

February 8, 2017

Memorandum

Following direction from City Council on Tuesday, February 7, City Administration is reinstating the Community Sandboxes program. Approximately 150 sandboxes that were previously part of the program will be returned by the end of this week, in addition to the existing Roadway Maintenance yard locations.

The sandbox program was initially reduced to provide free sand at the five Roadway Maintenance yards at the start of the 2016 winter season. This decision was made as part of the budget process in 2015 and was intended to save approximately \$300,000 in taxpayer dollars annually. The City saw a savings in January due to a mild month, which means that bringing back the program for the remainder of the winter will not negatively affect the overall budget.

For community leagues that previously requested to manage their own sandboxes, the program will now be administered by the City and community leagues will no longer be required to fill them on their own. The location of those boxes will be evaluated this week to make sure that they are placed at the best location for public access as well as operational considerations. If they are not in a location that is easily accessible for crews, they will be moved.

If there are neighbourhoods that never had a sandbox previously and would like one, we ask that they go through their community league to request them. The community league is then asked to call 311 to make the request on behalf of the neighbourhood. For neighbourhoods with no community league,, those residents can call 311 directly to make the request.

The City is currently reviewing all of its snow and ice control programs for all public spaces including roads, trails, sidewalks and other City owned facilities. From the review we will be proposing changes to the Snow and Ice Control Policy and bringing those to Council later this summer for an indepth discussion on potential changes to the City's snow and ice control program. That discussion will also include the Community Sandboxes program, and what a complete public program for sand should have.

For questions, please email parksandroads@edmonton.ca.