



# Firepits in Parks- Pilot

## Winter 2020-2021

Calgarians have consistently told us how much they value their park spaces—and how important public parks have been to their mental and physical health during the pandemic.

To provide further opportunities for cold-weather recreation, we have taken a number of actions to help citizens celebrate winter while staying connected to friends and family. These activities are available to everyone for no cost:

- We're installing new, temporary firepits for public use at several smaller community parks throughout the city;
- We'll have wood available for use at existing regional park firepits; and
- Calgarians are allowed to use their personal, portable propane firepits in manicured parks.

### Community Firepits

These new firepits are free to use between the hours of 9 AM – 9 PM. You can burn your own firewood without a booked time, or go [online to 311](#) and register for a free permit. Permits provide:

- a specific booking time for use; and
- two hours of free firewood.

Firewood can be picked up at the nearest regional park or Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, and you MUST book a permit through 311 for the free wood. [View the list of community firepit locations here.](#)

### Regional Firepits

During weekends, we'll also have staff onsite at [select regional parks](#) to provide 2 hours of free firewood for citizens who [register for a booking time on 311](#).

Please note: hours of staff and firewood availability varies at each park.

### Propane Firepits

[Personal, portable propane firepits](#) are allowed in manicured parks only, with some restrictions:

- Propane-powered pits only.
- Park hours are 5 AM – 11 PM unless otherwise posted.
- You may not use propane pits in wild/natural areas, on pathways, golf courses, cemeteries or on toboggan hills/xx skiing tracks.
- Firepits cannot be placed under trees in any circumstances. They must be at least 10m away from trees, bushes, or tall grasses.
- Choose an open space with clear sight lines, avoid crowds, and avoid all wildlife.
- Firepits must be at least 10m away from playgrounds, benches or other structures.

Alcohol, fireworks or other incendiary devices of any kind are not allowed in any City green spaces.

And please, be a good neighbour to citizens and our wildlife. The [Parks and Pathways bylaw](#) applies to all these activities.

### Staying safer: COVID-19

- Only gather with members of your immediate family or cohorts. Do not create crowds.
- Keep 2m of space between people.
- Use face coverings if you can't distance.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer frequently.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth and face.
- Cover coughs and sneezes in a tissue or your elbow.
- Do not share food or drinks.

## **FAQs**

### **Why do we need to register for a permit if it's free?**

- During COVID, we have to minimize crowds to keep Calgarians safer. Having specific bookings reduces crowding.
- It helps us measure the popularity of this pilot project, take feedback and better assign resources based on locations.
- Firewood is subject to availability and we've had a shortage due to COVID. Booking a time helps manage this. Please note, while we're working hard to meet demand, we may not always have wood available.
- A permit means you'll have a guaranteed time to use the community firepit.

### **What is a manicured park?**

Manicured parks are spaces where you'll see mowed grass and flower beds, benches and other amenities.

### **What is a regional park?**

Regional parks are larger 'destination' public green spaces that typically have washrooms and more amenities available. Prairie Winds, South Glenmore and Bowness would be examples of regional parks.

For more information, please visit

[Calgary.ca/winterfirepits](http://Calgary.ca/winterfirepits)