**Natural areas don’t like to be mowed**

Natural areas are a type of park space that are managed to maintain natural characteristics. They’re natural environment spaces where plants, insects, birds, and other wildlife (broadly known as [biodiversity](https://www.calgary.ca/parks/wildlife/biodiversity.html)) can live, while balancing public access and enjoyment.

Compared to manicured parks, natural areas don’t require the same level or frequency of management.

While it may seem tempting to mow and trim natural area vegetation near your property line, it’s damaging to the natural area because it removes wildlife habitat and alters the local ecological system. Mowing diminishes the health and integrity of natural areas and reduces their ability to provide benefits like stormwater storage and filtration, carbon sequestration and pollinator habitat.

Mowing also interferes with all citizens’ ability to enjoy the natural aesthetic of these areas. To conserve this, maintenance methods like mowing and weed control are different for natural areas versus manicured parks. By avoiding mowing into natural areas, you can help protect native plants, animals and the ecological systems that allow them to thrive in our city.

Park space is available for all Calgarians to enjoy. For more information on natural areas and how they are maintained please visit <https://www.calgary.ca/parks/natural-areas> or contact 311.

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**Residential Parking Permit Program**

There are important policy changes to the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) Program that were approved by Council in January 2021 following two years of engagement with Calgarians. The revised program aims to increase street use efficiency and fairness, support businesses, and be better positioned for long-term sustainability.

As part of these changes, permit eligibility is now based on building type and a new fee structure for parking permits is being introduced later this year. On-street parking is public space managed by The City of Calgary for all Calgarians. Permits allow residents the option to park on-street and close to their residence in areas near major parking generators where parking demand is high such as hospitals, schools, and LRT stations. Parking permit fees have been introduced to cover the cost of this service from those who use it.

If you live in a Residential Parking Zone (RPZ), you only need a parking permit if your block has RPP restrictions (‘except by permit’ signs) or if you want to overstay in time-restricted zones (ex. two-hour parking signs).

If RPP restrictions are no longer needed on your block, requests for modifying restrictions signs can be made by calling 311 or [filling out a 311 online request](https://calgary-cwiprod.motorolasolutions.com/cwi/direct/RDSPKHAN).

To learn what parking permit your address is eligible for and to view the new fee structure, please visit [calgary.ca/RPP](https://www.calgary.ca/rpp). Information on when the new fee structure will be implemented will be shared when available.

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**Property tax is due June 30, pay or join TIPP by then to avoid late payment penalties**

Your property tax must be paid by June 30 to avoid late payment penalties. The City’s Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP) is the most popular payment method. You pay the same amount as your annual property tax levy, but instead of one large lump sum payment in June, you pay smaller monthly instalments.

This makes budgeting easier, and you reduce the risk of late payment penalties. Signing up for TIPP is easy and you don’t need to re-apply each year. There is no filing fee or initial payment required.

Plan enrolment must be completed by the due date shown on your bill to avoid a late payment penalty. Avoid waiting and request your TIPP agreement today.

To request your TIPP agreement, go to [calgary.ca/TIPP](https://www.calgary.ca/property-owners/taxes/tipp-instalment-payments.html?redirect=/tipp) or call 311. If calling from outside Calgary dial 403-268-2489 to request your agreement.

If you’re already on TIPP, you can visit [calgary.ca/TIPP](https://www.calgary.ca/property-owners/taxes/tipp-instalment-payments.html?redirect=/tipp) to learn how your monthly TIPP instalments are calculated and adjusted.

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## Rideshare passengers play a key role in ensuring they have a safe ride this Stampede

The City of Calgary works closely with the rideshare industry and the Calgary Stampede to ensure Calgarians get home safely. However, passengers should do a few important checks before they get into any vehicle, both during Stampede and throughout the year.

When booking a rideshare, the app provides passengers with a photo of the driver, the licence plate number, the make and model of the vehicle and real-time GPS tracking. Double-checking these details for the driver and the car will safeguard riders against getting into a vehicle with a potentially unsafe, unlicensed driver.

When street-hailing a taxi, passengers should ensure that the driver and vehicle are both licensed. A taxi plate verifies these on the car's rear bumper, and the driver’s ID must be posted in a visible location. Passengers are also reminded to take note of the taxi number, company and colour of the vehicle.

For more information on regulations and safety tips, visit [calgary.ca/taxi](http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/ABS/Pages/Livery-Transport-Services/Livery-Transport-Services.aspx).

If you have any concerns or are approached by a driver soliciting business, please report the incident to 3-1-1 for investigation. If your safety is threatened, call 9-1-1 immediately.

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**Preparing your property for heavy rain**Along with warm weather, Calgary summers can also bring heavy rains. Here are five tips to help you prepare:

1. Clean out eavestroughs and downspouts. Repair any damaged parts.
2. Extend downspouts away from yours and your neighbours’ homes. Direct them onto your garden or grassy area so the water can soak into the ground.
3. If you have a swale on your property, remove yard debris to ensure water flow.
4. If you have a sump pump, check to make sure it’s working.
5. Ensure any storm drains near your house are clear and free of debris.

**During a heavy rainfall, if driving can’t be avoided, use caution**

* If possible, wait until the rain has slowed or stopped to continue your journey.
* Avoid roadway underpasses, drainage ditches, low lying areas and areas where water collects – they can unexpectedly flood or overflow.
* Do not try to drive through deep water on a roadway. You can’t see potential risks or conditions that might be submerged and unsafe.

**When to report pooled water on streets**During intense rainfalls, storm drains can be temporarily overwhelmed, and it may take time for water to drain. If you see water pooling around storm drains and it hasn’t drained within 90 minutes, take a photo and submit it on the [311 app](https://www.calgary.ca/cfod/csc/about-311-calgary-app.html) or [online request](https://calgary-cwiprod.motorolasolutions.com/) at [calgary.ca/stormdrains](https://www.calgary.ca/water/stormwater/storm-drains.html?redirect=/stormdrains). Pictures help City crews respond on a priority basis. If immediate safety is a concern or water is entering a building, contact 311 immediately.

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**Support our farmers ✅ Connect with neighbours ✅ Enjoy great food ✅**

We’ve partnered with local and regional farmers and distributors to operate farm stands at over 25 community hubs and train stations around Calgary. This year we have added seven new locations, helping us provide fresh and healthy food to more Calgarians. Our first farm stand launches on May 2, and additional stands continue to open into early June. Market days and times vary by location. Find a farm stand near you, see the schedule and learn more about the program at [calgary.ca/localfood](https://www.calgary.ca/pda/pd/office-of-sustainability/transit-pop-up-food-markets.html?redirect=/localfood).

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