

Calgary's Beautiful and Varied Neighborhoods



Calgary, Alberta's most populous city with over 1.6 million residents, is also the largest city in Western Canada. The city's robust economy and stunning natural surroundings have fueled its long-term population growth. Calgary is divided into Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, and

Southeast quadrants. Each quadrant of the city has its unique characteristics and offers a range of options, from affordable areas to luxury neighbourhoods, and from business hubs to expansive parks.

There are some 13 newly developed communities and many well-established neighborhoods, each quadrant has something to offer.

In the Northwest quadrant, you'll find over 40 primary neighborhoods, including Arbour Lake, Rocky Ridge, and Tuscany. The Northeast quadrant encompasses around 35 key neighborhoods, such as Livingston, Abbeydale, and Park Ridge Estates. The Southwest quadrant features about 14 distinct neighborhoods, including Shawnee Slopes, Woodbine, and Bridlewood. Southeast Calgary contains roughly 28 unique communities, like Fairview, Sundance, and McKenzie Lake.

In the following pages we'll focus on each quadrant.

Northwest Calgary

The Northwest Calgary quadrant is among the largest of the city's four quadrants, characterized by its expansive residential neighborhoods, modern suburbs, and abundant green spaces.

Residents in this area can enjoy the vast Nose Hill Park, one of Calgary's premier parks. The park offers grassy trails, off-leash dog areas, and stunning views of the Rocky Mountains, along with ample opportunities to spot small wildlife. Covering over 11 square kilometers, Nose Hill Park is one of the largest urban parks in Canada.

In addition to Nose Hill Park, the quadrant features parkland along the Bow River. Bowness Park, with its lagoon, is a popular destination for summer boating and winter ice skating. The area also boasts several shopping malls.

Along with its recreational and retail offerings, Northwest Calgary is home to one of Canada's leading research institutions, the University of Calgary. The campus covers more than 530 acres and accommodates around 250,000 undergraduate students and 5,000 graduate students. Most of the university's buildings, constructed between the 1960s and 1980s, showcase Brutalist and Postmodern architectural styles.

Geographically, the Northwest quadrant is typically defined as the area west of the intersection of Centre Street and Harvest Hills Boulevard, and north of the Bow River, Sarcee Trail, and Highway 1.

Northwest Calgary Neighbourhoods

There are more than 40 [great neighbourhoods in Northwest Calgary](#).

Northwest Calgary is known for its expansive recreational opportunities and greenspace, largely due to Nose Hill Park and the number of other parks dotting the area, particularly along Bow River. Many of its neighbourhoods offer commercial and retail districts that enable residents the convenience of having necessities close at hand.

Popular Neighbourhoods in Northwest Calgary

- [Arbour Lake](#)
- [Brentwood](#)
- [Edgemont](#)
- [Hillhurst](#)
- [Rocky Ridge](#)

Northeast Calgary

Northeast Calgary boasts picturesque prairie landscapes and expansive skies. Residents in this area enjoy a blend of tranquil, rural settings and convenient access to urban amenities such as retail, dining, and entertainment. Major shopping centers in the area include Sunridge Mall, CrossIron Mall, and Pacific Place Mall, along with various grocery market options.

The quadrant also offers plentiful outdoor activities, featuring 95 acres of parks and playgrounds and 14 kilometers of regional walking trails that wind through protected wetlands and wildlife habitats.

Northeast Calgary is home to vibrant neighborhoods, many with strong international influences, adding to the area's appeal for prospective residents.

In addition to its residential and commercial districts, Northeast Calgary houses the Calgary International Airport, providing residents with easy access to travel, especially for escaping Calgary's cold winters. As the fourth busiest airport in Canada and the headquarters for WestJet, it is a key transportation hub.

Geographically, the Northeast quadrant is generally defined as east of the intersection of Centre Street and Harvest Hills Boulevard, and north of the Bow River, Canadian Pacific rail line, Centre Avenue, and Memorial Drive.

Northeast Calgary Neighbourhoods

Northeast Calgary is home to around 35 distinct residential neighbourhoods.

The Northeast quadrant is a vast district with several attractions, including the TELUS Spark Science Centre and the Calgary Zoo. Residents can enjoy several shopping complexes, restaurants, golf courses, and city parks. It is also home to the Hangar Flight Museum, which houses rare aircrafts.

Popular Neighbourhoods in Northeast Calgary

- [Bridgeland](#)
- [Falconridge](#)
- [Marlborough](#)
- [Saddle Ridge](#)
- [Skyview Ranch](#)

Southwest Calgary

Southwest Calgary hosts many of the province's major attractions, including a leading sports training facility and a world-renowned equestrian center.

The site of the 1988 Winter Olympics now features a large park and complex that includes Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, the Naturbahn Teahouse, a zip line, an ice rink, and a newly constructed athletic center.

For equestrian enthusiasts, Southwest Calgary is home to Spruce Meadows, a prestigious venue known for its equine events throughout the year. In addition to horse shows, the facility also hosts events like the International Christmas Market and the annual garden show.

Heritage Park, a pioneer village recreation, is another highlight of Southwest Calgary, offering stunning views of the Glenmore Reservoir, an artificial urban lake that enhances the area's beauty. The quadrant also includes several smaller parks, such as Edworthy Park, which provides picnic areas and walking trails.

The Southwest quadrant of Calgary is home to the city's largest shopping complex, Chinook Centre, situated at the intersection of Macleod Trail SW and Glenmore Trail. This major shopping hub has been a key retail destination since the early 1960s and recently added a new high-fashion section.

Geographically, the Southwest quadrant is generally defined as south of the Bow River, Sarcee Trail, and Highway 1, and west of Centre Street, the Canadian Pacific rail line, Macleod Trail, and Sheriff King Street.

Southwest Calgary Neighbourhoods

Southwest Calgary contains about 14 distinct neighbourhoods.

Southwest Calgary's premier neighborhoods benefit from excellent proximity to some of the city's major attractions, such as a prominent sports complex and a renowned equestrian center. The area also provides abundant opportunities for outdoor activities, with numerous parks, walking trails, and green spaces. Additionally, the quadrant boasts a variety of shopping options, including the city's largest retail complex.

Popular Neighbourhoods in Southwest Calgary

- [Altadore](#)
- [Aspen Woods](#)
- [Oakridge](#)
- [Shawnessy](#)

Southeast Calgary

Southeast Calgary is a spacious area primarily characterized by residential neighborhoods and picturesque parkland along the Bow River. The quadrant provides a blend of urban and rural living, with many waterfront homes situated in its lakeside communities.

Known for its abundant green spaces, playgrounds, and recreational areas along the Bow River, Southeast Calgary features a variety of neighborhood atmospheres. From the lively environments of Mahogany and Quarry Park to the relaxed setting of Mahogany, which boasts one of the city's largest man-made lakes, there's something for everyone.

The quadrant is also home to Fish Creek Provincial Park, a favorite spot for both locals and visitors, renowned for its extensive trails and birdwatching opportunities, including sightings of great blue herons.

Southeast Calgary houses the indoor Calgary Farmers' Market, offering fresh produce, meats, and hot snacks. Additionally, it features Southcentre Mall, one of the largest shopping centers in Calgary, with over 190 stores.

The Southeast quadrant is generally defined as the area south of the Bow River, the Canadian Pacific rail line, Centre Avenue, and Memorial Drive, and east of Centre Street, the Canadian Pacific rail line, Macleod Trail, and Sheriff King Street.

Popular Neighbourhoods in Southeast Calgary

- [Auburn Bay](#)
- [Belmont](#)
- [Cranston](#)
- [McKenzie Lake](#)
- [Riverbend](#)

With over 1.6 million residents, Calgary is Alberta's most populous city and the largest city in Western Canada. The city's robust economy and stunning natural surroundings have fueled its long-term population growth. For those considering a move to Calgary, it's crucial to familiarize yourself with its four quadrants. Each quadrant of the city has its unique characteristics and offerings.

There are some 13 newly developed communities and many well-established neighborhoods, each quadrant has something to offer.

Each quadrant offers a diverse range of options, from the city's most affordable areas to its priciest, and from major business centers to expansive provincial parks.

In the Northwest quadrant, you'll find over 40 primary neighborhoods, including Arbour Lake, Rocky Ridge, and Tuscany. The Northeast quadrant encompasses around 35 key neighborhoods, such as Livingston, Abbeydale, and Park Ridge Estates. The Southwest quadrant features about 14 distinct neighborhoods, including Shawnee Slopes, Woodbine, and Bridlewood. Southeast Calgary contains roughly 28 unique communities, like Fairview, Sundance, and McKenzie Lake.

These four primary quadrants have expanded beyond the central city limits to include many newer communities and suburbs. While some maps further divide the quadrants into smaller areas like North, South, East, West, and City Centre, this guide will focus on the primary quadrants.