

Picnic Site General Info/ FAQs

A **designated picnic site** in City of Calgary parks can be reserved in advance and permits the exclusive use of the existing facilities that are at the chosen site. This may include one or more of the following: picnic tables, fire pit, barbeque, shelter, or power, in an assigned area.

How do I book a Picnic Site?

Full payment is required at the time of booking in order to reserve a picnic site. This can be done online at Calgary Live and Play 24 hours a day 7 days a week, or over the telephone using a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express. Our Customer Service Centre hours of operation are Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 4:00pm, except for stat holidays. We are closed between Christmas and New Year's.

When can I book a picnic site?

Picnic site bookings commence within the 1st 2 weeks of the New Year. Check the timelines on [Book a picnic site \(calgary.ca\)](http://calgary.ca) for the exact date.

**** Online picnic site bookings require 5 days' notice.**

When is the Picnic site Open Season?

Most picnic sites can be rented from the May long weekend until the Thanksgiving long weekend in October.

Exceptions: Bowness Park, Centre Area with Shelter (site #3), which is available for booking year round.
Bowness is not open for bookings on long weekends; all sites are available first come, first served.
South Glenmore Park is available for booking from the middle of June until mid September.

What are the hours I can book?

Bowness Park	Monday – Friday	8:45 am – 2:45 pm 3:15 pm – 9:15 pm
	Saturday/Sunday	8:45 am – 2:45pm only
All other sites are booked	Monday – Sunday	8:45 am – 2:45 pm 3:15 pm – 9:15 pm

Should your picnic overlap the 6 hour blocks, you are able to book and pay for both six hour blocks, and reserve the site all day.

What are the park hours?

All parks are open from 5 a.m. - 11 p.m. unless otherwise posted at the park. Park gates will be closed and locked at 11 p.m. and reopen at approximately 5 a.m. the next day. Any vehicles left in the parking lots will remain there until the following day.

What if someone is at the site when I arrive?

It is your responsibility to bring the issued permit with you to the site in case of conflict. A Facility Rental Permit holder, regardless of circumstances, will always have priority over a non-permit holder, for the specific date, time and location booked. By-Law can be contacted via 3-1-1 if you are encountering a particularly difficult situation.

Facility Rental information will be posted, where possible, at the site to alert the public of times and dates that the designated sites will not be available for casual use.

Do I need to book a picnic site?

If you wish to ensure you have a site, it is in your best interest to book a site and obtain a permit by paying the applicable booking fees. However, all designated picnic site areas are available to the public at no charge, on a first-come, first-served basis if not already reserved/booked.

Is firewood included?

Firewood is not included as an amenity. Please plan to provide your own. You should always check for fire bans prior to having a fire in any park.

Is there power at the picnic sites?

Electricity (where available) can also be requested free of charge but will not be guaranteed. You can refer to the 'Picnic Site Amenities' document for a list of sites with outlets. Sites with power only deliver 15 amps and can be overloaded.

How do I use the barbeques?

Barbeques at designated picnic sites are free-standing metal containers which allow you to burn firewood or charcoal briquettes inside. You will need something to light the fire with. It is also recommended that you bring tin foil if you plan to cook on top of the barbeque, or bring roasting sticks for cooking inside the barbeque or over the fire pit.

Can I bring my own barbeque?

Yes, you can bring your own camp-style or backyard barbeque into the park. Larger barbecues that are fuelled by propane are also acceptable. We ask that you be considerate and place backyard barbecues away from grassy areas, on cement or dirt if at all possible. You are not permitted to bring a commercial or industrial-sized solid-fuelled barbeque without obtaining a special event permit.

Are there washroom facilities available?

Yes. The washroom facilities are available from the May long weekend until Thanksgiving and will be locked in the winter. Washrooms are typically open from 7 am to 9 pm during summer months.

Are the sites accessible for persons with disabilities?

Yes, the picnic sites and washroom facilities are accessible, with assistance. We strongly recommend you visit to the site to ensure it is suitable for your group's use.

Is parking available?

Parking lots are located at all City of Calgary parks, free of charge. Parking is available on a first come, first served basis, and is not included or guaranteed with a picnic site permit. Vehicles are not permitted to be driven into a park without special event approval. Parking at Bowness Park is limited and may not be available.

Is the playground included in my picnic site rental?

Playgrounds are not included as part of any picnic site rental, and must be kept open for all park users to enjoy.

Are dogs allowed in the park?

Yes, dogs are allowed in the parks if they are on a leash, except in designated off-leash areas. Please clean up after your pet (min. \$250 fine for failing to do so).

What is the cancellation policy?

Cancellations and amendments are accepted with 7 calendar days' notice. Cancellations can be completed online through Calgary Live and Play up to 8 days prior to your booking date. To make changes to the date, time or location, the renter must notify the Recreation Facility Bookings office a minimum of 8 days prior to the rental. A \$10.00 administration fee plus applicable GST will apply for cancellations or changes that result in freeing up a bookable space. Within seven days of the booking, it is non-refundable.

What if the weather is poor and we can't have the picnic?

Inclement weather refunds are no longer offered as of 2023. It is your responsibility to check the weather forecast before your booking a minimum of 8 days in advance to decide if you wish to cancel. Cancellations and amendments can be completed online through Calgary Live and Play or by contacting the Bookings office to arrange a refund with a minimum 7 calendar days' notice. Within seven days of the booking and thereafter, the reservation is non-refundable.

Is alcohol allowed?

No, alcohol is strictly prohibited in general public use areas. Specific sites have been selected as acceptable for alcohol consumption as of 2022. The alcohol consumption permissions of a site can be changed at any time without advance notice. Drink in moderation. **Public intoxication and disruptive behaviour, including public urination, is not tolerated.** Park sites are monitored by City of Calgary Parks Staff and/or By-Law Enforcement Officers. A person must stop consuming liquor in an area designated for alcohol consumption if a Calgary Police officer or community peace officer believes that they are intoxicated and requests that they stop consuming liquor. See <https://www.calgary.ca/parks/activities/alcohol-in-parks.html> for more information.

What activities are not permitted at picnic sites?

Signage or banners cannot be attached to trees, shrubs or other park furniture. Amplified/acoustic noise must align with current Noise Bylaw (311). Please respect plants, trees and wildlife.

*Sporting activities such as baseball, soccer or volleyball are not permitted in parks without **special event** approval. You cannot stake anything into the ground (nets, tents, etc), tie anything to trees or drive a vehicle on park turf without special event approval.

What is a Special Event?

A **Special Event** is an event that occurs in a City of Calgary park or greenspace and is categorized as anything that has a greater impact on neighboring communities than casual or intended park use. This might involve the setup of tents, additional portisans, dunk tanks, inflatable bouncers, petting zoos, dumpsters or industrial solid-fueled BBQ's. It also covers any event that will serve food to the public, post banners or signs, have amplified or acoustic performances (DJs, bands, performers), sell merchandise, conduct face painting or require vehicle access. Events that would like to serve alcohol, set off fireworks, or large amounts of tents will need to apply for a **Festival Event** permit, as additional approvals from AGLC, Police, Fire or Development & Building Approvals are needed.

How do I book a Special Event or Festival?

Please refer to our Calgary.ca for information on our [Special Event & Greenspace](#) or [Festival Event](#) criteria & processes.