

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Mayor Diane Wolfe Marlin, Members of City Council and City Staff**

**FROM: Bill Brown, Chair, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission**

**DATE: July 2, 2019**

**RE: BPAC recommendation to expand sidewalk snow removal districts**

### **Background**

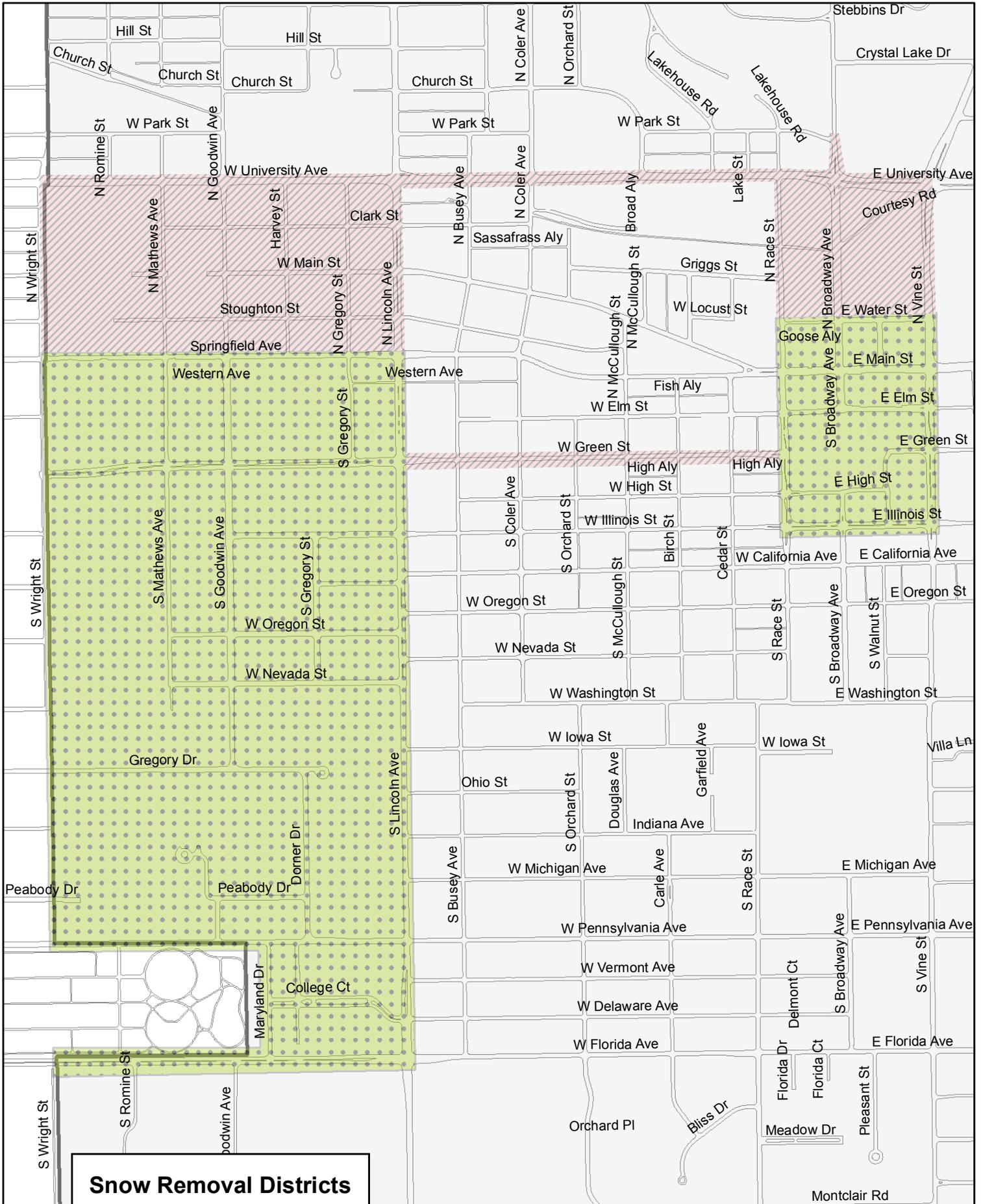
The City of Urbana currently has three snow removal districts where adjacent property owners need to remove snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours after the public works director declares an event, triggered by a snowfall of 2 inches or more or dangerous accumulation of ice. Those districts are 1) the downtown district, 2) the University district, and 3) the Philo Road District.

Since passage of the snow removal ordinance in 2011, the City has seen extensive development of northern downtown (Gateway Shoppes, Broadway Food Hall, 25 O'clock Brewery, CU Adventures in Time and Space, Culver's, etc.) as well as several new and planned high density residential developments along University Avenue near campus. We are also seeing multimillion dollar investments in state and local funds to improve pedestrian safety and transit usage along Green Street with the MCORE project and University Avenue improvements.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission has held several discussions on the opportunity to improve pedestrian safety and winter usability of our downtown and other commercial and high density residential areas by expanding the snow removal districts. Please review the attached communication from the Commission, approved at our June meeting. We hope the City Council will consider this recommendation and work toward implementation of expanded districts for the coming winter.

### Attachments:

- Map of proposed changes
- BPAC Resolution



**Snow Removal Districts**

- Existing
- Proposed

BPAC Recommendation June, 2019

## **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL DISTRICTS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Urbana Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (the Commission) was established by the Urbana City Council on June 16, 2006 and is authorized under Urbana City Code Chapter 23 Article X1, Sections 23-146 through 23-150; and

**WHEREAS**, duties of the Commission include advising the mayor and City Council on pedestrian issues and recommending actions as it deems appropriate; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2011, the Urbana City Council passed an ordinance to establish snow removal districts for downtown, campus and Philo Road, and provided for abatement procedures, authorized under Urbana City Code Chapter 11, Article IV, Division 4; and

**WHEREAS**, the Urbana City Council found at that time that it was in the best interests of the City and its citizens to protect pedestrian health, safety, and welfare by requiring property owners to remove snow and ice accumulations from public sidewalks adjacent to their properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission held public discussion on the need and potential for expansion of the snow removal districts on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission noted that pedestrian activity in the northern part of downtown has increased with the build-out of Gateway Shoppes, Broadway Food Hall, the Boneyard Creek Park, CU Adventures, Culver's and other businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Urbana Park District already clears routes along Crystal Lake Park and has added a new multiuse path connecting Broadway to Carle Hospital along Park Street, as well as the path along Broadway to the north; and

**WHEREAS** , Green Street and University Avenue are both under renovation to greatly enhance pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission now finds that a recommendation for expansion of the sidewalk snow removal districts is appropriate;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS**, as follows:

**Section 1.**

The City should take up consideration for expansion of snow removal districts to include, at a minimum, the following:

- a) Change the northern boundary of the Downtown District from Water Street to University Avenue.
- b) Include a portion of Broadway Avenue north of University to Park Street.
- c) Change the northern boundary of the Campus District from Springfield to University Avenue.
- d) Add two corridors consisting of both sides of University Avenue and Green Street, from the Downtown District to the Campus District.

**PASSED BY THE CITY OF URBANA BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY**

**COMMISSION** this 18th day of June, 2019.



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Bill Brown, Chair