

Inspiring Neighbourhoods Grant Tip Sheet

Things to Consider

When creating projects that involve your community and the public realm, there are several factors to take into consideration. Please read through the following items and connect with your Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator (NPC) if you have any questions or would like to discuss your project further.

PARKS & PUBLIC LANDS

- Projects that include the installation of physical structures on public lands will need to be reviewed and approved by The City with safety and maintenance in mind. Structures need to be sturdy to safely withstand heavy use, vandalism, and weather. Some projects may require a development or building permit. Location of irrigation and utility lines may also be needed.
- Trees on public lands are protected by the [tree protection bylaw](#) and must be considered carefully when embarking on any construction project within six meters. When the [tree protection plan](#) comes into play, Calgary Parks, Urban Forestry must be consulted.
- All public lands have special restrictions or considerations that limit what can go on them. These include historic and natural areas. Your Neighbourhood Partnership Coordinator (NPC) and Parks Community Strategist (PCS) will be able to identify any of these considerations relevant to your proposed project location.
- Right thing, right place – aim for elements that fit with park use and character, and pay attention to site conditions like pedestrian circulation, slopes and drainage. Calgary Parks has [park development guidelines](#) that specify standards when initiating approved projects in public park spaces.

MAINTENANCE

- Any physical structure installation on public lands will require your organization to enter into a formal agreement with The City of Calgary that includes a maintenance agreement and a lifespan plan. Projects must be removed at the end of the specified lifespan unless there is an approved plan for long-term maintenance of the project.

SAFE SPACES

- Establishing safe spaces is about creating the condition or perception of being protected from the likelihood of danger, risk, or injury. Perceived safe spaces are those that are welcoming, open and inclusive.
- All projects must comply with current provincial health orders.

PLANNING

- Most projects will require consultation and consent of property owners that have sightlines to the site of the project. A sightline survey can be provided by your NPC to support this type of engagement.
- City review and approval will be required for any physical structure on public lands, and may require permits, insurance and a formal agreement with The City.
- Consult with your NPC to establish realistic project timelines, especially if City approvals are required.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

- Consider how your project will be inclusive, treating everyone equitably and acknowledging their unique abilities. Consider the principle of inclusion when it comes to removing barriers related to communication, use of technology, physical access, as well as exclusive attitudes and biases.

ACCESSIBILITY & MOBILITY

- There are many types of disabilities to consider. For example, consider how people with vision or hearing loss or mobility disabilities would experience the project.
- Project components should not create barriers for people. For example, avoid obstructing visibility in crosswalks, traffic intersections or creating slipping and tripping hazards.

ARTS & CULTURE

- NPCs are available to support Community Associations (CA's) interested in public art based projects.
- CAs are encouraged to hire artists to lead public art projects. When working with artists, appropriate compensation should be discussed and agreed upon prior to the project start date.
- The Canadian Artists' Representation/Le Front Des Artistes Canadiens (CARFAC) fee schedule may be useful for budgeting purposes. Information on minimum recommended rates can be found here: <https://www.carfac.ca/tools/fees/>