**Celebrate Neighbour Day 2023**

Join with your neighbours for the 10th annual Neighbour Day on June 17. Celebrate your community spirit and neighbourly kindness by having a block party or BBQ, organizing a cleanup, decorating your yard, gathering with neighbours for a fun sport activity, games or kids’ crafts, or make up your own way to meet your neighbours and build community togetherness.

Neighbour Day started in June 2014 to celebrate the incredible outpouring of support and generosity of neighbours following the 2013 floods. Each year on the third Saturday in June, we continue to celebrate one of the things that makes Calgary such a great city — our strong and caring communities.

To help you celebrate on June 17, The City of Calgary is providing resources and support for residents to organize activities with neighbours, including waiving the fees for block party and greenspace permits. The permit application deadline is May 28. You can also request a visit from Mayor Gondek, your area Councillor, a police officer or a fire truck. Visit [calgary.ca/NeighbourDay](https://www.calgary.ca/events/neighbour-day.html) to learn more.

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**Emergency Preparedness Week is May 7 – 13, 2023**Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere. Knowing what to do *before* a disaster strikes can go a long way in assisting you, your family and your community during an emergency. This year, Emergency Preparedness Week runs from May 7-13. This is an annual event that takes place across Canada every May.

During Emergency Preparedness Week, The City encourages Calgarians to take actions to prepare and protect themselves, their families, and their homes during an emergency event.

* Know the risks - learn about the types of disasters and hazards that can occur in Calgary.
* Get prepared - every emergency is different but having a plan will help you and your family know what to do and who to contact in different situations. Get prepared by reviewing your insurance coverage, practicing a home evacuation, and taking steps to protect your home. A fillable emergency action plan is available in various translated languages at [calgary.ca/getready](https://www.calgary.ca/emergencies/preparedness.html?redirect=/getready), along with tips to get prepared.
* Know what to do during an emergency – it’s important to stay informed by monitoring local TV, radio, and emergency alerts.
* Know what to expect after an emergency – cleaning up after a disaster can be hazardous. Ensure you only enter a disaster site when it’s safe and with the proper protective equipment. Remember to document all damages and contact your insurance provider as soon as possible.

Learn more about how to get prepared for emergencies and the activities taking place during Emergency Preparedness Week at [calgary.ca/getready](https://www.calgary.ca/emergencies/preparedness.html?redirect=/getready).

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**QR Codes make Land Use and Development applications easier to find**Have you ever walked past a construction site or past an open field and seen a development sign and wondered what was happening? Or perhaps you were interested in a new building going up in your community but didn't know who to contact to find out more information? Well, The City has recently made things a lot easier by adding QR codes to land use and development posting signs!

With the use of QR codes, you no longer need to take note of contact information or search the internet to find out more about the projects in your community. All you need to do is scan the code using your smartphone's camera and you will instantly be directed to the City of Calgary’s [development map](https://dmap.calgary.ca/).

The City’s development map shows proposed developments, including commercial and residential properties. It can also provide information on the status of each project, including whether it is under review, approved, or already underway.

By exploring development map, you can get a better understanding of what changes are happening in your community. You can see what new businesses may be coming to the area, what new housing options are available, and what recreation centres may be popping up.

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**Join in the conversation about the future of Calgary’s river valleys**

Calgary’s river valleys are essential to our city - they’re at the core of our city’s identity and its appeal as a place to live, play and do business. Making careful decisions about how we plan, develop and build in the floodplain is fundamental to protecting and enhancing the value of our river valleys while strengthening our overall resilience to the impacts of flooding.

We are now updating the Calgary’s River Valleys Plan, which will provide guidance for decisions about how we plan, develop and build in the floodplain. This is an opportunity for all Calgarians to voice what is important about our river valleys, to ensure that those values shape approaches to development, recreation, natural space and flood hazard planning.

Early engagement takes place April 27 – June 5, focused on clarifying priorities and values for our river valley communities.Participate in the conversation at[calgary.ca/RiverValleys](https://engage.calgary.ca/rivervalleys).

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**Hen-keeping is even more than it’s cracked up to be**

To Chris Huston, a City of Calgary employee, hen-keeping started as an interest in sustainability that developed into a passion for animals, his community and cooking. “Each one of the hens has its own distinct personality,” he said with a smile.

Huston participated in Calgary’s Urban Hen-keeping pilot program last year and has made countless omelettes since last spring. “Collecting the eggs from the nests will never get old. We even invite the neighbours and their kids to visit the chickens and feed them,” said Huston.

Before Huston built his coop, he talked to his neighbours; they were concerned they’d be woken first thing by a rooster. That is a common misconception about hen-keeping, but roosters are not permitted under the Responsible Pet Ownership bylaw, meaning nobody will be subjected to early morning “cock-a-doodle-doo”s because hens are female chickens, and they are more polite neighbours than roosters.

Aside from producing eggs, Huston’s hens, Tia and Tamera, have kept him busy with their home renovations: Pollo Palace, his coop, has had many additions since it was initially built, “I know my place in the pecking order,” Huston joked. While his tone is jovial, the point is clear: hen-keeping is an ongoing responsibility that requires your attention and effort to keep them happy and safe.

If you’re interested in hen-keeping, the City of Calgary is re-opening the program this year, and an unlimited number of licences are available from spring to fall. Visit us at [calgary.ca/pets/licences/urban-hens](https://www.calgary.ca/pets/licences/urban-hens.html) to learn more.

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**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 and spend time with your four-legged friend. Calgary has 157 public off-leash areas with a combined area of 1145 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 <https://mapgallery.calgary.ca/>.

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**City-supported Community Cleanups begin April, saving residents a trip to the landfill**
City supported Community Cleanups begin in April and will continue through to early fall. These popular events are hosted by community associations with support from The City of Calgary. Calgarians can drop off unwanted items at any community clean up location, regardless of where they live in the city. There is no charge for putting items in City of Calgary trucks. Keep in mind, some community associations bring in recycling services that may require a fee. Check [calgary.ca/cleanup](https://www.calgary.ca/communities/community-cleanups.html?redirect=/cleanup) for the list of community associations hosting cleanup events and check the community associations’ web site or social media page for full details on the event in each community.

Green or blue cart items which includes yard waste or recyclable items, will not be accepted at the cleanup events unless the community association has hired additional vendors). Visit [calgary.ca/whatgoeswhere](https://www.calgary.ca/waste/what-goes-where/default.html?redirect=/whatgoeswhere) for items that are recyclable. Please don’t bring:

* Car batteries
* Glass (e.g. windowpanes, glass tabletops)
* ​Household appliances with Freon (e.g. refrigerators, freezers)
* Microwaves
* Liquids (e.g. cooking oils)
* Large metal items (e.g. lawnmowers, barbeques)
* Railway ties
* Sod or dirt
* Household hazardous waste (see [calgary.ca](https://www.calgary.ca/content/www/en/home/waste/what-goes-where/household-hazardous-waste.html?q=Household%20hazardous%20waste) for drop-off locations)

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**‘Aging is more… let’s enjoy the journey together’: Seniors’ Week offers more this year**June 5 to 11 is Seniors’ Week. Recognized annually across Alberta, Seniors’ Week is an opportunity to show appreciation for older adults and the many contributions they make to our communities through volunteerism, assisting charities and by supporting family members and friends.

This year’s celebrations promise to be even more exciting, with specially curated events under the theme ‘Aging is more...’ designed to showcase the potential in aging. Seniors’ sector organizations, not-for-profits, businesses and individual Calgarians are collaborating to bring about fun and inclusive celebratory events for each day of the week, under a different sub-theme: ‘More of the things you love,’ ‘More movement,’ ‘More music,’ ‘More learning,’ ‘More fun with friends and family’ and ‘More time to celebrate.’

Whether or not you choose to attend one of the official Seniors’ Week events, Age-Friendly Calgary encourages you to celebrate aging in your own way. Help spread awareness within your networks by using the social media hashtags #seniorsweek and #agefriendlyyyc. Visit [calgary.ca/seniorsweek](http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/CNS/Pages/Seniors/Seniors-Week/Seniors-Week.aspx) for the list of activities taking place during Seniors’ Week.