

## City of Calgary Water EnviroFacts

### Watersheds

- ∞ The Watershed that the City of Calgary is in is called the Bow River Basin.
- ∞ The Bow River Basin is the most densely populated river basin in Alberta.
- ∞ Less water is available in our basin than any other river basin in Alberta.
- ∞ In the last ten years, the population of the basin has grown by over a quarter of a million people.

### City of Calgary Water Services

- ∞ We have three separate water systems: drinking water, stormwater and wastewater.
- ∞ Science and technology play a large role in treating water within these systems.
- ∞ 75% of stormwater is untreated and flows directly to our rivers.
- ∞ 25% of stormwater is treated by flowing through constructed wetlands in the City.
- ∞ Wastewater is treated at one of two wastewater plants (Bonnybrook and Fish Creek).
- ∞ Drinking water is treated at one of two drinking water treatment plants (Glenmore and Bearspaw)
- ∞ There are many different types of careers that are water-related with the City.
- ∞ The average Calgarian uses 335 litres of water per day in their homes – that's nearly three and a half bathtubs full.
- ∞ Water use amounts:
  - Outdoor sprinkler – 1 hour = 950 L
  - Bath – 100 L
  - Toilet – 100 L
  - Low flow toilet – 30 L
  - 5 min shower – 75 L
  - 5 minute shower with low flow showerhead – 35 L
  - Tap run for 5 mins – 45 L
  - Tap run for 5 mins with low flow attachment – 25 L

## Water EcoTips

### **Best water practices for youth, families and communities:**

Use water efficiently indoors and outdoors:

- ∞ Report water leaks at home and in your school

- ∞ Use less water in your home by: turning off the tap while brushing teeth, take shorter showers, turning the dishwasher/washer on only when full, keeping water in the fridge to drink.
- ∞ Learn about how your family and community can retrofit old plumbing fixtures in your home to save water and energy.
- ∞ Learn about how your family and community can: water the lawn one inch per week, choose native or low water use plants, keep your lawn three inches or longer to retain moisture, use mulch and grass clippings so soil isn't exposed

Use rain water in your yard:

- ∞ Learn about how your family and community can: capture and use rain water with a rain barrel, keep concrete gutters/swales clear to prevent flooding, place down spouts so they drain into landscaped areas, choose permeable materials rather than concrete to build sidewalks/decks/patios.

Keep pollutants out of stormwater (and our rivers):

- ∞ Pick up after your pets and dispose waste in garbage.
- ∞ Wash your vehicle at a car wash rather than on the street
- ∞ Reduce use of pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers and choose the least toxic alternative
- ∞ Ensure yard waste, soap, paint, solvents and other hazardous material does not enter our storm drains.

Keep pollutants out of the drains in your house (and our rivers):

- ∞ Put diapers, paper towel, toys or plastic products in the garbage and not down the toilet.
- ∞ Take paint, motor oil, antifreeze and other waste to designated fire stations or landfills (phone 311 for drop off locations in your area).
- ∞ Chose biodegradable personal care products and environmentally friendly cleaning products like baking soda and vinegar.
- ∞ Dispose of unwanted or expired pharmaceuticals at your drugstore, do not flush down the toilet.

**[City of Calgary Water: Resources for the classroom](#)**

[www.calgary.ca/waterservices](http://www.calgary.ca/waterservices)

under youth education:

- ∞ information to order a free Bow River Basin Waterscape Poster through the Geological Survey of Canada.
- ∞ download for free Bow River Basin Waterscape Teacher Binders (Elementary grade 4, 5 and 6 and Jr. High grade 8 and 9)
- ∞ WaterWorks School Program Kit (grades 4, 5 and 6)
- ∞ Download for free –“ River to Tap” series of brochures explaining science and technology used in our 3 water systems.

[www.riverwatch.ab.ca](http://www.riverwatch.ab.ca)

[www.yellowfishroad.org](http://www.yellowfishroad.org)

[www.cleancalgary.org](http://www.cleancalgary.org)

[www.evergreentheatre.com](http://www.evergreentheatre.com)

[www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca](http://www.calgarysciencenetwork.ca) (teacher workshops on Bow River Basin Poster and Resources)

Field trips to constructed wetlands in the City (Chevron Learning Pathway at Prince’s Island and Elbow Valley Constructed Wetland) book through City of Calgary Parks  
Call 311 for more information.