



Office of Public Works  
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MEMO

To: John Weidl, City Manager

From: Brad Marquardt, Public Works Director

Re: Snow Plowing at WAFC

Date: September 21, 2023

John,

In regards to plowing the parking lot at the Whitewater Aquatic and Fitness Center, I do not believe we have sufficient staff and/or time to accomplish this work and would need to hire an outside contractor.

Our first priority during a snowstorm is trying to keep the 50 miles of city streets in a drivable condition so people can transverse from one end of town to the other. This typically is accomplished using seven plow trucks. Depending on the timing of the snow storm, and the severity, crews will either continue during the day plowing city streets or be sent home to return around 2:00 a.m. to start back up. When arriving at 2:00 a.m., crews typically stay until 3:30 p.m. working on cleanup. Larger snow events will require crews to return again at 2:00 a.m. to continue with cleanup.

The remaining three individuals (which includes the Superintendent) utilize two skid steers and one loader to clear the 11 downtown parking lots, and multiple areas and miles of public sidewalk.

Could the City swing through the parking area while we are plowing Elizabeth Street? Yes, however, that would only be to plow the driving aisle. Our snow plows are not designed to maneuver amongst and around parked cars. We would have to send a skid steer or the loader to plow that small area of the parking lot. This would entail removing someone from a designated street plow route or interrupting the plowing of the city owned parking lots and sidewalks.

There is also the logistics and public perception. If the City was to plow the parking area, we may be there before or after the school plows, leaving the possibility (depending on the amount of snow) of windrows being left behind for motorists to drive through. And if one area is plowed while another area is not, people are going to be confounded as to why.

We did reach out and received two preliminary proposals. Costs range from \$160 - \$225 per hour, with a one hour minimum. They also have concerns with leaving windrows and working in the same vicinity while the school is removing snow.