**Walking in a Winter Wonderland: Snow and ice removal adjacent to properties**

The City of Calgary is committed to keeping our public spaces safe and accessible, but residents also play a vital role. The City maintains roughly 10 per cent of Calgary's 5,000 kilometers of sidewalks, leaving the majority for property owners/occupants to clear.
In recent years, amendments to Calgary's Streets Bylaw (20M88) have strengthened compliance measures, including an escalating fine structure for property owners who fail to clear their sidewalks within 24 hours of snowfall ending:

* If a sidewalk or pathway adjacent to private property is not cleared, a complaint can be filed through 311 to Calgary Community Standards.
* A peace officer will inspect, provide education and leave a 24-hour warning if the snow and ice aren’t cleared.
* If the issue persists, the officer will assign a contractor for removal, and the property owner will be fined and charged for the service.
* The fine for not clearing snow/ice is $250, with escalating fines for subsequent violations within 12 months.
	+ **First offence**: $250
	+ **Second offence in a 12-month period**: $500
	+ **Third subsequent offence(s) in a 12-month period**: $750, automatic court summons

Key guideline: Snow can be shoveled from sidewalks onto the street but not from private property, like driveways, into public spaces. Snow must not block designated wheeling lanes, like downtown cycle tracks.

**Become a Snow Angel**

Clearing snow and ice from sidewalks can be challenging –even dangerous – for older adults and people with limited mobility. [Snow Angels](http://www.calgary.ca/CSPS/CNS/Pages/Seniors/Snow-Angels/snow-angels.aspx) help keep those Calgarians safe. Consider becoming a Snow Angel today!

**Property Assessment Notices Are Out!**The 2025 Property Assessment notices are out. When you receive your notice, check the property details and review your property value. Your property assessment reflects the market value of your property on July 1, 2024, and the characteristics and physical condition of the property on Dec. 31, 2024.

To help you review your property assessment we offer general resources on calgary.ca/assessment and property specific tools through the secure logon feature of Assessment Search at [calgary.ca/assessmentsearch](https://assessmentsearch.calgary.ca/externallogin.aspx). By logging onto your property specific account on Assessment Search, you can:

* Check the property details used to determine the assessed value of your property.
* Update your residential property details. It’s important you keep your information current, as incorrect property details may result in assessments that do not accurately reflect the value of your property.
* Compare your property’s assessed value to other similar properties in your area to ensure fairness.
* Review real estate market trends and learn how your property was assessed.

New to Assessment Search? Visit [calgary.ca/about-assessment-search](https://www.calgary.ca/property-owners/assessment/assessment-search.html?redirect=/about-assessment-search) to learn how to set up your account.

We offer a property tax calculator at [calgary.ca/assessment](https://www.calgary.ca/property-owners/assessment-tax.html?redirect=/assessment) to help you estimate your 2025 Property Taxes and find out where your tax dollars go.

If you have questions about your 2025 property assessment, please contact us during the 2025 Customer Review Period which runs from Jan. 2 to March 11, 2025. Your property is used to calculate your annual property tax bill, which is mailed in the spring.

**Helpful TIPP**We’re excited to remind you that it’s easier than ever to join the Tax Instalment Payment Plan (TIPP). Our online process streamlines registration, allowing you to enrol from the comfort of your home, 24/7. All you need is your roll number and banking details, and we’ll confirm your enrolment in real-time.

TIPP lets you split your annual property tax payments into 12 equal, manageable monthly instalments, instead of paying in one lump sum. It’s an easy way to stay on top of your property taxes without the burden of a large bill.

Enroling now means you’ll enjoy smaller, regular payments throughout the year. While joining in January offers the full budgeting benefits of spreading payments over 12 months, but you can enrol at any time during the year. We’ll adjust your payments to ensure your tax bill is fully paid by year’s end. Plus, there are no fees, making it even more affordable to join.

Join TIPP today—visit [calgary.ca/TIPP](http://calgary.ca/TIPP) to get started and enjoy easier budgeting for the year ahead!

**Chill Downtown this Winter!**

Chill Downtown this winter and experience the beauty the season has to offer. Whether you’re looking to sip hot cocoa, enjoy a Downtown Winter Festival like Chinook Blast, master your skating skills or simply soak in the festive atmosphere, there’s something for everyone. Grab your mittens, gather your friends and prepare for a season filled with twinkling lights, mouth-watering treats and fun events that will warm you up from the inside out!

As Downtown continues to transform, The City along with its partners are proud to offer a wide variety of activities and entertainment, with the goal of becoming a 24/7 destination where people live, work, learn and play all year long. To ensure Calgarians and visitors know what’s happening Downtown and to help plan your day, we’ve created [Choose Your Own Downtown Adventure Itineraries](https://www.calgary.ca/major-projects/experience-downtown.html). With a new itinerary released each month until March, you’ll have fun and unique ideas at your fingertips to help plan their Downtown outing.

Embrace the season and chill Downtown this winter. Ready, set, explore! To learn more about the Choose Your Own Downtown Adventure Itineraries and other exciting events and activations happening downtown, visit [calgary.ca/exploredowntown](https://www.calgary.ca/major-projects/experience-downtown.html).

**Submit a nomination for the Calgary Awards by Jan. 26, 2025**Do you know a neighbour, colleague, community leader, local group or company that makes Calgary an incredible place to live, work and play? Then consider nominating them for a Calgary Award.

For more than 30 incredible years the Calgary Awards have recognized outstanding individuals and organizations whose exceptional achievements and contributions make life better for Calgarians.

Award categories include:

* The Community Achievement Awards:
	+ Grant MacEwan Lifetime Achievement
	+ Calgarian of the Year
	+ Arts
	+ Community Advocate - Individual
	+ Community Advocate – Organization
	+ Commerce – under review
	+ Education
	+ Heritage
	+ Youth
* The Award for Accessibility
* The Environmental Achievement Award
* The International Achievement Award

The nomination process is easy – follow the steps outlined at [calgary.ca/calgaryawards](https://www.calgary.ca/calgaryawards) and submit your nomination by Jan. 26.

**City of Calgary Home & Small Business Webinars**

Start your 2025 home renovation projects or new business idea off on the right foot by watching a City of Calgary Home & Small Business webinar. Our catalog of recorded webinars covers everything you need to know about indoor and outdoor home renovations, how to start a small business, building a secondary or backyard suite and more.

If you're a DIY home renovator, City experts outline the necessary building permit types, safety code requirements, land use bylaws and essential tips for hiring a contractor and preparing for inspections.

For small business owners or those planning to start one, our recorded webinars dive into best practices for both commercial and home-based businesses. We’ll walk you through the process of applying for a business licence, registering your business and more.

If you’re thinking about developing a secondary suite or backyard suite, take advantage of our recorded content outlining the development process including applying for permits, registering and legalizing suites and information on programs like the Secondary Suite Incentive Program.

Access recorded webinars and stay up to date about upcoming live webinars and Q&As coming soon at [calgary.ca/webinars](https://www.calgary.ca/property-owners/maintenance-webinars.html?redirect=/webinars).

**Warm up to winter in Calgary parks**

Winter makes it possible to enjoy Calgary parks in a different way than during any other season. Many cold-weather park activities are also free with minimal equipment needed. Only in winter can you skate on outdoor rinks, marvel at beautifully lit ice trails, play Crokicurl and ride an ice bike in our parks.

We have several established outdoor rinks and two new ones this year - Prince's Island Park lagoon rink and the Lot 6 Pop-Up rink, making a total of 10 outdoor, natural ice [skating [rinks](https://rinks)](https://www.calgary.ca/parks/activities/outdoor-skating-rinks.html?redirect=/rinks), over 60 volunteer-run [Adopt-a-Rinks](https://www.calgary.ca/volunteer/adopt-a-rink.html) and [indoor skating](https://www.calgary.ca/rec-locations/prices/hockey-skating.html) at 12 arenas with 19 rinks. Have you visited [Prairie Winds Park](https://www.calgary.ca/parks/prairie-winds-park-features.html) in the winter before? There are two skating rinks and decorative winter displays to enjoy.

Plan an afternoon at your local community park snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. For easier skiing, visit a park or golf course that has groomed cross-country trails.

Take a walk through a park on a sunny winter day. You are sure to see birds and other wildlife. You can also pre-book an outdoor firepit at a park and have a winter picnic with friends.

For more ideas about how to stay active during cooler temperatures at city parks, visit [calgary.ca/winteractivities](https://www.calgary.ca/events/winter-city/activities.html?redirect=/winteractivities).

**Protect your household water lines and meter from freezing**

Every winter, some Calgarians will experience frozen water pipes, service lines and water meters, resulting in a water outage. The City’s Frozen Pipes Prevention Program works proactively with homes considered at higher risk due to factors such as location, depth and configuration of water pipes and a history of freezing.

Recently we have noticed an increase in frozen pipes in homes that are typically at a lower risk, where taking some of the steps below could have prevented household pipes from freezing. Ways to avoid freezing include:

* Keep your thermostat at a minimum of 15°C, even if you’re away from home.
* Eliminate any cold drafts in unheated areas where water supply lines are located. This can include basements, crawl spaces, attics, garages and under bathroom and kitchen cabinets.
* Repair broken windows, check doors and insulate areas that allow cold exterior air to enter.
* Insulate your hot and cold-water pipes located in cold areas.
* Open interior doors and cabinets in cold areas to allow heat from the house to warm unprotected pipes.
* Turn off, disconnect, and drain the water line to outside faucets, garden hoses, pools or decorative water features.
* If your hot water tank is in a maintenance room outside of your home, make sure the area is adequately heated.
* Regularly run water in your pipes through everyday use.

Visit [calgary.ca/frozenpipes](https://www.calgary.ca/water/drinking-water/frozen-water-lines.html) to learn more, including actions you can take if you suspect you have frozen pipes.