will be plowed according to the road designation

BACKROADS:

Roads deemed backroads will generally not be maintained during the winter months and will only be opened in the spring

