

Street Sweeping Information

Sweeping all our roads in the spring after a long winter is one of our bigger challenges. Each town resident would like their street swept first, but with just under 60 miles of paved roads and one piece of equipment, it takes nearly 2 months to cover the entire town. This equipment is also used to clean all the town parking lots and town facilities such as the water plants, wastewater plant, municipal center, etc.

Sweeping is really the wrong term. Our sweeper is a vacuum truck with side and center brooms to loosen the winter sand and other debris. We are using a 2005 a Johnston sweeper on a Freightliner chassis. It takes several passes on each side of our streets to remove all the winter road sand that builds up during 5-6 months of winter. This truck must also make many stops to empty the hopper and refill with water. The water is used to control dust.

Our Schedule

The first streets cleaned each spring is a core area of about 25 roads that include Main Street, Canal Street, Putney Road, Western Avenue, Linden Street, and other connecting roads in the Downtown area. This core area is always swept first and is also cleaned about once a week throughout the summer. We next divide the remaining town roads into three sectors, the North end, South end and the West end. These are rotated on a three year cycle so that each sector is swept first one year, in the middle the next and the last to be swept once every third year. We have been doing this for many years and seems the fairest to all our residents. On most Saturdays, the sweeper and a small crew work a 6-8 hour day cleaning the municipal parking lots. The sweeper also puts in additional time for special events such as a parade, cleaning the route both before and after its conclusion.