



**THE
CALGARY
PARTY**

RECREATION TOOLKIT



The liveable city

Calgary needs to be a great city to play. While our city has done an excellent job creating amazing park spaces and what is arguably the best pathway system in North America, we have severely underinvested in our recreation facilities and libraries.

Every day, thousands of Calgary families are driving their kids across the city to participate in sport in facilities that are cramped, crowded, and insufficient to meet the needs of our growing population. Similar challenges exist at The Calgary Public Library, which issues an average of 400 new library cards each day and is struggling to keep up with growing demand.

And the situation is about to get much worse.

Rapid population growth is placing more demands on our existing recreation infrastructure and our libraries. Most of Calgary's recreation facilities are over 40 years old and nearing end of life. These facilities need to be replaced. For example, we are hitting the crisis point with aquatics. Today, over 24,000 kids are on the wait list for swimming lessons. Imagine what will happen these aging facilities are forced to close.

The Calgary Party will make investments that bring community amenities into balance across the city, by prioritizing investments in recreation, libraries and parks, with a focus on underserved communities.





BUILD THE RECREATION FACILITIES CALGARY NEEDS

Calgary's population has surged past 1.6 million, but our network of recreation facilities hasn't kept pace. Many new communities are built without access to gyms, pools, arenas, or libraries. Older neighbourhoods are served by facilities built in the 1970s and 1980s that are now outdated, under-capacity, or physically inaccessible. This gap in infrastructure limits physical activity, community connection, and access to affordable wellness.

Calgary already has an ambitious recreation roadmap: GamePLAN - Reimagining Public Recreation. But GamePLAN has not yet been funded by Calgary City Council. The Calgary Party has the political will and long-term discipline to bring GamePlan to life.

The Calgary Party will:

- **Create a Recreation Capital Fund**, by dedicating a percentage of the property tax each year to fund recreation capital projects. This fund will provide the Recreation department with stable and predictable funding to allow for multi-year planning. This fund will be used to renovate, replace or build new facilities to meet growing demand. This fund will also be used to leverage funding from other governments and organizations.
- **Allocate 25% of City surpluses to support recreation infrastructure.** When Calgary generates a budget surplus, we will allocate a minimum of 25% of the surplus to the Recreation Capital Fund to accelerate construction of capital projects.
- **Partner with other organizations to co-fund facilities** such as foundations, post-secondary institutions, developers, non-profit organizations and the private sector. The City can't fund all of Calgary's recreation needs on its own and we need to be innovative and creative in working with partners to meet the recreational needs of the city.



BUILD THE RECREATION FACILITIES CALGARY NEEDS

The Calgary Party will (continued):

- **Create a 10-Year Recreation Infrastructure Roadmap.** This roadmap will prioritizing investment based on population growth, service equity, geographic balance, and community need. It will focus new new builds and renovations with core recreation services: aquatics, arenas, fitness, gymnasiums, multipurpose space, and fieldhouses
- **Ensuring public facilities meet inclusivity and accessibility standards** and can adapt to shifting user demographics
- **Build Smarter Through Co-Location.** Where possible, The Calgary Party will champion multi-use community hubs that combine libraries, recreation centres, childcare, arts and cultural facilities, and community meeting space. Co-locating amenities reduces land acquisition and building costs, maximizes efficiency, and builds stronger community fabric.
- **Build the Multi-Sport Fieldhouse.** The Calgary Multi-Sport Fieldhouse must be Calgary's next top capital priority. This facility will not only provide much needed gymnasium, athletics and indoor field space, it will also allow Calgary to host major indoor sports tournaments than now skip our city due to the lack of facilities.
- **Maintain Canada's Olympic Legacy.** We will work with the Province and Federal government to fund the revitalization of the Olympic Oval and the sliding track at Winsport.

Calgary has one of the most beautiful and functional central libraries in the world—but branch library service is uneven across communities. New communities often go years without a proper library.

The Calgary Party will:

- **Create a Branch Library Growth Strategy** to ensure every quadrant gets equitable access to physical library services and allocate funding to support the strategy.
- **Support mobile libraries, pop-up book hubs, and library partnerships** with rec centres in underserved communities.
- **Increase core operating and programming funding** for the Calgary Public Library to stabilize staffing and programming.



LIBRARIES THAT SERVE EVERY COMMUNITY



PARKS

Calgary has outstanding parks, pathways and natural spaces. The Calgary Party supports the objectives set out in Connect: Calgary's Parks Plan and is committed to implementing its recommendations, including:

- **Expand the use of naturalized landscapes** for parks and greenspaces where lawns are unnecessary—improving sustainability and reducing long-term costs.
- **Create more community sport field hubs** with upgraded turf, drainage, lighting, and washrooms.
- **Invest in more outdoor athletic fields** and recreation amenities (bike parks, skateboard parks, courts (tennis and pickleball), with a focus in underserved neighbourhoods.
- **Launch a Public Field Maintenance Tracker** to ensure the city is responsive and accountable.
- **Partner with local sports groups and nonprofits to co-fund** and co-manage new athletic amenities.
- **Expand the urban forest**, particularly in Northeast Calgary which has historically had fewer trees on public property.
- **Partner with the Calgary Mountain Bike Alliance** to formalize and maintain singletrack trails across parks like Bowmont, Edworthy, and Fish Creek.

Support regional trail connectivity through the Calgary–Canmore trail project and expand adaptive-friendly bike programming through WinSport.

A black and white photograph of a bicycle on a gravel path, with a large pink rectangular overlay covering the center of the image. The text is placed within this pink area.

Calgary must not only be a great place to work, it must also be a great place to live

The choice for Calgary is clear. We can continue with endless studies and consultations, or we can choose to build. The Calgary Party believes recreation, libraries and parks aren't just a line item in a budget; it's the foundation of a healthy community, a hub for our youth, and a core reason we are proud to call this city home.

Calgary families have waited long enough. We have the plan, the experience, and the political will to build the city you deserve. If you're ready for action instead of excuses, join our movement today and help us build Calgary's future.

thecalgaryparty.ca