

# Nature

Calgary has a strong ecological network made up of protected natural areas, rivers, creeks and wetlands. The Calgary Plan supports protecting and expanding environmentally significant areas and helps The City identify and fill gaps where access to nature is lacking.

## What did we hear from Calgarians?

A value of nature in the city.

Enjoyment and protection of street trees and a desire for expanding the urban forest.

Protect the ecological network and integrate nature throughout the city.

## What does the Calgary Plan say?

- Supports the ecological network (including natural areas, rivers, creeks and wetlands) that is protected, restored, connected, naturalized and accessible.
- Protects and expands the urban forest.
- Development supports the ecological network, integrates natural landforms and includes access to nature.
- Public access to rivers and creeks also considers public safety, water quality and sensitive habitats.

## What is consistent with the current MDP?

- Natural systems are protected and connected throughout the ecological network.
- Habitats, wetlands, and degraded ecosystems are protected, restored and enhanced over time.
- Waterbodies and environmentally significant areas are supported through integrated water and land management.
- The urban forest is expanded through public investment, private stewardship and appropriate planting conditions.
- Access to natural and naturalized public lands throughout the city.

## What has changed?

### Stronger protection for nature

Care for important natural areas like rivers, forests, wetlands and grasslands, while increasing public access to nature. Keep the ecological network connected and healthy by reducing harm, using buffers, managing water and naturalizing more spaces.

### Protecting and growing the urban forest

Planting trees along residential, commercial and mixed-use streets to create shade, enhance character and support human health. Choosing species and planting approaches suited to different contexts, with particular attention to drought tolerance and water efficiency in industrial areas.

## Why?

Protecting the things people love about Calgary

Protecting the things people love about Calgary

Infrastructure keeping pace with growth

## Plan reference

3.1 Natural systems

3.1.4 Urban forest



### Ecological network

The connected system of natural habitats, corridors, and buffer areas that support ecosystems and wildlife across the city and includes both public and private land.

### Park system

The collection of public spaces (including parks, natural areas, and open space) that provide opportunities for recreation, active mobility, and access to nature, and includes lands that also form part of the ecological network.

### Natural areas

City-owned lands within the park system that protect undisturbed or lightly disturbed landscapes with native plants and natural features, and are a key way the park system helps protect and strengthen the ecological network.

Related Council priorities:

**Community livability and well-being**



Check out the draft Calgary Plan | [calgary.ca/citybuilding](http://calgary.ca/citybuilding)