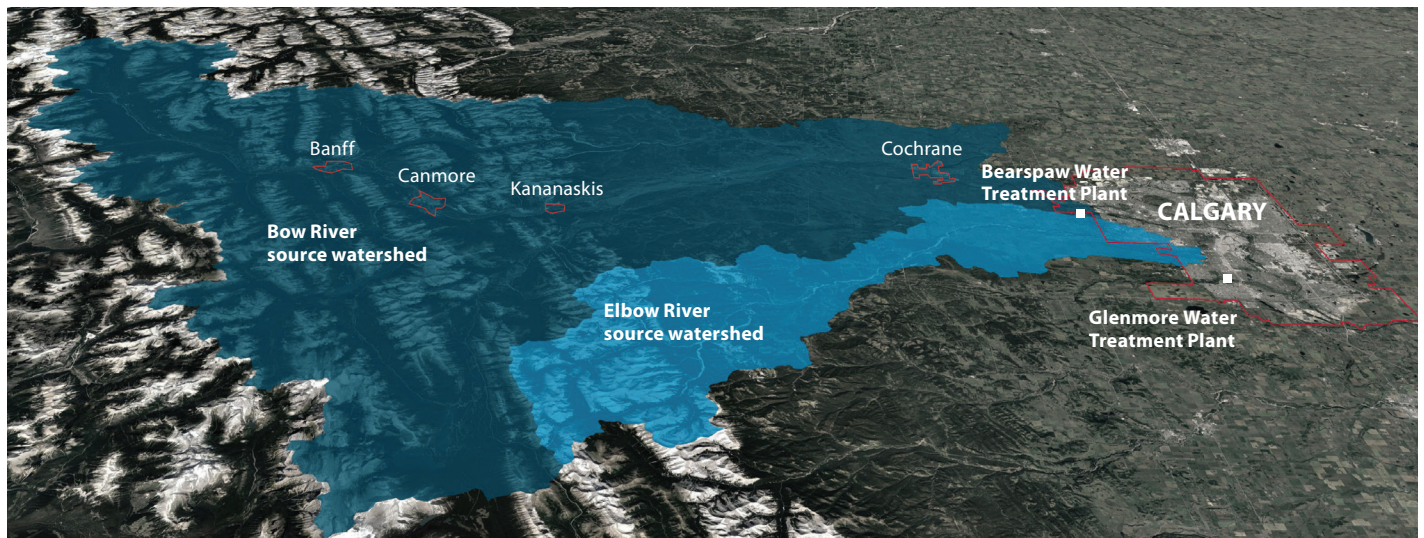




Homeowner Water Guide

Calgary's Watershed



A watershed is a basin-like landform that “sheds” water from the land after rain falls and snow melts. Drop by drop, water is channeled into soils, groundwater, creeks, and streams, making its way to larger rivers. Water is affected by all that it comes in contact with: the land it traverses, and the soils through which it travels. The important thing about watersheds is: **what we do on the land affects water quality.**

Calgary has two main sources of water, the Elbow River and the Bow River. The Elbow River source watershed originates in the mountains west of the city in the Elbow-Sheep area in Kananaskis Country. The Elbow River drains into the Glenmore Reservoir and supplies the Glenmore Water Treatment Plant. The Bow River Source Watershed originates at the Bow Glacier, north of Lake Louise, and drains into the Bow River, supplying the Bearsaw Water Treatment Plant.

The Elbow River is the source for approximately 40 per cent of the city's water supply. The Elbow River source watershed covers an area of **1,227 square kilometres**. The Elbow River is 120 kilometres long, ending where it meets up with the Bow River in the centre of Calgary.

We draw water from the Glenmore Reservoir in order to provide treated water to citizens, businesses and regional customers, but we also play an important role in flood control for this region. The City operates water levels at Glenmore Reservoir to manage river flood risk in the spring and ensure water supply year-round.





Bow Glacier

The Bow River source watershed covers an area of **7,770 km²**. The river originates on the Bow Glacier north of Lake Louise and is one of the three main tributaries of the South Saskatchewan River along with the Oldman River and Red Deer River. The Bow River Source Watershed is part of the larger Bow River Basin watershed that covers **26,000 km²** in southern Alberta.

The Bow River is the source for nearly **60 per cent** of Calgary's water supply.

Our everyday actions can have a big impact on the health of our rivers. They can also affect local wildlife that drink from and live in the rivers, as well as communities downstream from us who draw on the same rivers for their drinking water. It's important that everyone does their part!

Help protect the rivers and our environment by following the tips and actions outlined in the Homeowner Water Guide. From reducing the amount and quality of stormwater runoff from your home's property, to conserving water, to knowing what should and shouldn't go down the drain – there are many ways you can play a role in keeping our rivers, and watershed healthy.

At The City of Calgary, we are doing our part to protect our rivers as well. Whether it's treating our wastewater to the highest standards, implementing water efficient technologies to reduce our overall river withdrawals or finding new green solutions to stormwater management, The City is continually seeking ways to protect our precious resources.

