S.E. Calgary Odour Update

Community Update | Fall 2026

The City continues to investigate odour concerns in S.E. Calgary using air-monitoring information, weather conditions, field investigations and community reports to better understand when and where odours are occurring and what may be contributing to them.

Since the Spring 2026 update, The City has completed targeted work at the Shepard Landfill and expanded the monitoring system. Early odour service-request data is encouraging, but more information is needed before conclusions can be drawn about the effect of the completed work.

Work completed at the Shepard Landfill

Monitoring and field investigations identified access points in the Shepard Landfill leachate system as a potential source of some odour-causing compounds. Leachate is the liquid created when water including rain and snow come into contact with waste in the landfill.

Over the summer, all identified leachate-system access points were capped. The caps provide a tighter seal intended to prevent odorous gases from escaping through these openings.

What are we seeing so far? Year-to-date odour service requests are lower than they were at the same point in 2025. This is initial information, and it is too soon to determine whether the decrease is a sustained trend or the result of the leachate-system access point capping work. Odour events can also be affected by weather, operating conditions and other potential sources.

The City will continue using monitoring information and community reports to assess whether the completed work is having the intended effect over time.

Expanded odour monitoring

The S.E. Calgary odour monitoring system has been expanded to include gas chromatography-mass spectrometry, or GC/MS. This equipment identifies specific odour compounds in the air and can be moved between monitoring locations.

GC/MS adds a more detailed layer of information to the existing monitoring program. It will help The City compare potential sources and narrow down what may be contributing when an odour event occurs.

Please continue reporting odours

Even with fewer odour service requests reported so far in 2026, it is important that residents continue to report odours when they experience them. These reports help The City understand when and where odours are occurring and compare residents' experiences with monitoring information, weather conditions and potential sources.

- The exact date and time
- The location where the odour was noticed
- How long the odour lasted
- A description of the odour, where possible

Reports can be submitted through 311 or online.

For more information visit calgary.ca/odours