

From The Director's Office:



Snow, power outages, fallen trees, and ice everywhere—the Presidents' Day weekend storm of 2021 will be a memorable event.

As soon as Public Works staff heard about the pending winter storm starting Thursday, February 12, we implemented our [Snow and Ice Response Plan](#). Staff took action to spread deicers on the roads, attach the snow plow blade to the truck and prepare the sanding machine for use. We created three work teams and put them on a rotation to provide 24 hours a day snow clearing and sanding services during the storm.

By Saturday afternoon the weather forecast showed the storm subsiding the next day and conditions improving enough to allow staff to safely begin debris removal in the public right-of-way. A call was made to all the Public Works and Parks Maintenance staff informing them we needed 'all hands on deck' on Sunday to begin storm clean up. As first responders, they all reported to work to begin the arduous debris removal process.

On Monday the ice was gone and the clean up process was in full operation. The focus was to remove hazardous trees, limbs and debris from the City's arterial and collector streets. Three teams comprised of six to seven Parks and Public Works employees were dispatched around town with chainsaws, chipping equipment and debris hauling vehicles. Between February 12 and 22, it required 1,567 labor hours to complete the removal along 81.6 lane miles of roadway.

Starting the last week of February the work team shifted their focus to clearing of the smaller walk-up parks around the City and will start clean up of Murase/Memorial Park the beginning of March.

My heartfelt gratitude goes out to the dedicated Public Works and Parks Maintenance staff who worked long, tough days to provide safe travel routes for our citizens.



Best Regards,
Delora Kerber,
Public Works Director

Community Debris Drop Off Site

Concurrent to the debris removal work being done in the right-of-way by Public Works and Park Maintenance Staff, the City offered Wilsonville residents and business operators a no charge debris drop off site at the WES Transit Center parking lot. The site was open 8 am to 5 pm between February 17 and 28.

We collected over 24,000 cubic yards of loose trees, limbs and woody debris then using a super-sized tub grinder the debris was reduced to approximately half the amount of wood chips equivalent to the area of a football field piled 7 feet high with mulch.



Before—Full debris drop off site looking to the north



After —Chips remaining at the debris site looking to the west

Community Debris Drop Off Site

To ensure a smooth and safe operation, the site was staffed by Public Works and Parks personnel as well as other city employees to assist with traffic control through the area. The City is now making disposal arrangements.



Courtney Burdick directs traffic



Citizens unloading debris



Super-sized tub grinder making wood chips

Loader moving material on the debris drop off site



Roads

Debris Management

Public Works and Park Maintenance Staff joined forces to complete trimming hazardous limbs and removing tree debris from more than 80 lane miles of Wilsonville's arterial and collector roadways. The severe winter storm earlier this month damaged thousands of trees. As part of the Debris Management Plan, Public Works focused on the immediate clean-up of public hazards along major routes in the City.



Fallen tree in roadway



Tree trunks piled for chipping



A victim of the winter weather event

Stormwater

Answering the Call

The Stormwater crew jumped in to help with clearing streets of hazardous debris.



Clearing debris

In addition to removing debris from public right-of-way, stormwater staff assisted the Wastewater department. Due to a power outage at a lift station, staff had to transfer sewage to a different basin, using a bypass pump.



Jay Herber assisting at the lift station



Navigating winter road conditions

Facilities

Chipping Away at the Storm Debris



Operating the wood chipper

The Facilities team joined the efforts to clear hazards from public right-of-ways and City property, assisting with flagging traffic and operating chainsaws.



Facilities crew flagging traffic and cutting up limbs

Utilities—Wastewater

Sink Hole Repair Assistance

The Wastewater crew spent the majority of the month assisting the Stormwater department with a repair project and contributing to the cleanup efforts after the ice storm. The repair project was for a collapsed 24" pipe that created a sinkhole in a resident's backyard. The crew helped with cleaning out the pipe using the combination cleaning truck and assisting with flagging while a contractor replaced the section of pipe.



Miley Road Pipe Repair Project



Refueling the portable pump

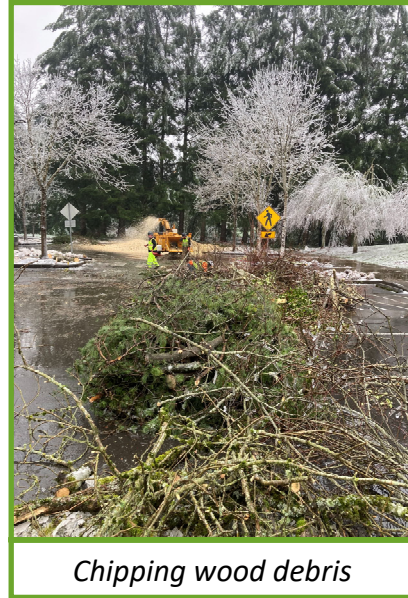
Lift Station Relief

The ice storm did not have any effect on the collections system piping but power was lost at two of the City lift stations that are maintained by Jacobs. The combination cleaning truck once again helped save the day by assisting with hauling loads of sewage from the pump station that was without power to a different collections basin until a temporary pump with a generator could be brought in to service the lift station.

Utilities—Water

Confirming Generator Operations

The Water crew also spent a majority of the month contributing to the cleanup efforts after the ice storm. They helped with operating equipment to move large piles of debris and worked with teams hauling branches and feeding them into chippers. When the ice storm first hit, they assessed all critical sites. The crew checked for damage and confirmed that all of the generators were running where power had been lost and ensured that all of the pumps were still operating properly.



Freeze Plate Replacement

During cold weather events, one of the most common repairs that the crew has to tackle is replacing freeze plates on water meters. When water inside a meter freezes, it expands and exerts pressure on the top and bottom of a meter base. In order to relieve this pressure there is a plate on the bottom of the meter called a 'freeze plate' or 'frost plate' that cracks because it is manufactured to fail at a lower pressure than the meter base casting. Fortunately, the crew only had a few freeze plates to replace and made sure to promptly take care of the repairs in order to restore water to the customers.

