**The City gives restaurants and bars more flexibility in setting up patios**

With summer in full swing, we hope that you’ve been able to take advantage of one of the highlights: enjoying a local patio. This year, The City has made it even easier for local bars and restaurants to create an outdoor patio by not only waiving patio permit fees for the third straight year, but also by making some changes to the seasonal patio program. The City is encouraging businesses to place their patios curbside, where possible, so that sidewalks remain unobstructed for pedestrian accessibility. This change has created more flexibility for patios and allowed businesses greater design and aesthetic flexibility when imagining patios. We encourage you to explore all the creative patios in our city this year!

Business owners who wish to explore new patio options on public or private land can go to [calgary.ca/patios](http://www.calgary.ca/patios) for more information and to get the permit process started.

**Storm pond safety: Stay back and stay out.**

Storm ponds may look natural and like a great place for summer fun, but they are man-made stormwater treatment facilities and can be dangerous.

*Storm ponds have important work to do*

Storm ponds protect our rivers by helping remove sediment, fertilizer, animal feces, pesticides and other pollutants. They also protect our communities from flooding.

Runoff from rain or melting snow, also called stormwater, washes through the community, collecting dirt, gravel and pollutants along the way. After washing into storm drains, stormwater travels through underground pipes to storm ponds.

By capturing and holding stormwater, storm ponds slow the flow down, allowing sediment and contaminants to settle at the bottom of the pond. The improved water is then slowly released to our rivers, creeks and streams.

*Keep your family and pets safe around storm ponds*

Storm ponds are not safe for recreational purposes. They can be very deep, and because of the potential for rapidly changing water levels (from inlet and outlet pipes), poor water quality and soft, muddy bottoms, a storm pond should never be used for recreational purposes.

Keep your family and pets safe. Stay out of the water. Water contact of any kind, including swimming, wading and boating, is dangerous and strictly prohibited. Keep your pets on leashes and away from the water for their health and safety.

Find out more at calgary.ca/stormpondsafety

**Watering wisely and healthier yards go hand-in-hand**

The summer ahead looks hot and dry, so let’s make the most of the water we use outdoors.

Did you know, Calgary’s dry climate is at risk of droughts, which can put pressure on our rivers and impact our water supply? During the summer, Calgary communities may experience an increase in water usage due to outdoor watering activities.

Following these six simple steps will help you prepare for the weather and build resiliency to drought in our city:

* + Water in the early morning – before 7 a.m. or later in the evening.
	+ Watch the weather forecast and skip watering after a rain or when rain is forecast.
* Keep your lawn at least three inches high. Taller grass shades the soil, requiring less water and staying healthier.
	+ Add bark, wood chips or mulch to reduce evaporation from your soil.
* Water plants with a soaker hose, drip irrigation or by hand to direct water to a plant’s roots and help avoid losing water to evaporation.
* Capture and use the free rainwater that lands on your property! Install a rain barrel and use it to water your trees, shrubs and flowers.

Visit calgary.ca/waterguide for information on how to create a water efficient yard including Watering 101 for plants, shrubs and trees, lawn care and irrigation systems.

**Renting a secondary suite in Calgary?**
There are lots of benefits to renting a secondary suite in Calgary. Before you sign a lease, make sure any rental you consider complies with local safety regulations. Visit [calgary.ca/suites](https://www.calgary.ca/pda/pd/home-building-and-renovations/rent-a-secondary-suite.html) and enter the property address into the [Secondary Suites Registry](https://secondarysuites.calgary.ca/) to make sure your prospective rental is registered and safe.

**Junior golfers play free for a week and Sundays with adult or senior green fee**

Take a kid to the golf course July 4 to 9 at McCall Lake Par 3 and Lakeview. With the purchase of an adult or senior green fee, up to three juniors (ages 4 to 17 years) can play for FREE. As well, every Sunday after 3 p.m. from July 10 to Sept. 4, up to three juniors can again play for free at McCall Par 3 and Lakeview with the purchase of an adult or senior green fee.

Please book your tee time four days in advance. Book online or by phoning the clubhouse. For more details, go to <https://www.calgary.ca/csps/recreation/golf-courses/golf-events.html>. This offer is not valid with other offers or discounts.

**Understanding rights-of-way and your property***Did you know that part of your yard is made up of rights-of-way, and your property line doesn’t begin at the edge of the road or sidewalk closest to your home?*

The City of Calgary is responsible for managing access to municipal rights-of-way in Calgary. A right-of-way is an area that gives The City space to install infrastructure (e.g. street light poles and trees), while also giving shallow utilities (i.e. power, gas and telecommunications providers) a place to install and maintain their critical infrastructure. When utility work is required in your community, crews can apply for the permits required to access the right-of-way to install infrastructure, both above and below ground.

All properties contain a road right-of-way, but only some properties have a utility right-of-way on them. In most cases, the utility right-of way starts at your property line and extends inward, toward your home. The space the right-of-way takes up in a yard will vary and it can also be located along the side of your home or at the back. As a homeowner, you are responsible for mowing and general maintenance, but it is technically the road right-of-way and is considered public land.

For more information or to learn where the right-of-way is located on your property, visit [Calgary.ca/row](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccdavis%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CUYGHY28Z%5Ccalgary.ca%5Crow).