

Greater Downtown

A strong downtown supports jobs, businesses and city life. The Calgary Plan guides land use, mobility and public space planning to help downtown thrive as a hub for employment, culture and urban living.

What did we hear from Calgarians?

Better public spaces, greenery and parks downtown.

A walkable downtown with great transit connections.

The need for a vision for the downtown.

Desire for more events and culture.

What does the Calgary Plan say?

- Most trips within downtown are made by walking, wheeling and transit.
- Streets prioritize walking, safety, wayfinding and public amenities.
- Parks and public spaces are safe, accessible, green and connected.
- Shops, cafes, patios and retail are directly on sidewalks for easy access.
- Transit streets and stations are well-integrated, safe and comfortable.
- Protected, connected and safe cycling routes with parking and repair facilities.
- Trees, plants and natural features along streets and in parks.
- Support for festivals, events and attractions.
- Plus 15 network integrated as part of the walking network with safe, accessible connections.

What is consistent with the current MDP?

- A strong, integrated mobility network supporting transit, walking and wheeling.
- Streets that prioritize pedestrian safety, comfort and accessibility.
- High-quality, engaging and active public spaces.
- The downtown is a high-activity, mixed-use, culturally vibrant economic and civic hub.
- Attractions and destinations (like events, the riverfront and vibrant street life) draw people downtown.

What has changed?

Better parks downtown

Increase park space downtown with a target of one hectare per 1,000 people and improve access to parks and programs. Plant more trees, expand natural areas and enhance river pathways to support access to nature. Development should be designed to minimize shadowing on the Bow River, river pathways, parks and other public spaces.

Why?

Protecting the things people love about Calgary

Plan reference

2.2.1 Greater Downtown

Easier ways to get around downtown

Make downtown safer and easier to navigate with a more comfortable pedestrian environment, protected cycling routes, improved Plus 15 connections, clear wayfinding signage and transit information.

Protecting the things people love about Calgary

2.2.1 Greater Downtown

Greater downtown vision

Support downtown as a hub for business, culture, innovation, education, entertainment, community life and social services. Encourage mixed-use neighbourhoods and foster vibrancy through festivals and events.

Protecting the things people love about Calgary

2.2.1 Greater Downtown

Check out the draft Calgary Plan | calgary.ca/citybuilding



Greater Downtown

Greater Downtown includes the communities of Beltline, West End, Eau Claire, Chinatown, the Downtown Core, East Village, and part of Sunalta (West Village) north of the CPKC rail line.



Connections to the Zoning Bylaw

The new Zoning Bylaw will be a tool to help implement the Calgary Plan's guidance for the Greater Downtown. The Downtown zones integrate a mix of commercial, institutional, arts and culture and residential uses to foster a dynamic urban environment and efficient use of land and infrastructure.

Related Council priorities:

Balanced growth and evolving neighbourhoods

