

Violations include vegetation, solid waste

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discretion to give property owners a timeline for getting in compliance with code based on the type of violation and ease of fixing the problem, Stark said.

The most common types of violation cases in FY25 were vegetation (landscape management), solid waste (bulky trash and roll carts) and health nuisances (debris and dead trees).

Friesz said that for property maintenance violations involving things like a home's foundation and sidewalks, residents are given six months on average to fix the problems.

Stark said less demanding violation fixes like a paint job would typically be given 30 days to get done.

Neighborhood Services will check on the property and administer a final notice if the violation is not fixed within the given time frame. The case can be escalated to municipal court if the issue persists.

"What we're always looking for is just compliance. We're not really out to get anybody in trouble," Friesz said. "Usually when they get that court notice, things get done a lot quicker."

Kottwitz explained fines can be issued from the court, but Neighborhood Services doesn't have a record of these cases at that point.

"I would guess a majority of those cases get resolved voluntarily, where there's never a fine," Kottwitz said.

Neighborhood Services works on educating residents of neighborhoods with a high amount of students living in them, such as East Campus, about the city's ordinances on housing code as they move in at the beginning of each school year, Kottwitz said.

"Before school starts, we will go door-to-door in the neighborhood, we'll share information about codes," Kottwitz said. "For some of these kids, it's their first time living on their own, so we need to set the expectation for them."

Neighborhood Services encourages residents to report any potential code violations directly to them or through the city of Columbia's contact center.

School districts close for snow day

CPS, Southern Boone and Hallsville close Tuesday

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Columbia Missourian

After Boone County got its first batch of winter weather, four local school districts will not be in session on Tuesday.

Columbia Public Schools, Southern Boone School District, Hallsville School District and Centralia R-VI Schools announced the closures on Monday evening.

Representatives from the districts cited hazardous travel conditions, like slick roads, as the driving factor behind the snow days.

Centralia schools were also closed Monday due to snow. For the other three districts, this is the first inclement weather closure of the year.

Tuesday's closures are traditional snow days, meaning the days will not need to be made up at the end of the year.

The National Weather Service in St. Louis forecast between 3 and 5 inches of snow in Columbia by late Monday evening. Temperatures were expected to drop to a low of 17 degrees Monday night.



Porter Sayers, left, and Stallone Woodbury, right, throw snowballs at each other on Monday at Francis Quadrangle at the University of Missouri. "We were just in our dorm trying to decide what we wanted to do," Woodbury said. "It was lunch or come outside." Despite winter weather conditions, the University of Missouri stayed open on Monday.

MoDOT urges drivers to stay safe on snowy roads

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the city would begin plowing.

"I got here at 7 a.m. I haven't seen the city do anything for the ice yet. No trucks, no salt," Huelskotter said.

"Here, we set out wet floor signs. We have salt that we're supposed to put down, so our manager salted right in front of our door this morning."

Mark Suchs, a senior service hydrologist with the National Weather Service, said the agency's forecast shows "about 3½ inches" of snow for Columbia, added to additional accumulation Saturday.

Monday's weather was different than earlier systems this week.

"This looks to be an all-snow event. No freezing rain, no sleet," Suchs said of Monday's weather.

Temperatures dropped below freezing Friday night and are expected to stay that way through Monday night.

"They're not gonna go above freezing today," Suchs said.

Suchs said because of the colder temperatures, slush is less likely to develop on major roads.

"You need temperatures closer to or above freezing to get significant slush formation," he said. "We may see a little, but not that much. It won't be like the event this past weekend."

Road conditions could deteriorate through the evening, he said.

"With any snow event, you're going to see travel difficulties if snow accumulates on the roadways and we do expect that," Suchs said.

Residents can find real-time information on the National Weather Service website, where they can enter a ZIP code for local forecasts and view the latest weather story and graphics.

In a 3 p.m. update, National Weather Service meteorologist Chris Kimble said a second wave of snow was expected to move into Columbia.

"We should see the next round of snow moving into the Columbia area by around 5 p.m.," Kimble said. "It's going to last for maybe three or four hours, and you're



Luther Walton, left, and Neema Solange, right, shovel snow outside of the Lafferre Hall on Monday on the University of Missouri campus. Walton and Solange cleared the sidewalks for pedestrians to walk to class and work. Experts say snow accumulation can happen quickly with dry, cold air.

going to get another one to two inches."

Kimble said accumulation will happen quickly because of the very dry, cold air in place.

"It is very cold and it's a dry, fluffy snow, and that's going to accumulate efficiently on the roadways," Kimble said. "We do expect hazardous winter travel conditions to continue this evening."

Kimble also said wind is not expected to worsen conditions.

American Airlines canceled two flights into Columbia Regional Airport on Monday, with another delayed.

"Our runway is in excellent condition and has remained open and available to all aircrafts," Airport Manager Mike Parks said. "Depending on precipitation and con-

ditions, staff monitors the runways regularly and that timing really depends on the rate of snowfall."

Parks added with the runways open, it's up to the airlines to decide when or whether to fly into the airport during inclement weather.

McKenzie Ortiz, a local advocate for walkable communities and advocacy director of Local Motion, said she is worried for how pedestrians will fare amidst the winter weather.

"Any time there's snowfall, it's going to impact all road users, but especially people who rely on their feet as their main mode of transportation," she said.

Ortiz's concern lies with sidewalks, as sidewalk upkeep, including plowing, relies on adjacent property

owners. She said this makes it harder for pedestrians because their next option is to walk in the street.

"When you're a pedestrian and the sidewalks are not cleared, the most logical thing you're going to do is go to a clear path, and that's often times the road," she said. "And if you're in the road, that's obviously not a safe way to travel, but it is safer than slipping and falling and hurting yourself on sidewalks."

Marcia Johnson, a communications manager for the Missouri Department of Transportation, said MoDOT is doing everything it can to get drivers safely back on the road.

"We are fully staffed, and we are prepared with trucks and all available personnel to run 12-hour shifts until the

end of the storm and until major roadways are back to near normal conditions," she said.

Until the storm passes, Johnson advises drivers to tune in to MoDOT's mobile app and website for updates on road conditions, traffic speed and for camera footage of major roads.

"You can check the conditions and if you're able to delay your travel and until the storm has passed and (MoDOT) have had some time to treat, that's great," she said.

But Johnson understands not everyone can do that.

"Slow down, drive for conditions, make sure your emergency kit is well-stocked in your car, should you slide off the roadway or be involved in an incident," she said.

MU says artificial turf offers more consistency, durability

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Turf vs. grass

Mizzou's soccer stadium, football practice fields and softball fields are natural grass, while Faurot Field and Simmons Field features artificial turf.

Joe Swingle, Mizzou executive athletics director who oversees the university's athletics facilities, said deciding whether to use artificial turf or natural grass for a field depends on field usage, climate and maintenance factors.

"Our weather here in the fall ranges from intense heat

to freezing temperatures during a single football season," Swingle said in an email. "For our high-traffic facilities like Faurot Field or Simmons Field, artificial turf offers more consistency and durability."

Artificial turf requires a higher initial investment, but natural grass requires more day-to-day maintenance, Swingle said.

"Natural grass requires more mowing, watering, sodding and chemical treatments," Swingle said. "All of those costs add up over time, especially given our extreme climate changes. Turf offers more predictable perfor-

mance and holds up better under repeated use."

He added player safety is the athletic department's number one priority, and the latest artificial turf systems are designed to replicate the natural give and cushion that natural grass provides.

The state of playing surfaces

Swingle said the women's soccer team already competed on a natural grass field, but Mizzou is currently in the process of installing new natural grass on Audrey J. Walton Stadium.

Hendershott is looking

forward to competing on this new natural grass. She is currently four months post-op from her second ACL tear, and expects to be fully cleared to play this summer.

There are no plans to upgrade any other fields at this time, Swingle added.

Other universities have made changes to their field surfaces.

The University of Arkansas changed its artificial turf football stadium to natural grass in 2019. The Razorbacks football team now competes on Tahoma 31 grass, tested up to 75% more cold tolerant than other grass varieties, with improved

wear tolerance and drought resistance.

According to a 2023 article by The Associated Press, 71% of the top-tier NCAA Division I football teams compete on artificial turf, while 29% compete on natural grass fields.

At the 2026 World Cup hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada, FIFA mandates matches be played on natural grass fields.

Seven turf NFL stadiums are hosting 2026 World Cup matches and are installing temporary grass onto their fields to adhere to FIFA's standards.