



COUNCIL POLICY

Snow and Ice Control

Policy Title	Snow and Ice Control		
Policy Number	606	Approved Date	2005-02-14
Department	Engineering & Transportation Services	Last Amended	2026-10-05
Deputy Mayor Signature	"D. Bressey" (signed)	Last Reviewed	2026-10-05
		Signature Date	2026-10-06

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. The City of Grande Prairie (City) will manage snow and ice control program on City controlled roads, lanes, parking lots, sidewalks, pathways and Transit stops in the most efficient and effective manner in accordance with the established service level priorities, the City's [Traffic Bylaw C-1166](#) and the Municipal Government Act.
- 1.2. The intent of the snow and ice control program is to minimize the economic loss to the community, reduce the inconvenience and hazards of winter conditions for motorists and pedestrians, and facilitate the operation of Transit and Emergency Services, to the greatest degree practical and within available financial resources.
- 1.3. Snow and ice control services are not intended to eliminate all hazardous conditions but more to assist vehicles that are properly equipped for winter driving conditions and operated in a manner consistent with good winter driving habits and also to assist pedestrians walking with care and attention to winter conditions.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. This Policy is necessary to make a clear statement of the intent of the City's winter operations and establish the priorities and standards of the snow and ice control program given limited resources and unpredictable winter conditions. An effective and efficient snow and ice control program is necessary to allow the City to function under normal winter weather conditions, reduce snow and ice hazards and provide the public adequate mobility on all City controlled roads, lanes, parking lots, sidewalks, pathways and Transit stops.



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3. Definitions

In this policy:

- 3.1. **"City"** means the municipal corporation of The City of Grande Prairie, having authority under the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000 C. M-26 and other applicable legislation. Where context requires, City also means the area included within the municipal boundaries of the City.
- 3.2. **"Chief Operations Officer"** means the senior employee in the highest level of authority in the Operational Services Service Area of the City, or any service area substituted in its place, or their designate.
- 3.3. **"Communications Business Unit"** means the business unit in the City responsible for communication planning, media relations and community engagement.
- 3.4. **"Engineering & Transportation Services"** means the department in the City responsible for snow and ice control on City controlled roads, lanes, parking lots, sidewalks, pathways and Transit stops.
- 3.5. **"Environment & Parks Director"** means the senior employee in the highest level of authority in the Environment & Parks Department, or any department substituted in its place, or their designate.
- 3.6. **"Ice Control"** means apply abrasives and/or chemical de-icers to the surface of roads, lanes, parking lots, sidewalks, pathways and Transit stops to improve traction.
- 3.7. **"Priority 1"** means arterial roads defined by the Transportation Director as major roads carrying high traffic volumes and are generally four lane roads at one (1) mile or 1.61 kilometres spacing within City limits.
- 3.8. **"Priority 2"** means collector roads defined by the Transportation Director as roads that access arterial roads.
- 3.9. **"Priority 3"** means roads defined by the Transportation Director as roads in Industrial and commercial areas not identified as Priority 1 or 2.
- 3.10. **"Permanent Snow Routes"** means routes defined as Priority 1 or 2 in this policy. All snow routes shall be permanently signed under the authority of the City's [Traffic Bylaw C-1166](#).
- 3.11. **"Procurement & Supply Chain Management Department"** or **"PSCM Department"** means the department in the City responsible for the procurement of goods, services and construction for all City departments as a centralized service.
- 3.12. **"Residential Roads and Lanes"** means roads defined by the Transportation Director as roads or lanes in residential areas not identified as Priority 1 or 2.
- 3.13. **"Snow Plowing"** means pushing accumulated snow from roads, lanes, parking lots, sidewalks, pathways and Transit stops in order to maintain traffic flow and pedestrian travel.
- 3.14. **"Snow Removal"** means windrowing accumulated snow and loading onto trucks, for disposal at the City's snow dump or storage of snow on boulevards, cul-de-sacs, lanes or public utility lots.



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- 3.15. **"Temporary Snow Routes"** means routes as indicated on Schedule "5" Residential Snow Plowing – Schedule by Day Map, in this policy. Temporary snow routes shall be temporarily signed under the authority of the City's [Traffic Bylaw C-1166](#).
- 3.16. **"Transit Director"** means the senior employee in the highest level of authority in the Transit Services Department, or any department substituted in its place, or their designate.
- 3.17. **"Transit Routes"** means the route of Grande Prairie Transit services, updated from time to time.
- 3.18. **"Transportation Director"** means the senior employee in the highest level of authority in Engineering & Transportation Services or their designate.
- 3.19. **"Week A and Week B"** means neighbourhoods as indicated on Schedule "5" Residential Snow Plowing – Schedule by Day Map for the purpose of Residential Snow Clearing scheduling.

4. Service Levels

Service Levels shall be established for routes dependent on their priority ranking. It is expected that there will be extreme winter conditions where the immediate demand for snow and ice control service will exceed the available resources. In order to maximize the effectiveness of the available resources, snow and ice control services will be allocated as follows:

4.1. Arterial, Transit Routes, Commercial and Industrial Roads

4.1.1. Priority 1

- a. Description
 - i. Are arterial roads and primary access roads for Emergency Services as indicated on Schedule "2" Snow Plowing Priorities – Roads Map.
- b. Service Level
 - i. Routes will be plowed when there is sufficient snow accumulation for plowing to be effective.
 - ii. The time standard to meet this service level is within 24 hours after the end of the snowfall event.
 - iii. The intent is to maintain the driving lane clear of compact snow.
- c. Procedure
 - i. Snow will normally be plowed past the curb and stored on adjacent City owned boulevards.
 - ii. Certain areas will be plowed to the center of the road and stored in a windrow for later removal by truck.

4.1.2. Priority 2

- a. Description
 - i. Are collector roads as indicated on Schedule "2" Snow Plowing Priorities – Roads Map.



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- b. Service Level**
 - i. Routes will be plowed when there is sufficient snow accumulation for plowing to be effective and after Priority 1 roads are complete.
 - ii. The time standard to meet this service level is five (5) business days after Priority 1 roads are complete for plowing and ten (10) business days after Priority 1 roads are complete for windrow pickup.
 - iii. The intent is to maintain the driving lane with 2.5 cm or less of compact snow.
- c. Procedure**
 - i. Snow will be plowed to the center of the road and stored in a windrow for later removal by truck or plowed past the curb and stored on adjacent City owned boulevards.

4.1.3. Priority 3

- a. Description**
 - i. Are roads in commercial and industrial areas not identified as Priority 1 or 2, as indicated on Schedule "2" Snow Plowing Priorities – Roads Map.
- b. Service Level**
 - i. Routes will be plowed when there is sufficient snow accumulation for plowing to be effective and after Priority 1 roads are complete.
 - ii. The time standard to meet this service level is five (5) business days after Priority 1 roads are complete.
- c. Procedure**
 - i. Snow will be plowed past the curb and stored on adjacent City owned boulevards.
 - ii. Some areas will require the snow to be plowed to the center of the road and stored in a windrow for later removal by truck. Windrows across driveway openings will be cleared.

4.1.4. Communications

- a.** All communications on the snow and ice control program will be done through the Communications Business Unit.

4.1.5. Contractors

- a.** Engineering & Transportation Services will maintain a list of contractors to assist during Residential Snow Plowing or at any other time deemed necessary by the Transportation Director.
- b.** The PSCM Department will issue a RFP every three (3) years to establish the list of contractors.



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4.1.6. Downtown City Centre

- a. The Downtown City Centre roads are cleared by City Crews on nightshift. Service is initiated 24 hours after the snow event has ended. This allows business owners time to clear the snow from sidewalks into the parking lanes. The snow will be plowed to the center of the road and stored in a windrow for removal by truck on the same shift.
- b. Downtown lanes will be cleared on an as needed basis.
- c. Service Level is to complete clearing of snow from the Downtown City Centre in two (2) nightshifts.

4.1.7. Ice Control

- a. Ice Control will normally be carried out on all Priority 1, 2 and 3 roads on a continuous basis on weekdays and dayshift on weekends or operate 24 hours a day, 7 days per week from October 15 to April 15 if deemed necessary by the Transportation Director.
- b. Ice Control on Residential Roads, parking lots, sidewalks and pathways will be on an as needed basis.

4.1.8. Parking Bans and Snow Routes

- a. Parking bans will be declared when required by the Transportation Director, on Permanent Snow Routes, as indicated on Schedule "1" Permanent Snow Routes – No Parking Map, from November 15 until April 15 and will be in effect on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. until the declaration is ended.
- b. Permanent Snow Routes will be established along all Priority 1 and 2 routes.
- c. Parking bans on Temporary Snow Routes will be declared when required by the Transportation Director.
- d. Temporary Snow Routes will be established in Residential Areas and temporary signs will be erected.
- e. Vehicles parked on Permanent and Temporary Snow Routes when parking bans are declared will be subject to a fine and/or towed under the authority of the City's **Traffic Bylaw C-1166**.

4.1.9. Parking Lots

- a. Snow and Ice Control in City Parking Lots are identified on Schedule "6", City Maintained Parking Lots and are either Priority, Downtown Southside, Northside, Eastside and Westside as determined by the Transportation Director.
- b. Parking lot Snow Removal, as indicated on Schedule "6" City Maintained Parking Lots Listing, will be reviewed from time to time.
- c. Snow Plowing will be initiated when snowfall accumulation exceeds 10 cm.
- d. Ice Control in parking lots is conducted as required and determined by the Transportation Director.



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4.2. Residential Snow Plowing

4.2.1. Roads and paved lanes in residential neighborhoods will be plowed as follows:

- a. Snow Plowing service will commence within 24 hours after a major snow event or when 10 cm of snow has accumulated.
- b. The service will be on scheduled days in each neighborhood on the day before garbage collection day and identified as either Week A or Week B neighborhoods, as indicated on Schedule "4" Snow Plowing Priorities – Lanes Map and Schedule "5" Residential Snow Plowing – Schedule by Day Map. Snow Plowing will not normally take place on weekends therefore if Monday is garbage collection day, Friday is Snow Plowing day.
- c. Notice will be provided to local media, on social media and the City's website.
- d. Vehicles must be removed from the road and paved lanes or City crews may have to cancel the service if there are too many parked vehicles impeding safe and effective snow removal activities.
- e. Snow in residential areas may be stored in curbside lanes if necessary.
- f. Snow will be piled and stored in the center of cul-de-sacs.
- g. If there is a park on one side, all the snow will be plowed to the park side.
- h. The normal practice is not to cover sidewalks with snow removed from the road surface. Certain conditions will result in snow from the road covering or partially covering the sidewalk. This will be the responsibility of the property owner to remove under the authority of the City's [**Traffic Bylaw C-1166**](#).
- i. Notwithstanding subsection 4.2.1(h), when there are sidewalks on both sides of the road, snow will be pushed past the curb and stored on the City boulevard, covering the sidewalk on one side. The storage side will change based on the year - with odd numbered addresses receiving the snow on odd-numbered years and the even numbered addresses receiving snow on even-numbered years. Sidewalks covered in this manner are not the property owner's responsibility to clear.
- j. Sidewalks adjacent to City owned property, such as public utility lots, easements, parks, fire hydrants, catch basins, utility boxes, mailboxes and school bus stops will be cleared of snow during the Residential Snow Plowing operation.
- k. Windrows across driveway openings will be cleared during the Residential Snow Plowing operations.

4.2.2. Service Levels

- a. Service level for Residential is one (1) complete rotation of Residential Snow Plowing may take up to ten (10) business days depending on weather conditions and snowfall amounts. Week A neighbourhoods are cleared in the first five (5) business days of the rotation and Week B neighbourhoods are cleared in the next five (5) business days of the rotation.



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- b. Service levels will always be subject to the availability of equipment and personnel.

4.2.3. Sidewalks and Pathways

- a. Snow and Ice Control services on sidewalks and pathways are indicated on Schedule "3" Snow Plowing Priorities – Sidewalks and Pathways Map, are determined by the Transportation Director, and will be reviewed from time to time.
- b. Sidewalks adjacent to privately owned property are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner under the authority of the City's [Traffic Bylaw C-1166](#).
- c. Sidewalks adjacent to City owned property, such as public utility lots, easements and parks will be cleared of snow during the Residential Snow Plowing operation.
- d. Snow plowing will be initiated when there is sufficient snow accumulation for plowing to be effective.
- e. Ice Control on sidewalks is conducted as required and determined by the Transportation Director.
- f. Pathways within public utility lots and parks will not be plowed or cleared of ice unless these pathways are links between sidewalks and pathways under City responsibility.
- g. Service level for Sidewalks and Pathways is five (5) business days after the storm has ended.

4.3. Transit Stops

- 4.3.1. Snow clearing at Transit Stops is coordinated by the Environment & Parks Director and the Transit Director.
- 4.3.2. Transit Stops are identified as either P1 or P2 priorities as indicated on Schedule "7" Snow Plowing Priorities – Transit Stops.
- 4.3.3. Snow clearing will be initiated when there is sufficient snow accumulation for plowing to be effective.
- 4.3.4. Ice Control at Transit Stops is conducted as required and determined by the Transportation Director.
- 4.3.5. The Environment & Parks Director and Transit Director may reprioritize transit stops to adapt to changing demand.

4.4. Winter Season

- 4.4.1. Engineering & Transportation Services will be prepared to conduct snow and ice control operations 24 hours a day, 7 days per week from October 15 to April 15. Operations will commence when, in the opinion of the Transportation Director, conditions dictate.



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5. Responsibilities

- 5.1. City Council will review and approve any revisions to this policy.
- 5.2. City Manager will review and approve any procedures related to this policy.
- 5.3. City Administration will carry out this policy based on established procedures.
- 5.4. The Transportation Director will develop and initiate internal procedures relating to the day-to-day implementation of this Policy and declare parking bans on Permanent and Temporary Snow Routes.

6. Attachments

- 6.1. See Schedule "1", Permanent Snow Routes – No Parking
- 6.2. See Schedule "2", Snow Plowing Priorities – Roads
- 6.3. See Schedule "3", Snow Plowing Priorities – Sidewalks and Pathways
- 6.4. See Schedule "4", Snow Plowing Priorities – Lanes
- 6.5. See Schedule "5", Residential Snow Plowing – Schedule by Day
- 6.6. See Schedule "6", City Maintained Parking Lots
- 6.7. See Schedule "7", Snow Plowing Priorities – Transit Stops

7. Version History

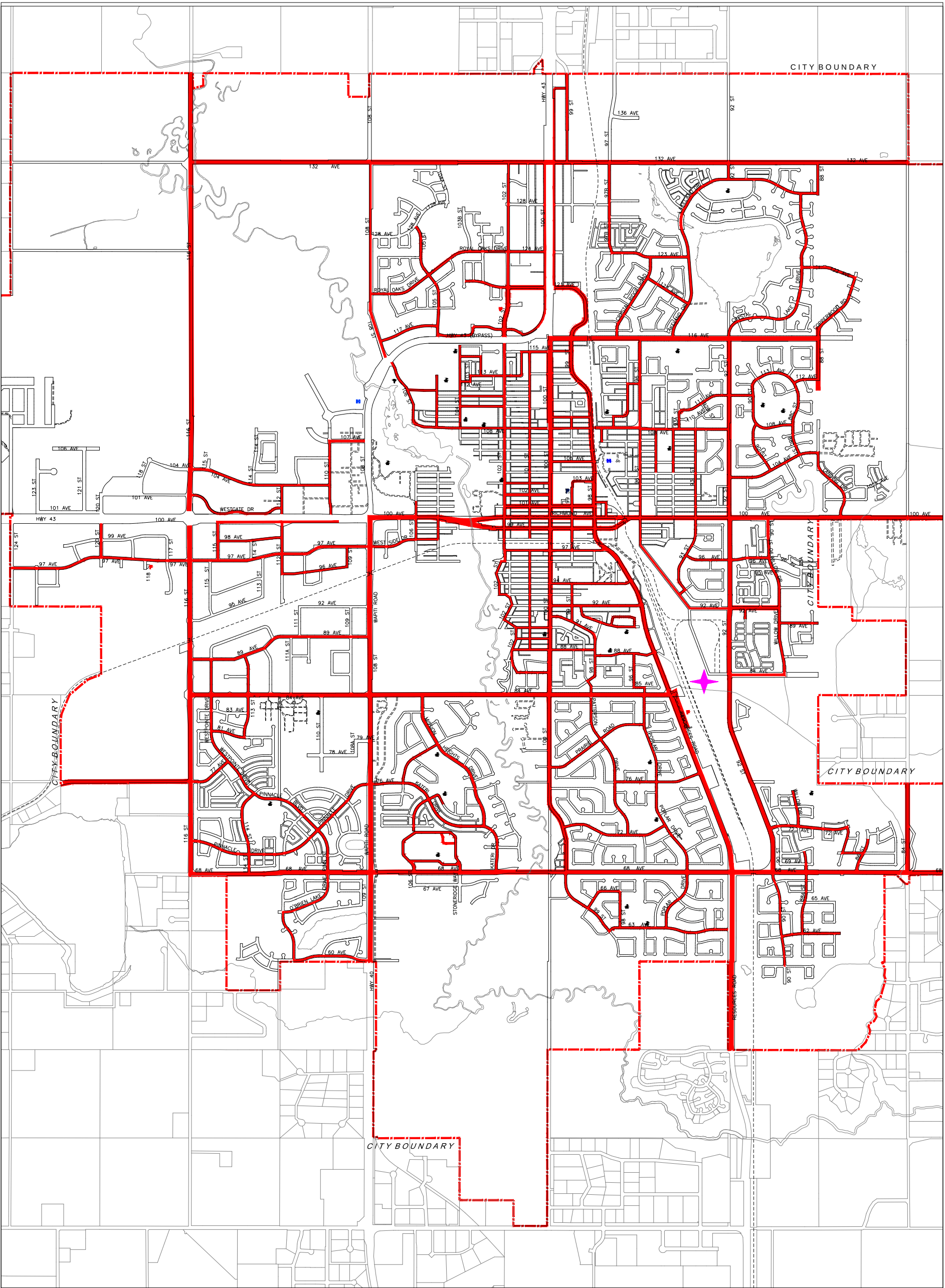
Action	Date	Description
New Policy	2005-02-14	
Revision	2010-03-08	
Revision	2011-10-03	
Revision	2014-06-30	
Revision	2021-07-12	
Revision	2022-12-12	



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Revision	2026-10-05	New template. Reorganization definitions added and applied. Added provisions on how snow is cleared and stored in residential areas. Updated Schedules 5 and 6.
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LEGEND

- Permanent Snow Routes
- City Boundary
- Fire Hall
- Hospital
- Future Hospital
- Police
- School Location
- Future School Location
- Visitor Information Centre
- Snow Dump Site

THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

SCHEDULE "1"

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY 606

Approved February 14, 2005 - Revised June 30, 2014

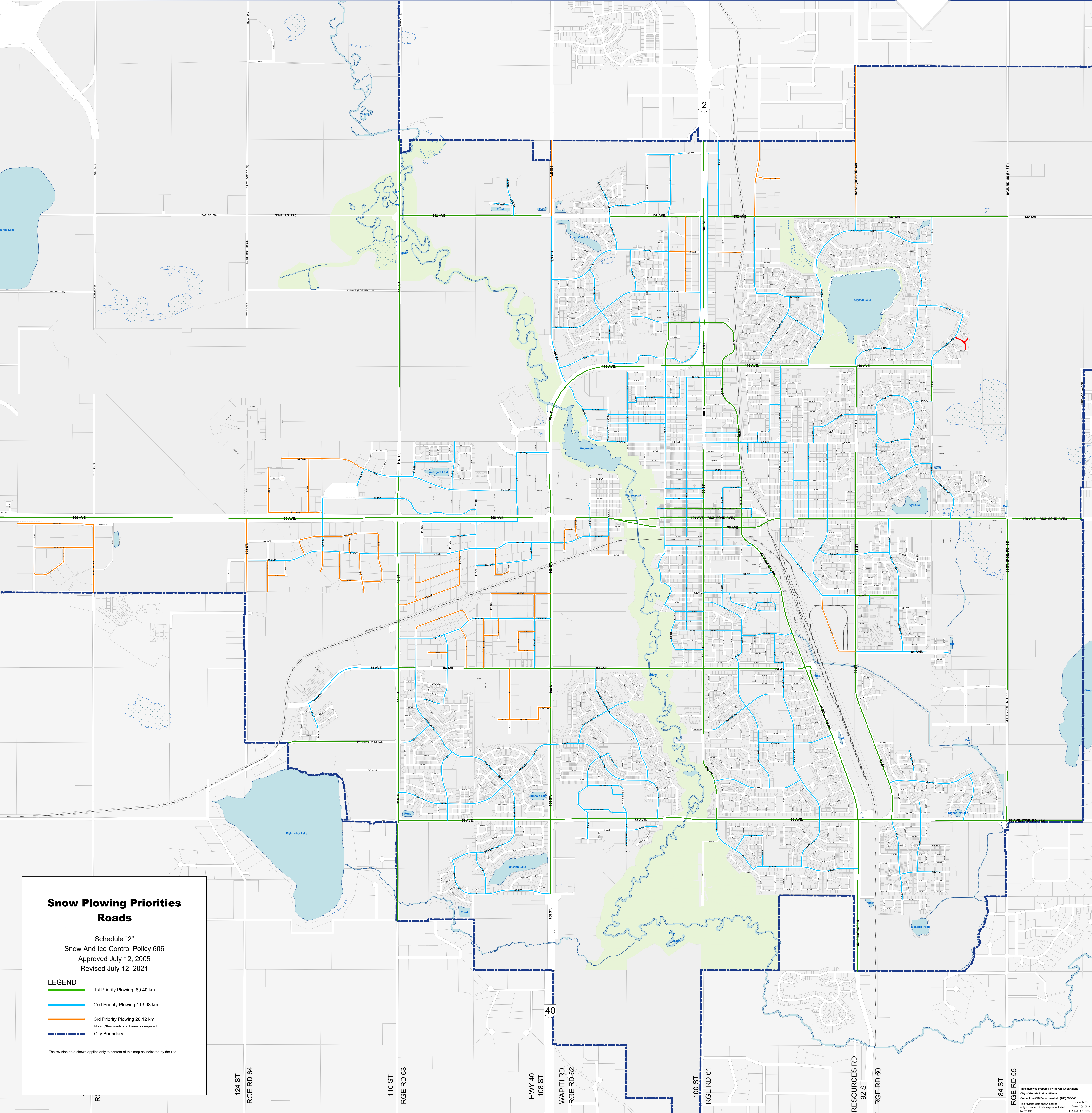
PERMANENT SNOW ROUTES - NO PARKING

NOVEMBER 15 TO APRIL 15

The content of this map as indicated by the title is current to the revision date in the lower right corner. The data shown does not reflect the revision date of the background data.

This map was prepared by the GIS DEPARTMENT, City of Grande Prairie, ALBERTA. For additional copies or information, contact GIS DEPARTMENT at : (780) 538-0461.

Scale: 1:1.5
Date: 14/06/20
File No: C09225 11x17



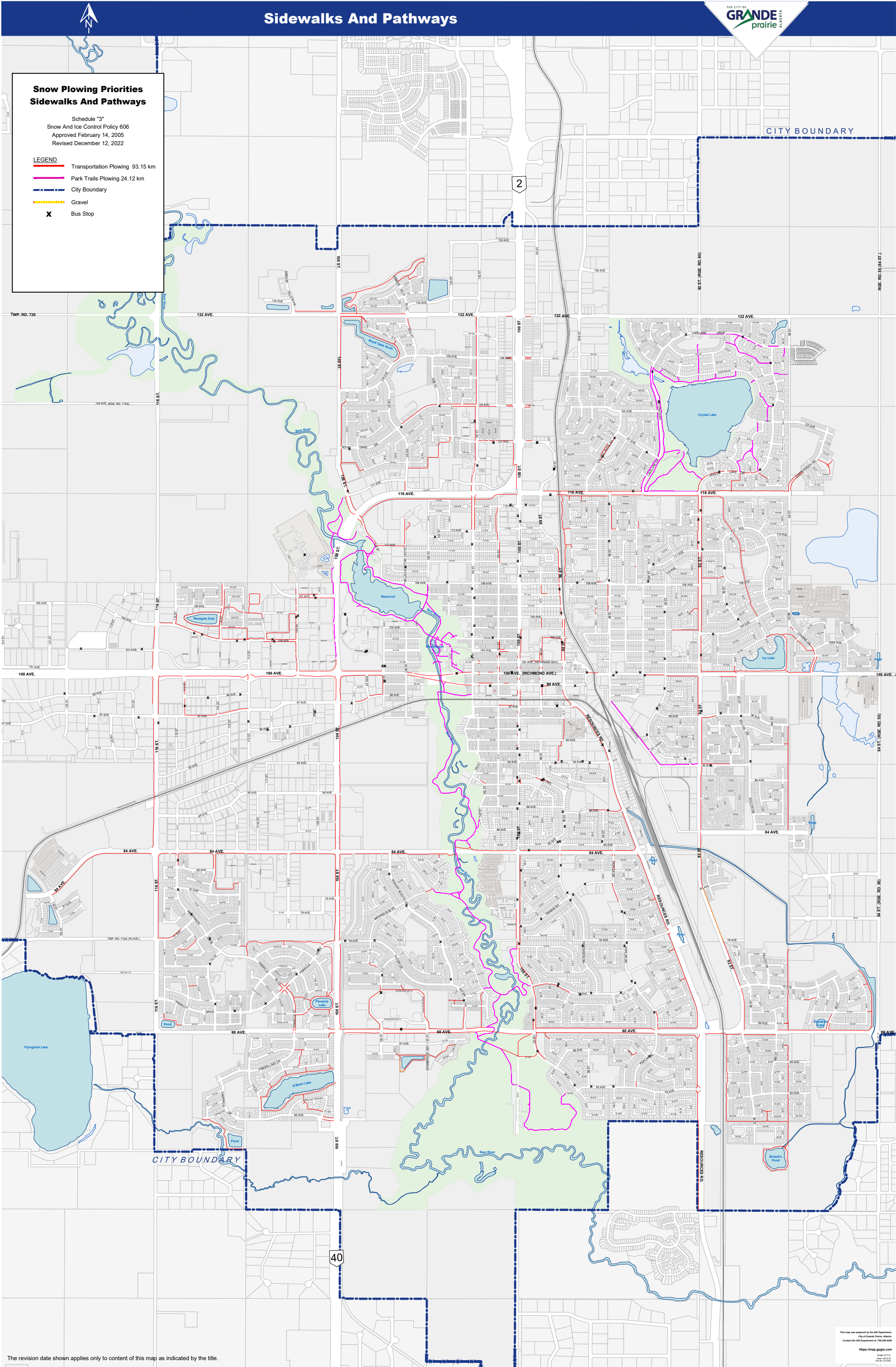
Sidewalks And Pathways

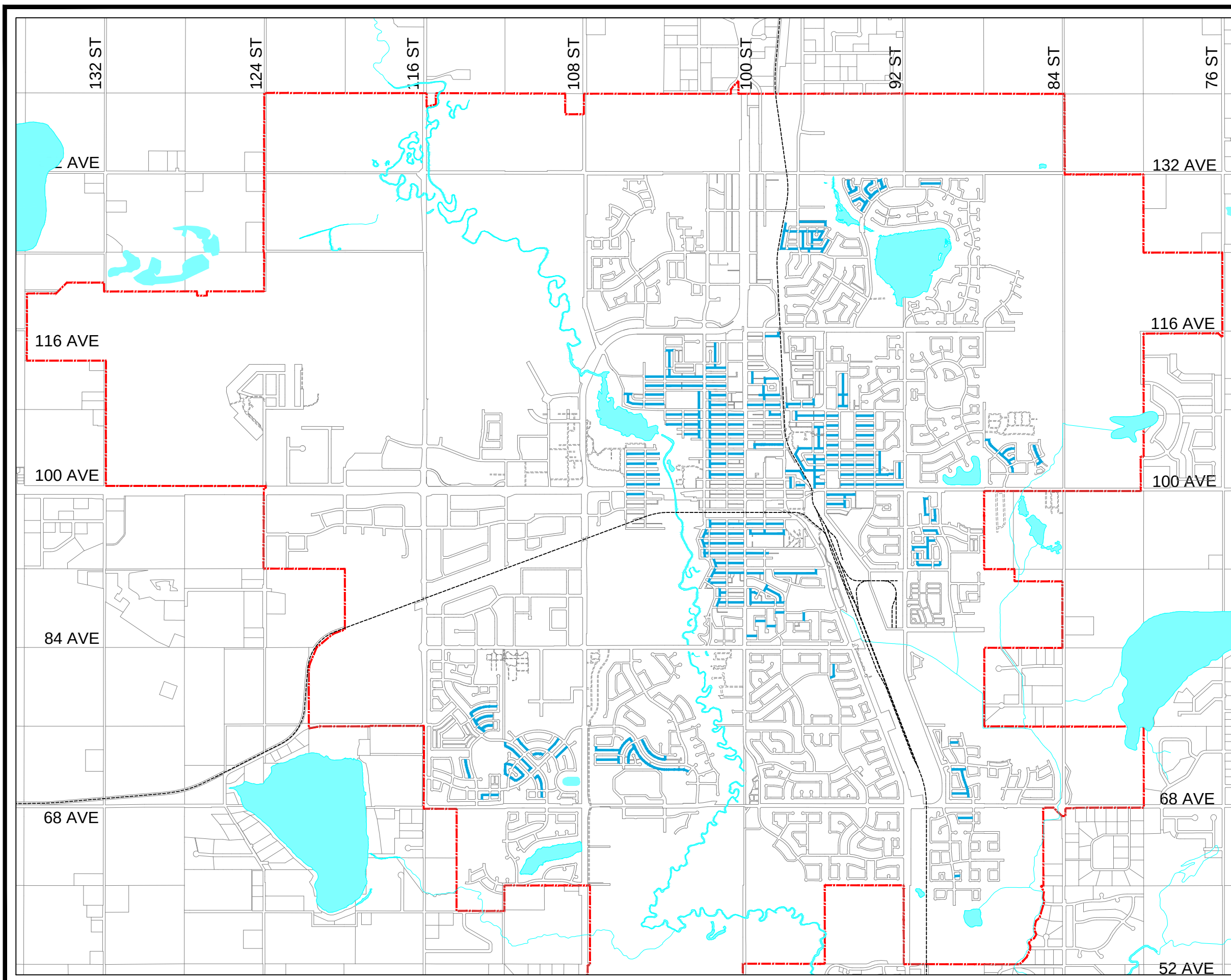
Snow Plowing Priorities
Sidewalks And Pathways

Schedule "3"
Snow And Ice Control Policy 606
Approved February 14, 2005
Revised December 12, 2022

LEGEND

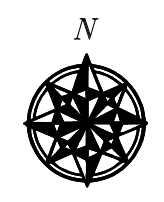
- Transportation Plowing 93.15 km
- Park Trails Plowing 24.12 km
- City Boundary
- Gravel
- Bus Stop





THE CITY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

SCHEDULE "4"
SNOW AND ICE CONTROL POLICY 606
Approved February 14, 2005 - Revised June 30, 2014
SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES
LANES

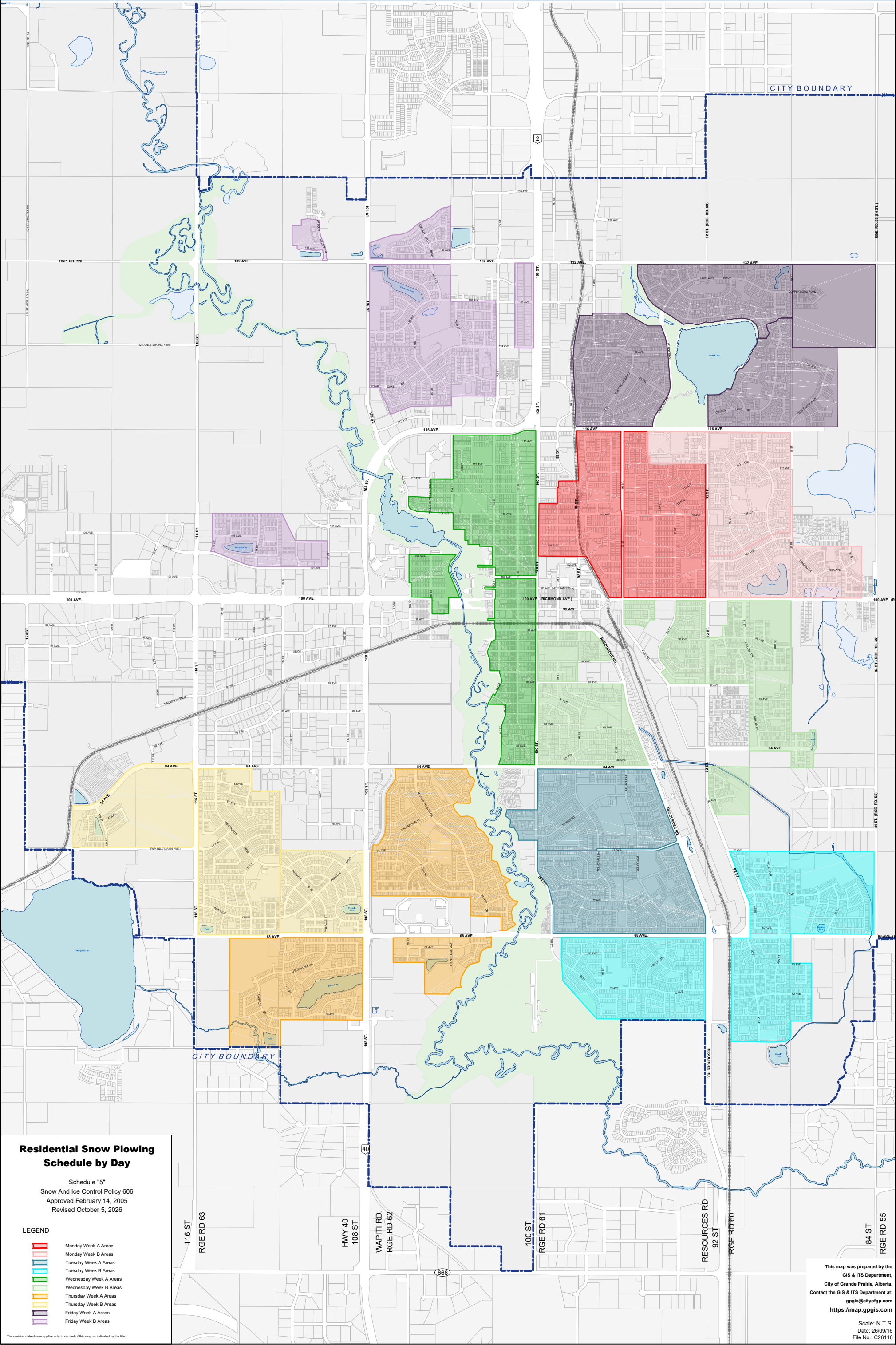


LEGEND
Snow Plowing - Lanes 35.82 km
City Boundary

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Residential Snow Plowing by Day





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Schedule "6": Transportation Services City Maintained Parking Lots

Location		Cleared	Sanded	Loaded
Priority				
West Firehall				
South Firehall				
North Firehall				
GPPS - Main				
Downtown				
Bonnetts Energy Centre	East			
	West			
	South			
	North			
City Hall	North			
	South			
City on 99				
GPPS Overflow				
Centre for Creative Arts				
Famers' Market				
Montrose Centre				
Community Village				
Pace Centre				
Old School Board				
Public Parking by Curling Rink	Beside			
	Across			
Public Parking by Fred's				
Town Centre Mall	East			
	West			
Wapiti House				
Muskoseepi Park	East			
	Main			
	South			

Location		Cleared	Sanded	Loaded
Southside				
Parkside – 88 Ave				
D-Coy Armouries				
Dave Barr				
South Bear Creek				
Community Knowledge Campus	Main			
	Employee			
	South			
	Design Works			
	Football			
Northside				
Centre 2000				
Maskwoteh				
Masonic Hall				
Crystal Lake Park				
Leisure Centre	North			
	South			
	Soccer			
	Back Lane			
Cedar Point	North			
	South			
Soccer Dome				
Eastside				
Hillside				
Army & Navy				
Keyera Place				
Westside				
Regional Pound & Bandaged Paws				
City Service Centre	Main			
	East			
	West			
	Yard			



Snow Clearing Transit Stops

CITY BOUNDARY

