



To learn more or become a partner, contact:

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Snow fence program

District 4

Partnership with land owners

The Minnesota Department of Transportation wants to partner with landowners to install snow fences in open areas along state highways. This program will help increase safety during the snow and ice season and decrease the use of salt on our roadways.

Land owners who are eligible to participate will receive negotiated compensation. MnDOT can purchase the affected piece of property or enter into temporary agreements depending on the type of blowing snow control option agreed upon by the land owner and MnDOT.

www.mndot.gov/environment/livingsnowfence





About the MnDOT snow fence program

MnDOT's snow fence program is a partnership with landowners and farm operators to improve roadway safety and mobility for the traveling public. Partnership agreements are flexible and customizable, and MnDOT will work hand-in-hand with landowners to determine an agreed upon solution.

Currently, District 4 has 5.67 miles of corn rows, 1.5 miles of structural, and 14 miles of living fence protecting state highways from blowing & drifting snow.

The agency wants to partner to solve the almost 300 blowing snow problems in the district. These known problem areas were identified by MnDOT snow plow operators. Along these stretches, MnDOT will work with land owners to install one of three types of snow fences: structural, living (trees/shrubs) or vegetative (corn rows or hay bales). Some existing snow fence locations that motorists can see include: Hwy 10 west of Glyndon, Hwy 210 in Wilkin County, Interstate 94 Barnesville, I-94 Rothsay, I-94 Moorhead, Hwy 108 Otter Tail County, and Hwy 34 west of Dunvilla.

SNOW FENCE TYPES

1 Structural - Composite rail snow fence



2 Living (trees/shrubs) - shrub row planting that matures to a 8- to 12-foot height with a grass component planted on either side to protect the shrubs from herbicide drift



3 Vegetative (corn rows or hay bales) - Corn rows strategically left standing in the field over the winter months and harvested the following spring



BENEFITS

Public

- Prevent big snow drifts and icy roads that can lead to stranded motorists
- Improve mobility to work, markets, schools, and emergency services
- Improve driver visibility and reduce vehicle crashes
- Lessen impact on the environment with less salt (chloride) use
- Crash severity reduced by 40 percent when installed on a curve
- Enhance snow removal cost effectiveness by improving snow plow efficiency along a plow route and reducing the need to bring in extra heavy equipment like snow blowers and dozers
- Reduce carbon footprint—fewer truck trips and less blower usage means less fuel consumption
- Reduce shipping delays for goods and services

Landowners

- Monetary compensation for participating in the program from MnDOT for catching snow and storing snow drifts on your property
- Value added income during the winter season for storing snow on your property
- Control soil erosion and reduce spring flooding by keeping soil sediment out of the ditches to maintain proper drainage
- Depending upon the type of living snow fence selected, grassland nesting birds and pollinator habitat is improved to create an oasis for those species to survive and thrive
- Increased opportunities to view and hunt pheasants and other game birds