

City Building Program

CALGARY PLAN | CHAPTER 4

Delivering Calgary

City services play a vital role in supporting Calgarians' high quality of life. The park system provides spaces for both relaxation and recreation, while the public recreation system delivers accessible, inclusive, and diverse programs and facilities. Municipal civic facilities—including public-facing, operational, and emergency services—ensure Calgarians remain safe, supported, and engaged. Finally, essential utilities such as water, wastewater, stormwater, waste management, and energy systems enable the city to operate reliably, sustainably, and efficiently.

Delivering Calgary policies matter because they:

- Enable an accessible and well-connected parks system
- Support a public recreation system that meets the needs of Calgarians
- Offer a variety of municipal civic facilities for arts, culture, education, community, and other support services
- Provide Calgarians with reliable access to a clean, secure and sustainable water supply
- Help protect Calgarians from stormwater flooding
- · Guide a sustainable and efficient waste system
- Provide opportunities for innovation in Calgary's energy system

Parks systems:

The parks system includes parks, open space, and natural areas. Parks are specifically designed for human enjoyment, recreation and education. Open space are lands that are primarily intended for another purpose but have a secondary function of providing environmental and recreational benefits. Examples include roadway greens, remnant lands, or regional amenities such as golf courses and cemeteries.



We heard Calgarians care about...

Opportunities to gather and share experiences in vibrant public spaces.

Environments and services that support Calgarians of all ages and abilities to experience the benefits of social connections and community.

Ensuring an equitable mix of infrastructure provision, particularly to help parts of the city that are currently underserved by infrastructure.

The significance and value of the city's rivers, natural areas, parks, and recreation.

Emphasize preserving natural areas and enhancing parks.

Providing neighbourhoods with parks and natural areas.

Calgary Plan Summaries for Information | May 2025

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Delivering Calgary Policies

The Calgary Plan merges, streamlines, and updates existing direction from the *Municipal Development Plan (MDP)* and the *Calgary Transportation Plan (CTP)*, and aligns with other City documents such as the *Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan* and *GamePLAN*.



What are the direction highlights?	What's new to the Calgary Plan?
Parks, Recreation and Municipal Spaces and Facilities	
Parks System: Connect parks and open spaces to neighbourhoods. Provide multi-functional parks within walking distance to all residences. Address gaps in park provision through improved connections, functionality, design or more space. Locate parks in new communities centrally or near natural areas. Provide a range of amenities to meet diverse needs.	The plan follows the existing MDP parks vision, focusing on versatility, convenience, and safety. It prioritizes sports, arts, culture, and nature access.
	There is now more detailed guidance to address park shortages, including improving connections, acquiring new park areas, and enhancing features. It also provides clearer direction for placing parks in new communities, supporting compatible commercial use and adding more restrooms. Updated policy language aligns with the Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan.
Public Recreation System: Provide new facilities, enhance existing facilities or improve the allocation of spaces to fill gaps in the public recreation system. Ensure facilities are accessible, affordable, adaptable and climate-resilient. Allocate land for emergency and operational facilities in early planning stages.	The plan includes simplified policy direction from the existing MDP. Its goal is to provide easily accessible facilities for Calgarians.
	There is more precise recreation policies in alignment with GamePLAN.
Municipal Operations and Emergency Response Facilities: Colocate with other facilities or uses, where appropriate. Incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation; and disaster and risk mitigation strategies. Design facilities to fit within their context and meet the needs of the local population.	The plan includes simplified policy direction from the existing MDP. It ensures that vital infrastructure and emergency services are available for Calgarians when needed.
	There is now clearer guidance on where to locate these facilities.
Servicing	
Water System: Service all development with municipal water and sanitary infrastructure. Ensure infrastructure is resilient, reliable, and meets the needs of a growing city.	Calgary has historically included policy in New Community, Centre City, and Developed Areas Guidebooks (MDP Vol 2, Parts 1 to 3). These policies have been consolidated and simplified into the Calgary Plan.
Stormwater: Integrate climate-adaptive stormwater infrastructure within all communities. Blend stormwater management with natural systems like wetlands. Limit damage to streams.	The plan continues to promote stormwater management. It is largely consistent with the existing MDP, with simplified and modernized language.
	New climate and sustainability policies are added.
Waste System: Encourage waste reduction and reuse. Protect the long-term operations of our landfills. Provide adequate space for waste management and collection.	The plan continues to include policies to reduce waste and improve waste management.
	The plan now includes new policies to direct responsible waste management on public and private lands.
Energy: Consider energy efficiency in community design. Support renewable energy. Increase the viability and use of district energy.	The plan continues to include policies for energy systems.