**Travel Safe Student Video Contest is now open!**

Calling filmmakers of all ages and abilities. Whether you are an aspiring movie producer, working on your stop-motion skills, or you shoot videos as a hobby, this is the contest for you!

The Travel Safe Student Video contest is open to Calgary students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. Win great prizes and a chance to have your work showcased! Deadline is April 30th!

The contest is not only a fun and engaging way for students to think about traffic safety, but also part of the Calgary Safer Mobility Plan, a partnership between the City and Calgary Police Service aimed at improving the overall safety of our transportation network.

“We know students have unique perspectives when it comes to traffic safety and we can’t wait to see solutions through their eyes,” said Jacquelyn Oriold, Mobility Education Specialist with the City. “Whether that’s a video from a Kindergarten student worried about safety as they walk or wheel to school, or from a middle school student concerned about speeding drivers, or a teenager’s perspective on navigating rush hour, we can’t wait to see their work.”

**Key dates:**

* Feb. 3 - April 30, 2025: contest submission entry window
* 11:59 p.m. April 30, 2025: Contest closes
* May 14, 2025: Public screening event of finalists and winners announced at the Central Library in the Patricia A. Whelan Performance Hall.

For full contest rules, eligibility, waiver, tips and resources visit [calgary.ca/travelsafevideo](https://www.calgary.ca/roads/safety/travel-safe-video-contest.html). For general inquiries about the contest: [streetsafekids@calgary.ca](mailto:streetsafekids@calgary.ca). Help us make Calgary’s streets safer.

**Create a beautiful and resilient YardSmart yard this spring!**

A YardSmart yard stays beautiful longer during hot and dry weather compared to yards completely planted with grass. The City's YardSmart program provides helpful resources that show you how to how to plan, build, and maintain your yard, including:

* Layouts & plant lists for all over your yard – wet, full sun, partial sun, and shade areas.
* Easy to follow information on planting, watering and maintenance.
* How-to videos including how to garden on a budget and creating a pollinator friendly yard.

Remember, new plants need lots of water to get established, especially during the heat of summer. You can do your part to reduce your water consumption and help your yard and garden retain moisture by:

* Installing a rain barrel to use in your yard and garden. It is a simple, yet effective way to reduce your water use by acting as a backup source of water.
* Only giving plants the water they need.
* Mowing less often to keep your grass 5 to 7 cm (2 to 3 inches) high to shade the soil.
* Replacing portions of your lawn with garden features that use less water and help absorb rainwater such as low water-use perennials and shrubs, lawn alternatives or groundcovers.
* Adding good quality soil to help retain moisture and mulch on top to reduce evaporation.

To learn more about how to create a beautiful, resilient yard and garden that uses less water, visit [calgary.ca/YardSmart](https://www.calgary.ca/water/programs/yardsmart.html).

**Emergency Preparedness Week is May 4 – 10, 2025**

Emergencies can happen anytime and anywhere. Knowing what to do before a disaster strikes can go a long way in assisting you, your family, and your community during an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 4 – 10, 2025. This annual event takes place across Canada every May to highlight the importance of getting prepared for emergencies before they happen.

During Emergency Preparedness Week and throughout the year, Calgarians are encouraged to take steps to get prepared for emergencies to help minimize the impacts.

* Know the risks - learn about the types of hazards that can occur in Calgary and how you can better prepare for them.
* Stay informed – stay tuned to local and regional emergency alerts and other trusted sources of information.
* Get prepared - every emergency is different, but having a plan will help you and your family know what to do and who to contact in different situations. Get started by downloading our emergency action plan, available in different languages at [calgary.ca/getready](http://www.calgary.ca/getready).

In addition to preparing yourself and your household for emergencies, building connections within your community can also help. Neighbours, co-workers and friends often provide crucial support during times of crisis. Creating a network you can rely on during an emergency can help you and others you care about stay safe.

Visit [calgary.ca/getready](http://www.calgary.ca/getready) to learn more about how to prepare for emergencies, and the events taking place in the community during Emergency Preparedness Week.

**Get involved and learn about Calgary’s new Zoning Bylaw**

Since October 2023, the City Building Program team has been working with Calgarians to learn what they value and experience living in Calgary, and to plan for the future of how we move, build and use land across the city.

The Program includes the **Calgary Plan** (merges the current Municipal Development Plan and Calgary Transportation Plan into one document), the **Zoning Bylaw** (currently the Land Use Bylaw), and **Street Manual** (currently the Complete Streets Policy & Guide). All three of these documents have been drafted based on four phases of public engagement, existing policies, Council priorities, partnering with the Indigenous community and equity-denied groups, and consultation with interested parties.

While the Calgary Plan was brought to the Infrastructure and Planning Committee and deferred until Q2 2026, the Zoning Bylaw draft is still seeking public input and feedback.

Curious to know what the Zoning Bylaw is and how it impacts you? This upcoming fifth phase of engagement will continue building awareness and education on the Zoning Bylaw and how it ties into the Street Manual and the Calgary Plan. As we engage with Calgarians, if amendments to the Calgary Plan are necessary, we will take those proposed changes to Council next year.

Your voice matters. We want to hear from you to ensure the new Zoning Bylaw meets the needs of our growing city. You can participate online or at in-person events around the city from **May 5-31, 2025,** and [subscribe](https://calgary.us5.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=717a7bc01b3dda74bd2c04b44&id=793b055da3) to our newsletter for project updates.

**For more info**: Visit [calgary.ca/citybuilding](https://calgary.ca/citybuilding) or email [citybuilding@calgary.ca](mailto:citybuilding@calgary.ca).