



Application Process for Drone Operation in City Parks

The new [Parks and Pathway Bylaw](#) states that you can fly a drone under 250 grams without a permit in permitted areas, as long as you comply with all provincial and federal legislation. Be courteous when flying a drone. The Parks and Pathway Bylaw prohibits any behaviour which “unreasonably disturbs the use or enjoyment of the park by any other user of the park”.

For more information visit: [Drones in Calgary](#)

Drones and UAVs over 250 grams require a [Calgary Parks Green Space Application](#) and a permit to be issued by the Director, Calgary Parks.

For more information visit: [Safe Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles \(UAV\) or Drones \(calgary.ca\)](#)

Before applying, the operator must obtain the following:

1. A Special Flight Operation Certificate (SFOC) must be obtained from Transport Canada, and it must be valid for Class ‘C’ airspace in the province of Alberta.
2. Proof of \$2,000,000 aviation insurance, with The City listed as additional insured.
3. Full equipment specs including make, model and weight.
4. A flight plan including take-off location, landing location and intended flight path.
5. Proof of Pilot Certificate and equipment registration is required, and a NOTAM must be filed with Calgary International Airport and Springbank Airport.

Once these 5 components have been obtained, a Special Event & Greenspace application can be submitted with all the above attached. Please make sure to include a date range for flight, accounting for possible inclement weather delays.

Parks will review the application, and if approved will provide a permit and Director’s Letter authorizing the drone operation.

Prior to operating the drone, the following conditions must be met:

1. The operator must have their permit and Director’s letter on them at all times.
2. The operator must mark a 100ft radius around the take-off and landing areas.
3. The operator must include signage that indicates that filming/photography is in progress.
4. Drones cannot be flown overhead or within 100 ft of bystanders
5. Flight paths must not fly over roads, buildings, or citizens.

Natural Areas:

1. Organizer **MUST** adhere to the Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 (MBCA) and the Provincial Wildlife Act and Regulations.
2. The bird migration period runs from approximately April 15 to August 31 in Calgary. Drone flights should be avoided in natural areas during this time due to the potential for disturbance to breeding birds and their young. If avoidance is not feasible, the organizer must have a bird/nest sweep completed by a qualified biologist in advance: ideally, this should be completed within 72 hours of the flight where feasible, and within no more than 7 days of the activity taking place. A bird sweep report must be forwarded to Parks prior to the event.
3. Organizer must adhere to City guidance on drone operations:

- a. Safe Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) or Drones

[https://www.calgary.ca/cps/public-services/safe-use-of-unmanned-aerial-vehicles-\(uav\)-or-drones.html](https://www.calgary.ca/cps/public-services/safe-use-of-unmanned-aerial-vehicles-(uav)-or-drones.html)

Drones in Calgary

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