

City launches spring cleaning campaign

Roadway Maintenance begins street sweeping in neighbourhoods

City crews will sweep away the remains of winter with the neighbourhood street cleaning campaign, beginning Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

Significant snowfall over the winter created additional work removing sand and other abrasives that were used on arterial and collector routes.



"We applied approximately 165,000 tonnes of material to the roads over the past six months, ensuring that commuters had traction after a snowfall and over the course of the many freeze/thaw cycles we endured," said Roland Aitchison, Superintendent of Operations, Roadway Maintenance. "We've been working on many arterial and collector roadways for a few weeks and now we're ready to start sweeping in Edmonton neighbourhoods."

The cleanup of Edmonton's 4,700 km of roads – including major roads, residential streets, alleyways and boulevards – takes up to nine weeks for crews to complete. Citizens are asked to remove litter and debris from boulevards adjacent to residential or commercial properties prior to street sweepers visiting their area. Residents should watch for signs indicating that street cleaning crews will be coming to their neighbourhood, and to remove their vehicles from city streets wherever possible.

An interactive street sweeping schedule, much like the neighbourhood blading schedule used over the winter months, is available online at edmonton.ca/streetcleaning.

"We'd like to remind drivers to exercise extreme caution around crews," added Aitchison. "Whether filling potholes, making repairs or sweeping the streets, City workers are vulnerable on roadways. Please slow down, leave lots of room and understand that workers are out there to improve the appearance and condition of Edmonton streets."

The City of Edmonton recovers two-thirds of the abrasives it lays down during the snow season by cleaning and separating material picked up during the spring cleaning campaign. Eighty per cent of the material is processed, and portions of it are reused for future winter road maintenance, reducing the strain on local landfills.

The recycling program saves Edmonton taxpayers approximately \$5 million in reduced truck travel and sand purchasing and results in an approximate greenhouse gas reduction of 1,000 tonnes.

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