

Encroachment – know your property line

2023

What is an encroachment?

An encroachment is any structure, landscaping or other development that extends from a homeowner's property onto City property.

This could mean a fence, driveway, or retaining wall that comes off your property onto public land; a shed or backyard amenities such as fire pits and patios that encroach onto City property. Encroachment is also disrupting delicate environmental balances in natural areas such as planting non-native vegetation, building forts/jumps, and placing compost bins in these natural areas.

Protecting Calgary's parks and natural areas for everyone

The City works hard to ensure Calgary's parks, green spaces and natural areas are healthy, protected from human-caused impacts and damage, and free of encroachments from private land.

Park space is for all Calgarians to enjoy. Modifying or building onto the land beyond your property line impacts our environment, our wildlife, our safety, our shared enjoyment of these public spaces and, is illegal.

Under *Bylaw 9M2020* it's an offense (illegal) to encroach onto City-owned land. You will face fines and legal action.

What does this mean for Calgarians?

If your property shares a boundary with City park, green space or natural area, please consider the following on City-owned park land:

- **Do not build jumps, forts or shelters:** these are unsafe, disturb environmental balance and reduce other users' ability to enjoy and access these public spaces.
- **Do not dump dirt, garden or yard waste:** this can introduce invasive plants that choke out native species, reduce food for wildlife and create issues for pets and Calgarians.
- **Do not plant trees or vegetation:** this introduces non-native plants and weeds into our park spaces.
- **Know your property line:** ensure fences and all other structures are built on, or within, the property line.

While not an encroachment, the following is also prohibited on City-owned Park land:

- **Do not cut, trim or remove trees, bushes or other natural elements** (pursuant to Bylaw 11M2019 and Bylaw 23M2022).
- **Do not use City-land as a vehicle or pedestrian access route for landscaping or any other purpose** (pursuant to Bylaw 11M2019).

The City will work homeowners to ensure that structures, objects or landscaping encroachments are removed and City land is returned to its original intended use.

For more information on encroachment, please visit calgary.ca/encroachmentparks or contact 311.