

Eau Claire Area Improvements: Points of Interest Map

Today you are walking through completed sections of the Eau Claire Area Improvements program. Completed projects go beyond updating our downtown's interface with the Bow River and designing improved pathways and public spaces. It involves a flood mitigation effort that will increase the resilience of our downtown and protect the economic drivers of our economy.

Each of the projects in Eau Claire are:

- Improving connections into and out of Eau Claire and downtown, whether by foot, bike, scooter, or transit.
- Building on Eau Claire's character to create great spaces to live, work, play, and visit.
- Supporting thoughtful long-term growth and development in the area.

The Eau Claire Area Improvements program started in 2020 and construction kicked off in 2021. After four years we celebrate the completion of the Eau Claire Plaza, Downtown Flood Barrier & Eau Claire Promenade, Centre Street Pedestrian Ramps, and Jaipur Bridge.

Learn more at
calgary.ca/eauclaire

Some notable features of the Eau Claire Area Improvements are:

- The redeveloped Eau Claire Plaza honours the natural, cultural and social heritage of the site – from its industrial roots, to the establishment of a landmark destination and key gathering space in Calgary's public realm network
- The Downtown Flood Barrier creates a continuous 1:200 flood barrier stretching from West Eau Claire to East Village.
- A seamless pathway connection to and from Prince's Island Park created through coordination with the New Jaipur Bridge.
- Widened underpass at Centre Street improves comfort and safety for pathway users.
- The new Centre Street Pedestrian Ramps improve accessibility and connect the upper deck of Centre Street to the Eau Claire Promenade.



Gateway Timbers: The gateway timbers in Eau Claire Plaza were salvaged from the Riverside Forest Fire that tore through Mt. Hood National Forest in 2020. The timbers have been thoughtfully integrated into the design of the plaza, harkening back to the site's lumber history.

Upon completion, the area was replanted to provide shade, support plant diversity and withstand Calgary's changing weather.



Archaeology: Cultural materials from the early days of Calgary were recovered and recorded within the project site. From the Reconciliation Bridge to the newly constructed Jaipur Bridge, the most materially-dense area was located immediately adjacent to the Centre Street Bridge, where materials were collected from a thick deposit over 2 metres below the current surface. This deposit contained a large quantity of materials dating from the late 19th to the mid 20th century, including but not limited to, one of the earliest licence plates in the province (#390 from 1913), numerous cosmetics jars and personal effects such as combs, shoes, buttons, ornaments, clay pipes, a cigarette case, a brass sign for the Crossfield Meat Market, and numerous hand blown bottles and jars, including several medicine bottles. These findings emphasize and enhance our understanding of the downtown riverfront's importance and place within the ongoing story that is the city of Calgary.

Formal and Informal Programming: Eau Claire Plaza was thoughtfully designed to support a range of formal and informal programming, guided by extensive input from interest holders. The site includes distinct areas for smaller gatherings and a large, open hardscape for larger events. Flexible spaces like the Urban Podium and Central Green are free of fixed elements, allowing for adaptable setups of all sizes.

Eau Claire Plaza is designed to host events year-round, helping to keep the area active and welcoming in every season. This ongoing activity enhances safety and encourages foot traffic, which in turn, provides continued support for local businesses throughout Eau Claire.

Water Feature: A water feature with fog jets anchors the Riverside Terraces area of Eau Claire Plaza. This water feature was chosen for its accessible design, low water use, and minimal operational costs, as the water does not require chemical treatment. Integrated lighting allows the feature to transform into a winter display, supporting year-round programming.



The Eau Claire & Bow River Lumber Company:

The Eau Claire & Bow River Lumber Company building is a well-known historic building in Calgary and is the sole surviving building from the company. The Eau Claire & Bow River Lumber Company eventually grew to become the largest supplier of lumber in the North West Territories, and after 59 years of operations, the Calgary mill ceased production in 1945.

As part of Eau Claire Plaza redevelopment, the Eau Claire & Bow River Lumber Company building has been restored and will become a destination in the reimagined plaza. The Lumber Company Building anchors the market street, just south of the Bow River Lagoon, and will be a future tenant space. In addition to the Lumber Co. Building complements the historic structure, as well as to better serve the plaza over the long term in terms of functionality and operational capacity, economic sustainability, and programmatic flexibility.



Olympic Arch: The Olympic Arch was created for the citizens of Calgary as host of 1988 Winter Olympic Games and was installed at Eau Claire Plaza for 33 years. As part of the redevelopment of Eau Claire Plaza, the Olympic Arch was restored in coordination with the architect, Fredrick Valentine. The Olympic Arch has been thoughtfully integrated into the design of the plaza, as a gateway to Market Street in the NE corner of the site.

PARTNERS:

A place where artists, cultural and community groups can gather and create. Operating out of the historic Eau Claire & Bow River Lumber Co. building, **cSPACE Eau Claire** is the second creative hub in cSPACE Projects' emerging portfolio of creative places.

Detour murals were prepared to line the 5A pathway detours during construction of Eau Claire Plaza. These murals were prepared in partnership with (bold)Downtown West Community Association(bold) and will be re-installed in Downtown West with the completion of Eau Claire Plaza.

With assistance from the **City of Calgary Accessibility Team**, the **Eau Claire Plaza Design Team** took an "Inclusive for All" approach, considering how people of all abilities would use and move through the space. Features like flush transitions, accessible elements at the urban beach, and clear site connections help ensure accessibility is seamlessly built into the design.

Sien Lok Society of Calgary Honors Canadian-Chinese Heritage by preserving the Past through Public Art. The Society promotes, maintains, and honours this rich tradition, while highlighting the sacrifice, hard work and dedication that upholds the legacy of the Chinese predecessors who pioneered Canada.

East Village is a 49-acre master planned community at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers in downtown Calgary. East Village includes numerous multi-award-winning spaces, including the beloved Central Library, the historic Simmons Building, inspiring public art, plus it provides a direct connection to vital green spaces including the 31-acre revitalized St. Patrick's Island and Jack & Jean Leslie RiverWalk, a 2km stretch of dedicated pedestrian and cycle lanes along the edges of the rivers.

Since 2007, **Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC)** has invested more than \$400 million in infrastructure in East Village to transform the area into the vibrant neighbourhood it is today and is pleased to host an action-packed lineup of events and programming. From live music, birdwatching, or community markets, there is always something happening in East Village. Check out the full listing by visiting exexperience.com/event-calendar.



Did you know that trails in the Eau Claire area are part of the **Trans Canada Trail**? The Trans Canada Trail is the longest recreational trail in the world, spanning more than 28,000 kilometres on land and water. It passes through every province and territory, reaches three oceans, and connects 15,000 rural, urban and Indigenous communities. The Trans Canada Trail is dedicated to connecting people to each other, communities and the planet. You can learn more about the Trail and explore the interactive map online: www.tctrail.ca.

Sien Lok Park Lion Statues, the large pagoda, and the Gold Mountain were built to commemorate the Chinese Calgarians who dedicated their lives to building the railroad. The park is surrounded by benches that represent families in the Chinese community in honor of past loved ones. Sien Lok Park also features the "Wall of Names" monument to honor the Chinese pioneers who came to Canada in search of a fresh start and is devoted to the history of Chinese immigration.

Projects:

(shown on the map)



Eau Claire Area Improvements:

The overarching Eau Claire Area Improvements Program integrates multiple construction projects, which are all being coordinated to help reduce repeated disruptions and impacts for all of the individual projects happening in the area. The projects in the area combine flood protection, lifecycle improvements, enhanced safety measures and the goal of building and maintaining downtown vibrancy.

Downtown Flood Barrier:

Protecting Calgarians from floods is a top priority for our city. The Downtown Flood Barrier was constructed along the south side of the Bow River and extends from Jaipur Bridge to Reconciliation Bridge, reducing the flood risk to Downtown, Chinatown, East Village and Eau Claire communities. It blends seamlessly into the West Eau Claire flood barrier and is the final piece of the downtown flood mitigation.



Eau Claire Promenade:

The Eau Claire Promenade extends from The Peace Bridge eastwards to the Reconciliation Bridge combining flood protection, mobility, and public space, with a focus on design excellence. The goal was to create a safer, more resilient, accessible, and beautiful riverfront promenade and cycle network that integrates flood protection into the public space. Separate cycling and pedestrian pathways weave through landmark gathering spaces at the reimagined Eau Claire lagoon, Sien Lok Park, and connect to the RiverWalk east of Centre Street.



Jaipur Bridge:

Jaipur Bridge is the primary south connection between the Eau Claire area and Prince's Island Park. The new bridge opened in 2022 and meets current bridge design and engineering standards, accessibility standards, improves flood resiliency, accommodates Prince's Island Park events, and maintains long-term access to Prince's Island Park and the Bow River Pathway. Additionally, the new Jaipur Bridge was designed with the origins of its name in mind, and we worked with members of the Jaipur-Calgary Foundation to ensure we honoured Jaipur and the Indian-Canadian Community respectfully.



Eau Claire Plaza:

The Eau Claire Plaza was redesigned to allow for more flexible year-round uses and improve accessibility for all residents and visitors. The new design, completed in 2025, will embrace everyday community gatherings, in addition to spaces for hosting larger events and festivals. Eau Claire Plaza is an iconic public space that connects the vibrant mixed-use Eau Claire community, Bow River Pathway, and Prince's Island. The new design is grounded in history, with adaptable and engaging spaces that support social and cultural gatherings at all scales, throughout the year.



Centre Street Pedestrian Ramps:

We replaced the Centre Street pedestrian ramps that connect to the historic Centre Street Bridge. Our work included improving walking and wheeling access by widening the ramps, enhancing the access points to Centre Street Bridge, and upgrading the hand rails. The Ramps now connect and tie into the Eau Claire Promenade to create a seamless connection to the pathway network.



Learn more at calgary.ca/eauclaire

CHINATOWN