



WaterMatters

Water meter upgrades

The City of Ann Arbor is replacing water meters in the city as they have come to the end of their useful life, while at the same time the city is performing inspections on water lines for compliance with the State of Michigan's new Lead and Copper rules. While the COVID-19 pandemic creates new steps to protect staff and the public, this effort must continue as it is vital in ensuring the ability to deliver safe drinking water to our customers.

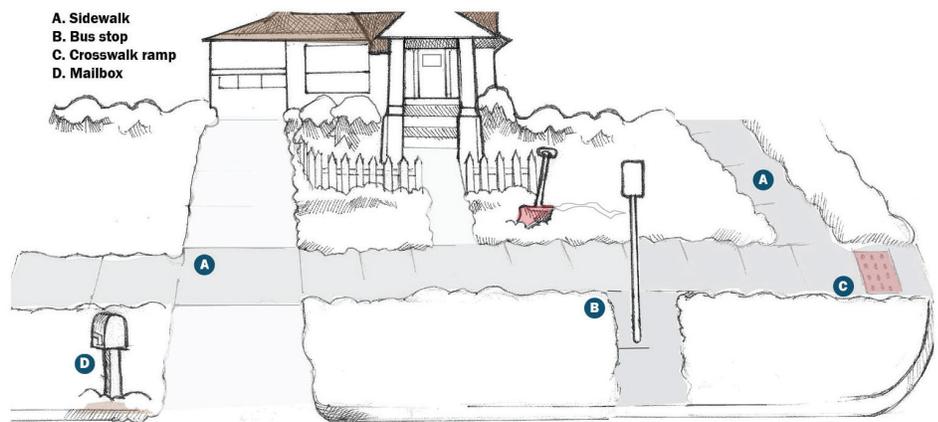
The city knows the trepidation some might feel letting contractors into your place of business or residence. The contractor for this project, UMS, is taking precautions to keep you, your employees and family members safe by following strict COVID-19 safety procedures. These steps include:

- Physical distancing.
- Face coverings.
- Use of gloves.
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting of equipment.
- Daily temperature checks and screening.

We understand that some may still feel uncomfortable scheduling an appointment at this time. If so, please contact UMS, using the contact information in the letter you will receive, to request temporarily delaying the installation. For details on the project, including an informational video, please visit www.a2gov.org/meterupgrade.

Snow and ice management reminders

Property owners are responsible for removing and/or treating snow/ice on sidewalks, crosswalk ramps and bus stops with concrete pads adjacent to their property. Everyone is encouraged to be on the lookout for ways to help their neighbors clear sidewalks, especially during difficult times. By doing so, we can create a safer and more walkable community that helps each of us to travel, exercise and keep safe distances. Let's care for one another this winter.



Residential property

Within 24-hours, any accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch must be cleared by the owner or occupant from adjacent sidewalks (A), concrete bus stop walks (B) and crosswalk ramps (C). Any ice accumulations must be treated within 18-hours of forming with sand, salt or other substance, to prevent it from becoming slippery. The city is not responsible for clearing mailboxes (D) of snow and/or ice.

Non-residential property

All snow and ice which has accumulated prior to 6 a.m. on a sidewalk adjacent to property not zoned residential shall be removed by the owner or occupant by noon the same day. The owner or occupant of the property shall also remove snow and ice from walks and ramps that are at bus stops or that lead to a marked or unmarked crosswalk. Provided that when ice has so formed upon any sidewalk, walk or ramp that it cannot be removed, then the owner or occupant shall keep the same effectively sprinkled with sand, salt or other suitable substance in such manner as to prevent the ice from being dangerous, until such time as it can be removed, and then it shall be promptly removed. Find more information about snow and ice management at www.a2gov.org/snow.

When the snow melts, where does it go?

We see snow fall then melt in Ann Arbor. But where does it go? The city's new stormwater explainer video, available at www.a2gov.org/storm, describes how Ann Arbor handles stormwater, including melting snow and ice, how infrastructure is built and maintained, how it is paid for and how the city plans for the future. It is all about being Stormwater Smart.



No silver bullet for clearing snow and ice

Winter means slippery driveways, walkways and sidewalks. This season also brings products and home mixtures that promise to keep surfaces safe and dry. Ultimately each de-icing option has benefits, limitations and drawbacks.

Salt can be the least expensive and most abundant material for ridding surfaces of ice, but its effectiveness drops as surfaces fall below 18 degrees Fahrenheit and overuse can pollute water supplies.

There are all kinds of non-toxic materials available for purchase, which if you have pets, can be a good choice. Some solutions, like products containing calcium chloride (CaCl₂), can melt snow at lower temperatures, is less harmful to plants and animals, but eats into metal and concrete. In addition, CaCl₂ binds to water and can't be separated, which has the potential to cause environmental impacts, such as harm to water quality.

Products that contain potassium acetate can block ice from forming at very low temperatures, are noncorrosive and biodegradable, however, these products lower oxygen levels in water and can harm fish and plants in our waterways.

Some find various brines to help prevent ice from sticking to surfaces, while others use a bit of sugar in their salt to lower the temperature at which it's effective. When in doubt, the best course of action is to use as little de-icer as possible and, if feasible, use physical means to remove ice or snow.

Ann Arbor celebrates virtual grand opening of Allen Creek Berm Stormwater Mitigation and Flood Control Project with new video

The City of Ann Arbor recently debuted a new video, available at www.a2gov.org/allencreekberm, as a way to virtually commemorate the official grand opening and completion of construction on the \$9.4 million Allen Creek Berm Project. This is the largest stormwater management and flood mitigation project in city history.

"I'd like to welcome you to this virtual grand opening of our Stormwater Smart campaign's Allen Creek Berm project," Ann Arbor Mayor Christopher Taylor says in the video. "This is an incredibly exciting municipal project, multimillion dollar, years in the making. It addresses two really important municipal goals: stormwater and flood protection mitigation as well as promotion of nonmotorized transportation," the mayor adds.

The city produced the 90-second video instead of holding a traditional ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The video includes aerial drone footage and additional video that highlight the project's landscaping and safety improvements. For example, the Allen Creek Berm tunnel pedestrian pathway, in combination with new fencing, for the first time, provides nonmotorized users safe passage under the Amtrak railroad tracks.

