

News Release



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Street sweeping program saves water with new technology

AIRDRIE, AB - The City of Airdrie's spring street sweeping program is underway removing the winter build-up of debris from our roads with a new sweeping unit which uses 7500 litres less water to clean each concrete median.

"We have really built on our commitment to sustainability and lessening the impacts on the environment with this new piece of equipment. We used to use upwards of 8,000 litres of water to clean a concrete median before and now, with the new small vacuum unit, we performed the same task using just 500 litres," says Steven Hulsman, City of Airdrie Public Works Team Leader.

With approximately 200 kilometres of streets to sweep, the Public Works crew likes to get started as early as they can. The larger units have started on the boulevards already and the small vacuum unit has been busy cleaning the medians for over a week. Sweeping operations remove all the sanding material and other debris accumulated on the roads from winter road maintenance. The program is estimated to last five to eight weeks (weather permitting) from April to early June from 10 pm to 6 am daily. Most sweeping on the arterial streets, boulevards and medians will take place at night, when traffic volumes are lowest. Daytime sweeping will primarily occur on collector and residential streets.

"Residents can help us out during sweeping operations by watching for the 'no parking' signs placed in the neighbourhood in advance and moving their cars off the street," says Hulsman. "We are also asking for any ramps or other obstructions to be removed from the gutter in front of resident's driveways as well as refraining from sweeping debris from driveways and the sidewalk onto the road."

The first priority is the major roadways (i.e. Main Street and East Lake Boulevard); the second priority is the median and collector boulevards/streets, (i.e. Luxstone Boulevard and Sagewood Boulevard); and third priority is residential streets (i.e. Meadowbrook Drive and Woodside Road). The residential sweeping will begin on April 15, 2010. A map is available at www.airdrie.ca to show when each neighbourhood will be cleaned. The 'no parking' signs are placed 72 hours in advance of sweeping operations and indicate the hours of prohibited parking. Vehicles parked in violation of the prohibited times will be towed to another less obstructive location in the area. Conditions around the equipment performing these tasks are extremely dusty with limited visibility for the operators. Motorists should exercise caution when approaching or passing the equipment. Small business owners and individuals are also asked to refrain from placing advertising signs on boulevards and medians on the designated sweeping days as these impede clean-up activities.

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Contact

Steven Hulsman Team Leader Public Works City of Airdrie
(403) 948-8415 steve.hulsman@airdrie.ca www.airdrie.ca