AUGUST, 2026

SV of White Sands Newsletter

THANK YOU, WHITE SANDS!

Summer is always a busy time in our community.

Thank you to our residents, volunteers, committee members, community organizations, Council and municipal staff who continue to contribute their time and ideas to White Sands.

There is still plenty of work ahead in 2026, and we look forward to keeping residents informed as these projects continue to move forward.

MOVING FROM PLANNING TO ACTION:

Council adopted its new Strategic Plan in March 2026, identifying priorities for community development, infrastructure, recreation, environmental stewardship, governance and municipal services. Many of those priorities are now moving forward.

Projects such as the Boat Launch Study, Shoreline Management Plan, Jack's Pond Shelter, Hall Exercise Area, Parks & Recreation Committee, recycling transition, drainage planning and Township Road 40-4 advocacy are examples of that plan moving from paper into action.

Some projects will take several years to complete. Engineering, regulatory approvals, grant funding and available municipal resources all affect how quickly larger initiatives can proceed. Council's goal is to continue moving these priorities forward while maintaining responsible spending and protecting the long-term financial position of the Summer Village.

OFFICE LOCATION
#8 FRONT STREET

OFFICE PHONE #
403-740-1572

EMAIL:
CAO@WHITESANDSAB.CA

WEBSITE:
WWW.WHITESANDSAB.CA

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY TO THURSDAYS
9 AM TO 4 PM

CLOSED STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

Newsletter Highlights

Boat Launch and Shoreline Management Update

Community Hall Municipally Managed

Recycling Updates, October I

2026 property taxes were due July 31 and penalties have now been applied. Please pay any outstanding taxes before the next penalty date of September 1, 2026 to avoid additional penalties.

COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE THE THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE OFFICE. IF IT FALLS ON A HOLIDAY, THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO THE FOLLOWING TUESDSAY.

PUBLIC WELCOME TO ATTEND

LIVE STREAM (AND RECORDING) OF THE MEETING ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

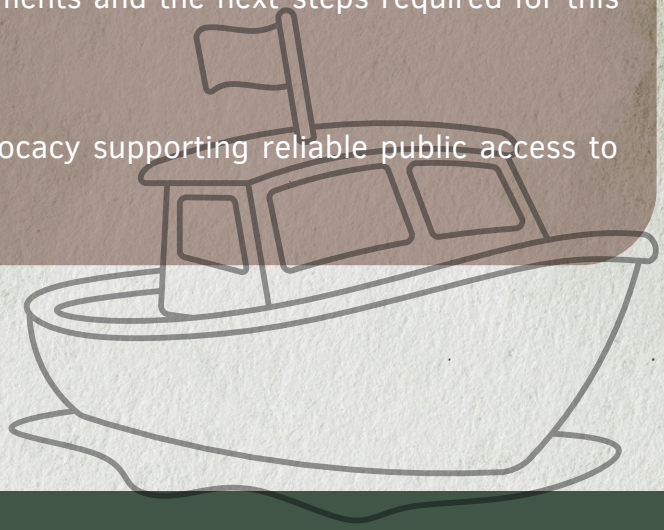
BOAT LAUNCH & LAKE ACCESS

Work continues on the Boat Launch Preliminary Assessment to explore options for the future of White Sands' municipal boat launch.

Following ice-off at Buffalo Lake, WSP Canada completed an on-site investigation and survey in May. The assessment is looking at the existing facility and will provide conceptual improvement options, preliminary costs and recommendations to help guide future planning.

The preliminary assessment is nearing the presentation stage. Once complete, it will give the municipality a clearer understanding of potential improvements and the next steps required for this important community amenity.

White Sands also continues to participate in regional advocacy supporting reliable public access to Buffalo Lake.



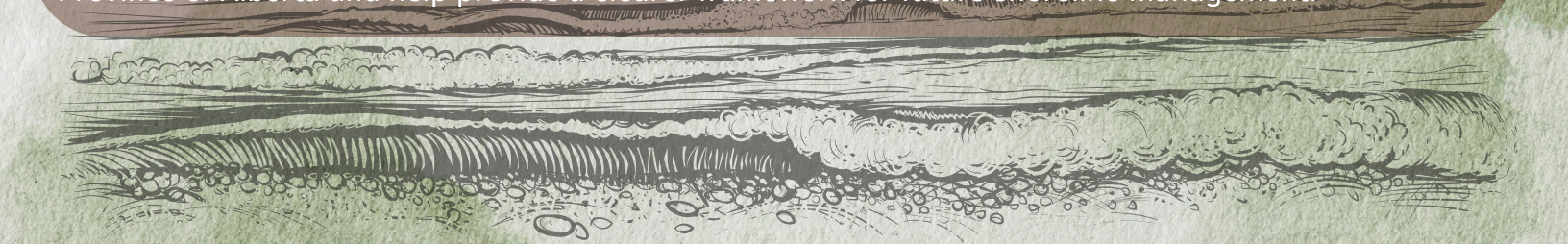
SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Work continues on the White Sands Shoreline Management Plan, which will help guide the future use, access and stewardship of our Buffalo Lake shoreline.

An environmental assessment found that approximately 95% of White Sands' assessed shoreline is highly or moderately intact — an important foundation as we plan for the future.

The Plan is being revised to better reflect White Sands as a recreational lakeside community, while balancing practical lake and shoreline access with responsible environmental stewardship and provincial requirements.

The updated Plan will also support the renewal of the Summer Village's Recreational Lease with the Province of Alberta and help provide a clearer framework for future shoreline management.



MULTI-PURPOSE AREA

Planning continues to convert the former municipal shop space into a community exercise area, with Council approving a $25,000 capital budget for the project.

Following review of the original construction proposal, Council requested revisions to bring the project within budget while focusing on the most practical improvements, including revised plumbing, improved drainage and access through two exterior doors and one interior door.

Administration has requested a revised proposal from the contractor that reflects Council's direction and a target completion date of December 1, 2026.

If the revised proposal meets Council's approved scope, budget and completion requirements, the project can move forward. If those requirements cannot be met, it will return to Council for further consideration.

COMMUNITY HALL - NOW MUNICIPALLY MANAGED

As of June 1, the Summer Village assumed responsibility for bookings and management of the White Sands Multi-Purpose Hall.

Since the transition, several improvements have been made to simplify hall operations, including:

✓ New online booking process
✓ New keypad entry system
✓ Updated rental agreements and procedures
✓ Internet and Wi-Fi improvements
✓ Regular cleaning arrangements

The goal is to provide a consistent and easy-to-use booking process while protecting this important community asset.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Council established a new Parks & Recreation Committee in 2026 to increase community participation in recreation planning.

Committee members have now been appointed and the Committee held its first meeting in August. Please meet your following members:

- One Council - Paul Ashford
- Two Members of the Hall Society - Leona Thorogood and Tamara Dawson
- Two Members At Large - George Trotter and Kathy Schultz

The Committee will help review recreation projects and provide recommendations to Council, beginning with the Jack's Pond Shelter Project.

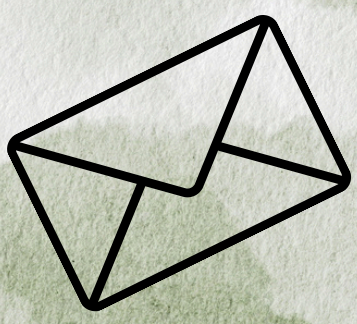
This provides another opportunity for residents to have a direct role in helping shape recreational amenities within White Sands.

NEW COMMUNITY MAIL BOXES

New community mailboxes have been installed in White Sands, with mail service anticipated to begin mid-September 2026. Our new postal code will be T4K 1W1.

Please remember that mail delivery and mailbox assignments are under Canada Post's jurisdiction, not the Summer Village.

Residents interested in receiving a community mailbox must complete the Canada Post form and submit it directly to the Canada Post email address provided on the form: https://www.whitesandsab.ca/uploads/1/3/5/7/135798980/address_collection_letter_-_jeffrey_way.pdf



ROADS & ACCESS ADVOCACY

Council continues to advocate for improvements to Township Road 40-4, the primary access road into White Sands.

White Sands remains one of the lake communities in the region without paved primary access, making this an important long-term infrastructure and safety priority.

Council has communicated with provincial and regional representatives and continues to pursue opportunities for provincial funding and support.

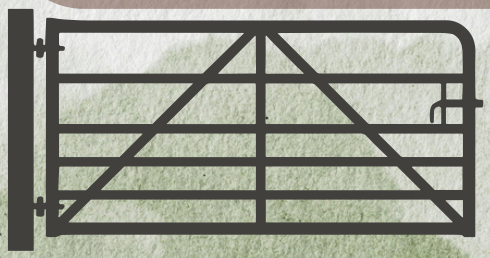
The municipality has also requested an opportunity to discuss this issue with Alberta Transportation and Economic Corridors during the 2026 Alberta Municipalities Convention.

BEACH GATE ACCESS UPDATE AND IMPORTANT DATE APPROACHING

Council reviewed and amended the P&R 4.4 Beach Gate Access Policy at the June Regular Council Meeting (Motion 26:06:05). Key changes and clarifications include:

- Ice-Free Season: The lower beach gates will remain locked. Residents requiring vehicle access must submit a request to the Village Office.
- Victoria Day & Labour Day Weekends: The gates will be opened to help residents with the placement and removal of seasonal docks.
- Winter Access: Gate access will depend on weather and freeze-thaw conditions to help protect municipal lands.
- Access Requests: At all other times, requests to open a beach gate must be submitted to the Village Office with at least three business days' notice.

Please review the amended P&R 4.4 – Beach Gate Access Policy for complete requirements.



WASTE INFORMATION & EVENT

ORGANICS BIN

Available in White Sands!

FIRE SMART STARTS AT HOME

Using the organics bin helps reduce yard debris and flammable materials around structures—an important part of FireSmart practices and keeping our community safe.

The organics bin will be located in White Sands for the following dates:

May Long Weekend
May 15–19

September Long Weekend
September 4–7

LOCATION:
Near the garbage bins at #8 Front Street

DATES:
May 15–19
September 4–7

This bin is intended for trees and shrubs only (branches, clippings, and similar yard waste). It's a great opportunity to tidy up your property while helping keep our community clean and well-maintained.

RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THE BIN as part of ongoing FireSmart practices to reduce yard debris and fire risk around structures.

NOT ACCEPTED:
- Household garbage
- Plastic bags
- Construction debris
- Furniture or non-organic waste

If contamination becomes an issue (garbage/other use), the program will be reconsidered.

- Trees, branches, and shrubs only
- No household garbage or other materials
- No plastic bags Please empty directly into the bin.
- Be mindful of space so everyone can use it

CLEAN UP FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY.
FIRE SMART STARTS AT HOME.

Thank you for doing your part to keep White Sands looking its best.
Together, we can keep our community safe and beautiful!

WHAT IS NON-TYPICAL HOUSEHOLD TRASH??

1 BULK ITEMS

Items that are large, bulky, or more difficult to handle than typical trash bags or trash cans.

Ex: tables, chairs, mattresses, Christmas trees, appliance, etc.

2 CLEAN-OUT TRASH/CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

Large quantities of trash is created by cleaning out rooms, sheds, garages, renovations, construction, etc. This amount of materoal is BEST disposed of using a Clean-Up bag or Roll-Off Container.

Ex: 20 bags of trash from cleaning your garage, construction lumber, drywall

3 NON-TYPICAL MATERIALS

A non-typical material would be materials that would not get thrown out on a day-to-day basis is most homes. Generally, they are very heavy materials as well (except for Styrofoam and most wood).

Ex: yard waste, large amounts of animal waste, Styrofoam, wood, construction materials, and burn ash.

4 OVERWEIGHT ITEMS

Any trash bag/trash can that weighs more than 40 lbs is considered overweight and non-typical. A good rule of thumb to follow: if YOU think it's heavy, WE will too!

Ex: If you move the trash with a wheeled item such as a wheelbarrow or dolly to its location, it is overweight.

RECYLING CHANGES COMING OCTOBER 1

Beginning October 1, 2026, White Sands will transition to Alberta's new recycling system through Circular Materials, using a depot-based collection model.

The new program will expand the types of materials accepted for recycling, including:

- Paper, cardboard and cartons
- Plastic containers and packaging
- Flexible plastics, such as bread bags, chip bags and plastic overwrap
- Foam packaging, including foam trays and takeout containers
- Metal and aluminum containers
- Aerosol containers
- Glass jars and bottles

Residents will continue to bring their recyclables to the White Sands recycling depot. More information on the transition, sorting requirements and what goes where will be provided before the October 1 start date.

Paper/fibre

Material & examples	What to know
Paper laminate packaging Pet food bags, food service paper bags, and plates.	☑ Empty.
Paper laminate containers Spiral cans, cookie dough containers, ice cream containers and hot and cold beverage cups.	☑ Empty. ☑ Remove lids.
Cartons Molasses and sugar cartons, laundry and cleaning cartons, soup and sauce cartons.	☑ Empty. ☑ Lids and caps on.

Plastic and foam packaging

Material & examples	What to know
Flexible plastic packaging Bags used for dry cleaning, bread, newspapers and flyers. Overwrap (paper towel & toilet paper, beverage containers). Coffee bags or deli pouches, chip bags, bubble wrap, snack wrappers, cereal liner bags, plastic gift bags.	☑ Empty.
Foam packaging Meat trays, takeout containers, cups, plates, bowls, foam packaging.	☑ Empty. ☑ Remove film wrap and absorbent pads from meat trays.

Paper/Fibre

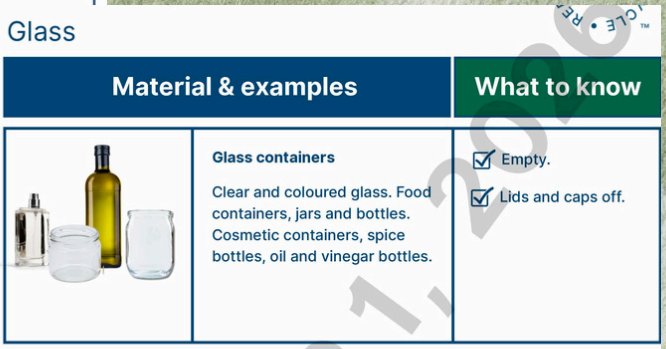
Material & examples	What to know
Cardboard boxes Pizza boxes, direct mail boxes, moving boxes, shoe boxes.	☑ Flatten. No larger than 60 x 60 cm. ☑ Empty.
Boxboard Cereal boxes, tissue boxes, egg cartons, rolls from toilet paper and paper towel.	☑ Flatten. ☑ Empty.
Paper Any colour, including flour bags, prescription bags, paper produce bags. Notepads, white or coloured loose paper, file folders, other printed materials. Community newspapers, flyers, brochures and magazines. Greeting cards and envelopes, gift boxes.	☑ Place shredded paper in a tied clear plastic bag. ☑ Separate from plastic bags used to cover items, remove elastic bands. ☑ Remove rope handle from bags. ☑ Do not include soft or hard covered books/novels.

Metal containers

Material & examples	What to know
Metal Food cans, metal lids, candle, cookie, coffee and tea tins.	☑ Rinse and dry.
Aluminum (foils and trays) Aluminum foil, pie plates, frozen food trays.	☑ Empty. ☑ Ball up aluminum foil.
Aerosol containers Food spray, hairspray, air fresheners, shaving cream, deodorant.	☑ Empty. ☑ Lids and caps on.

Plastic packaging and containers

Material & examples	What to know
Plastic containers Laundry detergent and household cleaner jugs, shampoo, body wash, salad dressing, condiment, dish soap, mouth wash bottles.	☑ Empty. ☑ Lids and caps on.
Food trays, salad, yogurt, peanut butter, bakery and egg containers, plastic cups, plastic tubs and lids.	
Toothpaste tubes, deodorant, hand cream tubes.	
Small item packaging, hand sanitizer bottles, plant pots.	



Glass

Material & examples	What to know
Glass containers Clear and coloured glass. Food containers, jars and bottles. Cosmetic containers, spice bottles, oil and vinegar bottles.	☑ Empty. ☑ Lids and caps off.

BUILDING RESPONSIBLY IN WHITE SANDS

Development and construction are part of a growing and changing community. If you are building, renovating or completing other work on your property, please help keep White Sands safe and accessible for everyone.

Keep Roads & Ditches Clear

Wherever possible, contractor vehicles, equipment, trailers and building materials should be kept on the property where the work is taking place.

Municipal roads, ditches and road rights-of-way need to remain clear for:

- Emergency vehicle access
- Safe travel for residents and visitors
- Municipal mowing and ditch maintenance
- Access to neighbouring properties

Construction equipment, heavy equipment and trailers are not permitted to park on public roadways or municipal land except temporarily for loading or unloading. Vehicles must never block or hinder emergency access.

Be Mindful of Your Neighbours

Construction can mean extra vehicles, deliveries, equipment and noise. Please talk with your contractors about parking and staging before work begins.

Contractors should not park or place equipment or materials on neighbouring properties, driveways or municipal lands without permission.

Remember — the Property Owner Is Responsible

A Development Permit is only one part of the construction process. Property owners are responsible for meeting the conditions of their approval, obtaining any required Safety Codes permits, and ensuring their contractors follow applicable requirements.

Property owners are also responsible for damage to municipal property or public works resulting from their construction activity.

A little planning goes a long way. Keeping roads, ditches and rights-of-way clear helps protect emergency access, allows municipal maintenance to continue safely, and helps minimize the impact of construction on your neighbours.

Questions about your development or municipal requirements? Please contact the Summer Village Office before work begins.

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

White Sands continues to participate in regional discussions regarding the future delivery and governance of fire services.

The municipality currently receives fire protection through the regional fire service arrangement while participating in discussions regarding the proposed Heartland Regional Fire Commission.

Council is reviewing the governance structure, service model and potential financial implications carefully before making future commitments.

Emergency preparedness also remains a municipal priority, with continued training, planning and public education throughout the year.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY & DRAINAGE

Long-term drainage and flood mitigation planning continues.

The municipality has been pursuing grant opportunities and professional assistance to better understand drainage, stormwater and climate-related risks affecting White Sands.

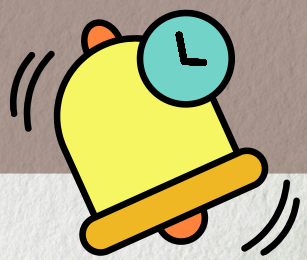
This work is intended to help Council prioritize future infrastructure improvements and strengthen future grant applications.

DID YOU CHANGE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

To ensure you receive your annual tax notice or other official communication in a timely manner, residents are reminded to contact the municipal office to update or confirm your current contact information, including your mailing address, email address, and phone number.

Keeping your information up to date also helps the municipality streamline communication and provide important notices more efficiently.

We appreciate your assistance in keeping our records accurate.



PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS & STAYING INFORMED

The Summer Village of White Sands is committed to keeping residents informed in a timely, clear, and accessible way. In accordance with the Public Notification Bylaw #214-25, Council may provide statutory notices through alternative advertising methods, including electronic communication, to ensure important municipal information reaches the community.

Public notices may be shared through a combination of methods such as:

- The official municipal website
- Municipal social media channels
- Email/newsletter subscription lists
- Posted notices at the Administrative Office

The Summer Village's website remains the primary source of official information, with social media used to enhance communication and direct residents back to the website for full details. (ADM 1.8: Social Media Policy)

Residents are encouraged to regularly check the municipal website for updates on bylaws, public hearings, meetings, and other important community notices.

For more information, please visit: www.whitesandsab.ca

IMPORTANT LINKS

Bylaws | **Bylaw Complaint Form** | **Application & Forms** | **Council Agendas & Minutes**

Policies | **Municipal Facebook Page** | **Municipal Website**

Taxes & Assessment | **Online Payment** | **Dev & Planning Information**

SIGN UP FOR TIPPS

The Tax Installment Payment Plan (TIPPS) Bylaw is a way to pay your taxes monthly and not just one lump sum!

What are the perks for signing up:

- There are no additional fees
- Budget friendly
- Payment of your taxes are made on a monthly bases (information can be found on your tax notice of an approximate monthly payment)

How to sign up:

- Fill the form with payment information and submit to erin@whitesandsab.ca
- Anyone who has paid their taxes can sign up and begin the program starting January.

Need to cancel your TIPPS ?

- Fill out the form and send it back to the municipality.