



Councillor Brief  
**Parks Winter Operations**  
2025-2026

## Overview

Parks Operations performs winter maintenance that includes clearing snow and de-icing in the following locations:

- Four-season parking lots
- Community centres, arenas, libraries and/or bookable City facilities
- Trails and walkways that serve a transportation link for local communities

## Snow Clearing Guidelines

The size and intensity of a snowstorm dictate the time required to treat and clear facilities, parking lots, and pathways.

- **Plowing is triggered when 5cm or more of snow accumulates.**
- If snow accumulation is less than 5cm, facilities are salted.

Location	Less than 5 cm of Snow	5 to 15 cm of Snow	16 to 30 cm of Snow	More than 30 cm of snow or Back-to-Back Storms
Pathways and Parking Lots adjacent to Community Centres, Arenas, Libraries etc.	Salted within 12 hours after snowfall ends	Plowed and salted within 12 hours after snowfall ends	Plowed and salted within 24 hours after snowfall ends	Timelines may be extended if the City declares a significant weather event. Timing resets once the event concludes.
Park Trails and Pathways serving as Transportation Links	Salted within 24 hours after snowfall ends	Plowed and salted within 24 hours after snowfall ends	Plowed and salted within 36 hours after snowfall ends	



## Winter Salt and Brine

Parks Operations uses rock salt, or sodium chloride, during salting. In anticipation of a snow event, Parks Operations may use brine to pre-treat priority locations, such as community centres and arena parking lots, a few days ahead of the incoming event. Brine is a solution of water and salt and is sprayed on the parking lots which makes it harder for ice to form and makes parking lots easier to plow.



## Parking Lot Closures

Seasonal parking lots (including gravel lots and lots adjacent to seasonal facilities) are closed during the winter period.

Parking lots are closed prior to the first significant snowfall. Signs will be posted notifying the public of the closure and parking lot gates may also be utilized.

### Winter Service Levels for Sanitation

During the winter season, sanitation operations adapt to ensure serviceable waste management in parks and facilities. Seasonal receptacles are reallocated from placements like sports fields, playgrounds, and interior trails, to accessible locations like Park frontages and trailheads.

Classification	Locations	Frequency
Priority 1	Destination Parks and Trails	2x per week
Priority 2	Community Parks	1x per week
Special Requirements	Cooksville Four Corners	3x per week

To ensure safe access to key facilities, sanitation operations will **pause during plow operations** to prioritize winter maintenance efforts. This allows resources to focus on clearing trails, parking lots, and other priority areas.

Sanitation services will resume once plow operations are complete, ensuring continued waste management while maintaining public safety during and after snow events.

### Port Credit Memorial Park Skating Path, Gulleden and Celebration Square Outdoor Skating Rink

Parks Operations is pleased to announce the opening of the Gulleden Outdoor Skating Rink, Port Credit Memorial Park Skating Path and the Celebration Square Outdoor Skating Rink for the upcoming winter season.

#### Operating Hours:

- Daily: 10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

#### Holiday Hours:

- Christmas Eve (December 24, 2025): 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- Christmas Day (December 25, 2025): Noon - 6:00 PM
- New Year’s Eve (December 31, 2025): 10:00 AM - 11:00 PM
- New Year’s Day (January 1, 2026): Noon - 8:00 PM

The skating facilities offer safe, family-friendly outdoor recreation for residents and visitors.

## Volunteer Ice Rink Program

Natural ice rinks are located at parks across Mississauga. They open in late December or January, depending on weather conditions. The rinks are maintained throughout the season by resident volunteers. Residents apply to volunteer every year beginning in October. Parks Operations will provide supplies including boards, shovels, hoses, ice picks and signage.

Since 2020, over 700 volunteers have participated in the natural ice rink program. 28 natural ice rinks were maintained in 2025, with locations in nine of eleven wards. For more information, please visit the City's [outdoor ice rink website](#).

This winter, Parks Operations is piloting a temporary refrigeration system for the outdoor rink at Streetsville Memorial Park. Volunteers and Park Staff will work together to deliver an outdoor rink that will extend the skating season and provide improved ice quality to residents.

