

Snow Season Approaches

It may still be autumn, but winter is fast approaching and many people have expressed concerns to me over issues that arose last snow season regarding winter road maintenance.

During the summer, City Council approved the acquisition of 20 additional sander/plow trucks and 2 loader-snow blowers so as to better handle the accumulation of snow in residential areas. At the same time, administration initiated a comprehensive review of its existing policies and procedures, and changes were made to the snow and ice policy to enhance service throughout the city.

This winter, crews will start work in residential areas as soon as priority routes are cleared. Even if additional snowfall occurs while residential blading is taking place, equipment will not be removed from neighbourhoods until every area has received service. Crews will still be blading to a 5 cm snowpack, but residential plowing down to bare pavement will be started if snow accumulation makes it impossible to keep the snowpack at that depth. A new residential snow schedule map, accessible through the City's website at www.edmonton.ca, will let you know exactly when you can expect work to take place on your street.

As you may have heard, another important change is the introduction of a snow event-based seasonal parking ban. This ban is for collector bus routes through residential areas. The ban will only be called as conditions require; once the 8-hour notice is given, those parked on the signed 'Seasonal Parking Ban' routes will have to remove their vehicles from the road. Last season, many bus routes became dangerously narrow with vehicles hindering the flow of traffic. We have made a commitment that these collector roads be done within 48 hours, then the ban will be lifted. Although there might be some temporary inconvenience from time to time as citizens are asked to move their vehicles, it is essential that commuters, transit and emergency responders have unobstructed access to these routes.

Citizens can keep informed about seasonal parking bans and residential winter service from local media and also by visiting www.edmonton.ca/winterroads. From that page you can sign up for email alerts, find out when crews will be servicing your community, and access other information that will help make this winter a much better experience.

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