

Winter Storm Watch in effect for New Bedford beginning Thursday, February 18; Parking Ban Update

- Emergency parking ban effective at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18.
- Buttonwood Park Zoo and libraries closed Friday, Feb. 19.

The National Weather Service has issued a Winter Storm Watch or Southeastern Massachusetts including New Bedford in effect from 7:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 18 through 7:00 a.m. on Friday, February 19. The National Weather Service predicts total snow accumulations of 4 to 8 inches. Storm conditions are expected to make travel difficult during parts of the storm, impacting the commute on both Thursday and Friday.

Citywide Snow Emergency Parking Ban Effective at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18.

In preparation for the approaching snowstorm, the City of New Bedford has announced a citywide snow emergency parking ban to take effect at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 18. The parking ban will be strictly enforced and will remain in effect for 48-hours thereafter, unless lifted or further extended by City officials. The parking ban is designed to allow City workers to efficiently remove snow from New Bedford roadways to permit public safety vehicles and residents to travel safely.

While the snow emergency parking ban is in effect, parking is permitted on the north side of all streets going east and west, and is permitted on the east side of all streets going north and south. The permitted side of the street is typically the side opposite of the fire hydrants.

Please note that on streets which are normally posted for parking on one side of the street only, residents are to obey the signs as usual.

Vehicles should never be parked within ten (10) feet of a fire hydrant or twenty (20) feet from a corner as required by law, regardless of whether a snow ban is in effect, or not.

Double-sided Parking Ban Areas To increase public safety during storm events, the areas designated for a double-sided parking ban include sections of five streets (listed below), in addition to the Downtown and Acushnet Avenue Business Districts where a double-sided ban has been in place in years past.

The street sections were selected because they are major routes for ambulances, school buses, and SRTA buses, and have a history of large vehicles being unable to successfully navigate due to the narrowness of the street.

During a snow emergency parking ban, no parking is therefore permitted on either side of the street in the following areas:

- Wood St (Acushnet Ave to Belleville Ave)
- Acushnet Ave (Tarkiln Hill Rd to Coggeshall St)
- Nash Rd (Acushnet Ave to Belleville Ave)
- Ashley Blvd (Nash Rd to Coggeshall St)
- County St (Purchase St to Cove Rd)
- Cottage St (Durfee St to Union St)
- Mill St (Kempton St to Pleasant St)
- Kempton St (Brownell Ave to Pleasant St)
- The Downtown Business District (County St to JFK Blvd, Kempton St to Walnut St)
- Dartmouth St (Allen St to Matthew St)
- Rivet St (Dartmouth St to JFK Blvd)

Map and information on parking bans are available at:
<http://www.newbedfordma.gov/traffic/snowbans/>.

Violations of the snow emergency parking ban will be subject to ticketing at \$50 per ticket and towing at full cost to the owner of the vehicle towed. The vehicle owner is also responsible for the full cost of storage for any towed vehicle. The City of New Bedford has designated the following areas as preferred parking areas for those residents in need of off-street parking while the emergency snow parking ban is in effect:

- Victory Park – Brock Avenue
- Hazelwood Park – Brock Avenue
- Cove Street Parking Lot – Cove Street and Morton Court
- Orchard Street at Camara Soccer Field
- Buttonwood Park Parking Area – Hawthorn Street Side and Lake Street Side
- Coggeshall Street Parking Lot – Coggeshall Street and Acushnet Avenue
- Sawyer Street Parking Lot – Between Sawyer Street and Beetle Street
- Brooklawn Park Parking Area – Brooklawn Street (South Side)
- Riverside Park Lot – Coffin Avenue
- Coffin Avenue Lot- Across from Taber Mills Apartments
- Former AVX site on Belleville Avenue at Hadley Street
- Former Philips Avenue School – 249 Phillips Avenue
- Elm Street Garage
- Zeiterion Garage – 688 Purchase Street
- New Bedford High School – 230 Hathaway Boulevard
- Keith Middle School – 225 Hathaway Boulevard
- Normandin Middle School – 81 Felton Street
- Roosevelt Middle School – 119 Fredrick Street
- Charles S Ashley Elementary School – 122 Rochambeau Street
- Elizabeth Carter Brooks Elementary School – 212 Nemasket Street
- Elwyn G Campbell Elementary School – 145 Essex Street
- Sgt Wm H Carney Academy Elementary School – 247 Elm Street
- Lot at intersection of Elm and Cottage (Southeast Corner)
- James B Congdon Elementary School – 50 Hemlock Street

- John B DeValles Elementary School – 120 Katherine Street
- Alfred J Gomes Elementary School – 286 South Second Street
- Ellen R Hathaway Elementary School – 256 Court Street
- Hayden/McFadden Elementary School – 361 Cedar Grove Street
- Horatio A Kempton Elementary School – 135 Shawmut Avenue
- Abraham Lincoln Elementary School – 445 Ashley Boulevard
- Carlos Pacheco Elementary School – 261 Mt. Pleasant Street
- John Avery Parker Elementary School – 705 County Street
- Casimir Pulaski Elementary School – 1097 Braley Road
- Thomas R Rodman Elementary School – 497 Mill Street
- William H Taylor Elementary School – 620 Brock Avenue
- SEA LAB/John Hannigan Elementary School – 91 Portland Street
- Jireh Swift Elementary School – 2203 Acushnet Avenue
- Betsey B Winslow Elementary School – 561 Allen Street

Libraries and Buttonwood Park Zoo – Closed Thursday and Friday

The public libraries and Buttonwood Park Zoo will be closed on Thursday, February 18 and Friday, February 19, due to the storm. Senior centers are closed due to the pandemic.

New Bedford Regional Airport

New Bedford Regional Airport will remain in operation unless otherwise announced. Passengers should contact their air carriers directly to confirm their flight status because widespread cancellations are expected.

Sand Available to City Residents at Several Locations

The Department of Public Infrastructure has made sand available to city residents at several locations throughout the city. Residents are advised to bring their own small container to collect the sand at any of the following locations:

- Corner of Liberty Street and Smith Street
- Brooklawn Park next to Brooklawn Senior Center
- Morse Twist Drill site (Pleasant Street side)

State-run COVID-19 Testing Sites: Potential for Change to Schedules

The Stop the Spread COVID-19 testing sites administered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in New Bedford have announced changes to their schedules.

SevenHills testing site at the former Fire Station 11 on Brock Avenue will remain open on Thursday, February 18 but will be closed on Friday, February 19.

Project Beacon's appointment-only testing site at the Whale's Tooth Parking will remain open on Thursday, February 18. The Whale's Tooth site will open at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19.