**Let the dogs run free: map shows off-leash areas in the city**

As the weather warms up, it’s the perfect time to get outside with your four-legged friend. Calgary has 157 public off-leash areas with a combined area of 1,145 hectares for you and your dog to enjoy. The City of Calgary has a map that shows the location of off-leash dog areas in Calgary. View the Calgary Off-leash Dog Areas Map on the Map Gallery. It can be found at https://maps.calgary.ca/OffLeashDogAreas/.

To view more City of Calgary maps, please visit the Map Gallery at maps/calgary.ca.

**Be YardSmart**

Did you know? Calgary’s drinking water is supplied by the Bow and Elbow watersheds, which face many pressures including a changing climate and growing population. You can help build resilient watersheds by creating a *YardSmart* yard. Use our new design guides to plant a beautiful garden bed that, once established, takes little time, effort and water to maintain.

Designs include:

* Layouts and plant suggestions for all areas of your yard - sunny, shady, wet or a combination of sun and shade.
* A brand-new native wildflower design that creates habitat for pollinators and promotes biodiversity. Included is step-by-step information on planting, watering and maintenance.

Created in partnership with The Calgary Horticultural Society, these garden beds are designed to thrive in Calgary.

More YardSmart tips:

* Find trees and shrubs that are hardy enough for our unique climate. For Calgary, choose plants labelled hardiness zone 2 or 3.
* Having a good depth of quality soil ensures your plants can access more water. A layer of at least six to eight inches of soil is recommended. Adding compost is the best way to improve soil depth.
* Capture free rainwater in a rain barrel and use it on your trees, shrubs and flower beds.

Visit calgary.ca/yardsmart to access our garden bed designs and for a library of gardening tips, tools and resources.

**Celebrate World Bee Day on May 20, 2022**

In 2019, Calgary was declared Canada’s 36th Bee City. This designation highlights The City of Calgary’s commitment to providing habitat and resources for local pollinators. Naturalizing urban parks and greenspaces through the addition of native wildflowers, grasses, shrubs and bee habitat enhancements not only benefits pollinators, but also results in reduced maintenance costs, less pesticide use and increased opportunities for stewardship and education.

Calgary is a mecca for native bees. 199 different types of bees have been documented in Calgary. Our city may contain more kinds of bumblebees than any other city in North America.\* Climate change, disease, pesticide use and habitat loss have all contributed to the decline of pollinator populations. By helping flowering plants reproduce, pollinators contribute to healthy and resilient ecosystems.

Create a refuge for urban birds, bees and butterflies in your own backyard by adding native plants with varying bloom shapes, sizes and flowering seasons. Native plants are beneficial to pollinators and require less water and maintenance than traditional lawns and many ornamental flowers. Help create year-round habitat for pollinators by leaving plant debris in your garden over the winter, delaying spring cleanup and adding habitat enhancements such as wood stumps, loose patches of bare soil and hollow plant stems.

\*University of Calgary Urban Alliance 2021 Report

For more information, please visit [www.calgary.ca/pollinators](http://www.calgary.ca/pollinators).