Forbes Park Landowners Association

100 Forbes Park Road Fort Garland, CO 81133

Winter in the Park

Weather/Road Conditions

In the office, we field many questions about the current weather and road conditions. The weather in Forbes Park can be similar to La Veta and Cuchara; however, as we all find out, the weather can be extremely unpredictable and vary greatly from one end of the park to the other. It is critical to be aware of the current weather conditions and the weather forecasts. Below are several useful links which can be used to monitor the weather/road conditions in our area:

- https://www.weather.gov/
- https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/la-veta-co/81055/weather-forecast/337425
- https://www.wunderground.com/forecast/us/co/cuchara
- https://www.cotrip.org/home.htm - CDOT Road Conditions

Winter Preparedness & YOUR Responsibility

It is essential for landowners to be well-informed, proactive, and prepared to face any winter weather. When conditions worsen, we strongly urge residents to implement Winter Preparedness measures, which can often mean taking actions like sheltering in place. To gain additional insight regarding actions to be taken to stay safe during a winter storm, we recommend landowners to review the Red Cross website. It is your responsibility to keep yourself and your family safe during the winter.

Vehicle Winter Preparedness Kit

When you venture out onto the roads, it is important for your vehicle to have a Winter Emergency kit because even in the park cell phone service can be unreliable. At a minimum, we recommend keeping the following list of items in your vehicle during the winter season:

- Shovel
- Blanket(s)/jacket(s) and warm gear
- Water and food provisions
- Flashlight, portable radio, and batteries
- First-Aid kit
- Medications
- Phone charger and/or power bank
- Bag of material that "grips" in snow (sand, cat litter, ash, etc.)

The importance of preparedness cannot be underestimated. If you've already implemented these measures and practices, your cooperation is appreciated. If you have not already done so, please review the resources provided and, for your own safety and well-being, we thank you for your attention and adherence to these precautions and recommended preparations.

Snowplow Requests

The REGULAR snowplow route is updated prior to each winter season to include roads with full-time (FT) resident owners requiring access. The current route is available on the FPLOA website and in the office. If you are not a full-time resident and/or your lot is not on the regular plow route, but you will be needing access to your lot during winter, you are required to submit a snowplow request a minimum of five (5) days in advance of your visit to the park. **Please call the office at (719) 379-3000 or email parkmanager@fploa.org** to make this request. Please also notify the office if there is a cancellation in your plans **OR** if your scheduled contractors/construction crews have canceled their scheduled work.

OUR ROAD OPERATORS ARE NOT TO BE STOPPED ON THE ROAD FOR ANY REASON.
Landowner requests or comments can be submitted to parkmanager@fploa.org and/or roads@fploa.org. You may also contact the FPLOA office directly at (719) 379-3000.

For additional information regarding the Snow Removal Policy, please review the current policy on the website. It is in the Governing Documents folder in "Approved Policies". Hard copies are available in the office.

Vehicle Safety Guidelines

Snow-clearing machines will begin their routes once most precipitation has subsided. Poor visibility and drifting snow in blizzard conditions are not conducive to effective and sustained snow removal efforts. This is also the best practice used in Costilla County. Resources at times can be stretched and limited based on the severity of the winter weather. Please remember that the road crew must **prioritize Full-Time Landowners** in any significant weather event.

Stuck in a snowdrift? The road crew is not authorized to pull non-landowners out of the snow, but we do provide a list of tow trucks and other related service providers who can assist if needed. Roadside assistance is prioritized if the request is from a landowner on a common road or if it is a medical emergency.

For your safety, **do not park any vehicles on common roadways,** as drifting snow can be blinding, and visibility can be abruptly compromised.

Camping- ECC Permits

If you plan to camp during the winter, it is required that you notify the ECC and obtain a camping permit. Please submit the 1-14 Day Camping permit request directly to the ECC online from your phone or through the "e-forms" section of the website.

If you are camping for 3 days or less, you are not required to obtain a permit. However, please consider filling out the Emergency Evacuation Form on Frontsteps. In the event of an emergency such as a wildfire, snow event or evacuation, park management will be able to get emergency information out to you via email or telephone.