

## Community renewal: Enhancing vibrancy in established communities



Aerial view of the Balmoral Circus expansion design.

Calgary's established communities are growing and changing. As communities experience revitalization they can be supported by investments to help attract more people to live, work and play in the area. New development, like new housing projects, updating roads and services, helps ensure the community's needs are met today and tomorrow.

### How The City of Calgary invests in community renewal

The City actively invests in places and spaces experiencing growth and change, to meet the needs of the community. Some examples of investments are:

- Improving traffic and pedestrian safety.
- Updating existing and building new parks and playgrounds.
- Creating urban plazas.
- Repairing and maintaining existing infrastructure, like potholes.

The needs of each community are unique. In 2020, Council approved a \$30 million investment in the **Established Area Growth and Change Strategy** for improvements to public spaces and places in established communities experiencing growth and change. The projects supported by this funding are informed by initiatives such as the Established Area Growth and Change Strategy, Local Area Plans and public consultation on proposed projects in established communities.

### Improving public spaces and places

Through the Established Area Investment Fund, The City is supporting established communities through improvements to public spaces and places. One of the projects that is being supported is the expansion of Balmoral Circus in Mount Pleasant and Tuxedo Park.

The community took part in engagement for the project throughout 2020 and 2021. The intersection of 2 Avenue N.W. and 19 Street N.W. will transform permanently into part of Balmoral Circus. The expanded park will provide quiet spaces for passive recreation and create an attractive community destination.

Construction of the improvements are expected to be complete in 2022.

### How developers help revitalize an established neighbourhood

Developers support growth in our city by bringing new development projects into established communities. They:

- Add new or different housing options.
- Redevelop existing buildings.
- Develop or upgrade commercial spaces to attract new businesses.

Developers contribute to public spaces and places and community services in Calgary's Centre City through levy contributions, supporting upgrades to park spaces, pathways, libraries, and bikeways.

Projects to improve public spaces and places can also be a joint venture between The City and developers in two ways:

1. Developers' financial contributions to an identified project.
2. A developer agrees to provide additional community amenities to accommodate a City-approved increase in density for their development project (known as bonus density).



Drawing of Balmoral Circus after expansion.

## Community renewal in Calgary: Lois Szabo Commons

Lois Szabo Commons, located in the Beltline community, is a vibrant park where residents can gather, socialize, relax, and unwind.

As a high-density area, there are limited private outdoor spaces available. There was a need to provide residents with a new outdoor space to better accommodate the growing and vibrant urban neighbourhood.

Lois Szabo Commons adds leisure space that was urgently needed. Using residents' feedback, the park was designed to include a curved space for gatherings or performances, lots of seating options for visiting with friends and family, and a concrete ping pong table. The layout design also focused on lighting needs to build ambiance, but also a high-level of visibility and safety throughout the site in the evenings.

Funding for the park was provided by BOSA Development Calgary and The City. The community, The City and developer helped shape this public space into an attractive and vibrant community amenity that opened in 2021.



Design drawing of Lois Szabo Commons.



New public space in East Village.

## Get engaged in your community

A vibrant city is fuelled by people who engage in the development process. There are several ways to learn and engage in development projects that matter to you:

- Contact 311.
- Talk to your community association.
- Participate in engagement for projects in your area through our [Engagement Portal](#).
- View and comment on development permit applications in your area through the [Development Map](#).
- Contact your [Councillor's office](#).

