



Ice Ruts in the Village of Weston Frequently Asked Question

Q: Why does my street have ice ruts/a buildup of slush as compared to other streets in the Village of Weston?

A: This has been a common question on neighborhood streets. The Village considers certain roads to be main thoroughfares (Ross Ave, Schofield Ave, Alderson St, Jelinek Ave, the St. Clare's Campus amongst others). Those streets serving mainly as access to residences are simply referred to as neighborhood streets. During snow events thoroughfares are given first priority followed by the neighborhood streets. In addition to the sequence of plowing, more salt is used on the length of the thoroughfares, especially in the more urbanized area. In more rural areas and on the neighborhood streets, the practice is to apply salt at intersections, curves, and hills.

The sequence of plowing thoroughfares first followed by neighborhood streets typically means that by the time the neighborhood streets are plowed traffic has already been driving on them and has packed down the snow in the wheel ruts (similar to what happens to a driveway). This would hold true in any typical winter season.

During the months of December and January 2013-2014 there were many days when precipitation occurred. Some of the precipitation events were light and did not require the plows to go out at all, other events only required treatment of the thoroughfares. However, during the week of February 17 several events occurred that involved rain or freezing rains and increased temperatures followed by falling temperatures. The combination of precipitation and temperature changes resulted in creating a thick layer of ice on many neighborhood streets and due to the ice, it was difficult to get back down to bare pavement for the subsequent events on the neighborhood roads.

Due to the low temperatures the snow and ice have bonded to the pavement. The truck mounted plows used by the Village are not able to scrape this bonded ice and snow down to bare pavement – at least not until temperatures warm above freezing. The Village has one grader that is more effective for scraping the streets however; the grader is also most effective when temperatures get near or above freezing. Attempting to scrape the ice and snow before the temperatures warm up results in damage to plow frames and plow blades. The Village will be working on clearing ice off of the streets as temperatures begin to rise. With a little over 250 lane miles in the Village it will take time to get to every street in the Village.