

## WILLMAR WINTER PARKING AND SNOW REMOVAL REGULATIONS

The City of Willmar has several ordinances related to parking and snow removal that are important to remember during the winter. Many apply year-round, such as the 48-hour limit for leaving a motor vehicle on the street. A few are specific to the winter months. All of these are in addition to Minnesota regulations which prohibit, among other things, parking in yellow zones, fire lanes, within 30 feet of a "Stop" sign, or in a traffic lane.

- No vehicle may be left in substantially the same place on a street or public parking lot for longer than 48 hours (2 days), or it will be ticketed and towed. The vehicle must be moved across the street or far enough for a plow to remove all snow curb-to-curb.
- Unattached trailers may not be parked or left on a street or public property for longer than two (2) hours.
- A recreational vehicle or camper trailer may not be occupied (slept in) on a street.
- A vehicle parked in a driveway may not block the public sidewalk.
- No vehicle can be parked on public property for the purpose of sale. A "For Sale" sign can be displayed on a vehicle when it's being used and incidentally parked, but it can't be left deliberately on a street, park, or public parking lot to advertise it for sale.
- From November 1 to April, the city prohibits on-street parking in some heavy traffic areas, whether or not it has snowed. These are posted with signs, and include Lakeland Drive Southeast and Seventh Street Northwest.
- In the downtown area, streets and avenues have alternating-day parking bans between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. for snow removal and street cleaning. Signs are posted on each block indicating which mornings parking is prohibited.
- Also in the downtown central business district, a "snow emergency" may be declared during a heavy snowfall. The "snow emergency" will be announced on local radio stations. All vehicles must be removed from the street during the hours announced. The area includes from First Street west to 7<sup>th</sup> St, and from Trott Av SW north to the railroad yards.
- It is advisable to use off-street parking whenever possible so that vehicles parked on the street do not hamper snow removal efforts or create a need for a second plowing.

When planning for snow removal on your property, please note:

- All public sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice 12 hours after a snowfall ends.
- The landlord and occupant (renter) can each be held responsible if snow is not removed from a sidewalk adjacent to rental property. The responsibility for snow removal should be specified in your lease agreement.
- No snow from private property may be moved onto public property. This means no plowing, blowing, or shoveling snow into the street. (The only exception is in the downtown business district, where snow from the building-to-curb sidewalk may be moved to the curb for removal with the street snow.)
- People living near fire hydrants should have a plan for removing snow from around the hydrant. Willmar has a volunteer fire department, and it is not feasible to use firefighters for clearing the hydrants after each heavy snowfall. The courtesy of removing snow from the hydrant helps your neighborhood be ensured a quicker response to a life-threatening fire, rather than the firefighters having to first shovel out the hydrant.

If you have questions about these regulations, you may call the Willmar Police Department at 235-2244, or Willmar City Offices at 235-4913.