

[edmonton.ca/CommunitySandboxes](http://edmonton.ca/CommunitySandboxes)

## Background Info

### Community Sandbox Program

For the past 30 years, the City of Edmonton has provided free dry sand at designated community sandbox locations. These green wooden boxes can be found at approximately 150 Community Leagues and many other locations across the city. Sand is available for residents and communities to use on their sidewalks to help keep these areas less slippery and safe for everyone.

In the past five years, the number of boxes has increased by over 400 percent. Edmonton's sandboxes have grown from approximately 150 boxes to over 700 sandboxes.

### How Does Edmonton's Program Compare to Other Municipalities?

Edmonton has the most sandboxes of any other Canadian municipality with a public sandbox program.

	Edmonton AB	Calgary AB	St. Albert AB	Sherwood Park AB	Leduc AB	Red Deer AB	Regina SK	Kitchener ON
<b>Population (2021)</b>	1.0M	1.3M	68K	99K	34K	101K	226K	257K
<b># Sandboxes</b>	769	30	53	144 (+10 large bins)	5	1	19	266
<b>Size</b> Small < 1m <sup>3</sup> Large > 1m <sup>3</sup>	Small	Large	Small	Medium/ Large	Large	Large	Large	Small
<b>Timelines</b>	Priority 3 - Active Pathways. Courtesy service after other areas cleared following snow event.	No service timelines listed. Courtesy service.	No service timelines listed. Courtesy service.	As needed	As needed	Regularly refilled through winter.	Regularly refilled through winter.	No service timelines listed.
<b>Cost</b>	\$900K	\$60K	\$30K	\$30K	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

## Importance of Clearing Sidewalks

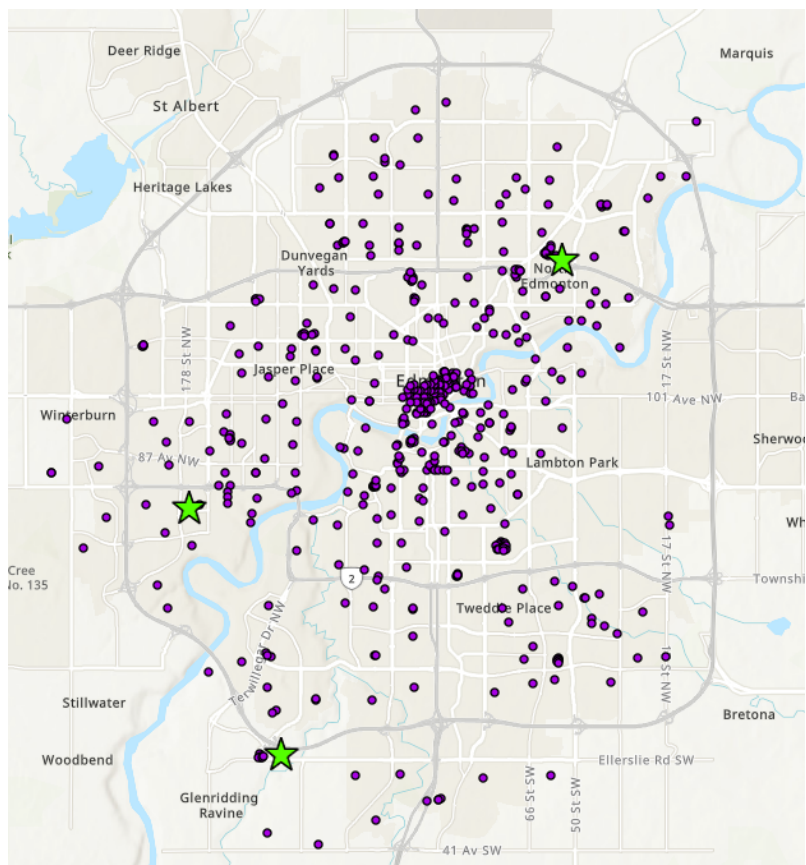
Keeping sidewalks clear of ice and snow is a shared responsibility. The City is responsible for clearing sidewalks and paths around City facilities, ramps, staircase, shared paths, pedestrian bridges, benches and bus stops that are not beside private property.

Property owners are responsible for snow and ice removal from sidewalks adjacent to their private property, whether it is a residential or commercial property. Failure to maintain sidewalks could result in a \$100 fine under the Community Standards Bylaw.

Property owners should remove snow and ice as soon as possible. As residents of a winter city, we need to be considerate of the impact snow-covered and icy sidewalks have on our neighbours and fellow citizens.

## Sandbox Locations

There are over 700 sandboxes across Edmonton. These can be found using the online map at [edmonton.ca/communitysandboxes](http://edmonton.ca/communitysandboxes).



## How Sandboxes Are Filled

Refilling sandboxes is a labour-intensive process. Currently, sandboxes are filled manually by two-person crews using shovels and a two-ton truck. Given the small size and location of many sandboxes, there are limited options for using a larger vehicle or automated equipment to refill boxes.

An equipment-based refilling method could be considered for future use, but this may require moving several smaller sandboxes to more open locations to allow for large vehicle access. Use of large open bins instead of small sandboxes would also allow for more equipment-based refilling.

## Service Levels for Sandbox Refilling

The Snow and Ice Control Program has established service levels for clearing and maintenance of Roadways and for Active Pathways.

Community Sandboxes are maintained by the Active Pathways team as part of the Priority 3 services. Refer to the Snow Clearing Service Levels table below for details.

It is important to note that these service level timelines for the different priority are based on when the snow stops falling, after a weather event. However, Snow and Ice Control crews are typically working around the clock, maintaining active pathways and roadways even during snow events.

