



A Howlin' Good Time OFF-LEASH NEWS

NOVEMBER 2016

**River Park Christmas Tree
Decorating & Gathering
Saturday, Nov 26
Starts at 11am**
Join us for fun festivities
at River Park.



**Charity Pint Program
Wild Rose Brewery
November**

Drink beer and support
PALS - 25 cents of every
feature pint purchased will
be donated to this charity
during the entire month of
November.



**SAVE THE DATE
New Year's Day Fun
River Park
Sunday, Jan 1
11am to 1pm**
Ring in the New Year
with canine friends

UNSUBSCRIBE OPTION

If for some reason you no longer
wish to receive communication,
just let me know.

Candice

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New Christmas Tradition

We're trying something different for a change!

For the last 17 years the Friends of River Park has
held a firepit Christmas Pawty in Sandy Beach.

This year is a new beginning. We're going to combine
our Christmas Canine celebration with the tree
decorating party in River Park.

Over the years, we found attendance has dwindled for
the firepit party but numbers have steadily increased for
the tree decorating, so it just makes sense to have one
bigger celebration.

We promise it'll be fun and festive as always. Everyone
and their dog is welcome.

River Park Fountain

Many thanks to **Lynn M** who has once again lovingly
cleaned, painted and wrapped up the River Park
fountain to protect it from dog urine and the elements
during the winter and early spring months. We think
it's a duct tape masterpiece!



Just a reminder that the
fountain is shut off from
approximately Thanksgiving
to the May long weekend.
Water lines are only turned
on once there's no risk
of frost. As well, in spring
The City of Calgary usually
contracts a company to
service it.

Bring on the Warm Christmas Spirit in River Park



Join the Friends of River
Park leadership team on
Saturday, Nov 26 starting
at 11:00am to decorate
trees and celebrate the
Christmas season. We
will transform four trees
near the River Park fountain — the area also known as
Cat's Park.

You and your dog can enjoy some light refreshments
(while quantities last) and mingle with fellow park users.
This is one of the best opportunities to finally introduce
yourself or find out a few dog owners' names for a change.

If you plan to bring decorations and/or help decorate,
keep in mind we always follow simple rules to ensure the
safety of dogs, children, trees and the park:

1. Decorations must be non-breakable
2. No tinsel or bits that can end up spread
throughout the park or inside dog's tummies
3. Items must be hung out of dogs' reach

Over a few years, we
have collected a fair
amount of decorations
for River Park. By
the way, donated
decorations are always
welcome and all of
them are saved for future years. Please note we can't
guarantee security of donated items.



Although we ensure there are no glass ornaments,
breakage occasionally occurs. If you see something
broken in the weeks to come, please pick it up.

The area will remain decorated until one or two
months after Christmas. We'll watch for decent
weather then send out a call for help to do a group
take-down effort.

This is one of our favourite events that brings the
community together. Hope you can join us to create
warm festive season at River Park!



River Park Construction Update and Comparison to the Past

Still avoiding River Park because of construction? We notice numbers continue to be lower but if you haven't been walking the park, here's a small summary of the changes we noticed in October:

- Most of the blue temporary fencing has been removed at the south end, new blue temporary fencing erected at the north end
- Lots of black frost fencing remains in the park
- Small waste bins installed, then removed
- Cement was poured for the middle dumpster's pad
- Three sets of three benches were placed along the trail from 46 Ave to the bulletin board
- Water system panel relocated just north of the bulletin board and feeder stations installed
- Pole replaced (attached bag dispenser missing)
- New recycling bin in the parking lot

Just for fun, let's revisit some of the stipulations in the 1956 Agreement for River Parkd:

- The City of Calgary would supply utilities, maintain the park in a suitable manner for the purpose for which it is to be used and in a manner that it would be a credit to the City
- Roads west of the park and adjoining between 39 and 50 Avenues were intended to service houses and not be main thoroughfares
- Main approaches would be 38, 42, 46 and 50 Avenues and 14 Street
- The City would not permit a road on the boundary of the park except 50 Avenue to be used as an arterial route or for bus or other public transportation
- The park is intended for rest and relaxation in a natural setting
- Landscaping would enhance the natural features of the land (grass and trees at appropriate places, but no ornamental flower beds or manicured lawns)
- Railings, steps and footbridges designed to fit the natural setting

- No automobile traffic
- A system of footpaths and bicycle paths connecting informal play areas, picnic areas, lookouts etc
- Bridle paths (for horses)
- No concessions

River Park's Classification

Contrary to popular belief, River Park is not exclusively a dog park. It's a "C-Class" multi-use park with off-leash access. The class determines the amount of maintenance it receives. Also, to dispel another myth: River Park is not a natural area. According to the Parks program, only Sandy Beach and the Britannia Slope fall under natural areas. The River Park Creek Near the north end of the park, there's a small creek that runs beneath the bridges. Aptly named, it's known as Skinny Creek. Over time, the water has almost dried up. In various meetings, we learned The City of Calgary is interested in bringing the stream above ground (also known as "daylighting the stream"). It's part of the development plan to create a natural wetland in the north end of the park. This wetland would naturally filter the water before it's channelled through Skinny Creek toward the storm outfall and into the river.

Well, the park has changed a lot since 2012 and much more so lately.

Feedback continues to be that reduced space is not enough exercise for people or dogs and lack of open space might result in poor behaviour amongst dogs. Others are concerned about amount of work and costs associated with development.

Please continue to check www.calgary.ca/riverpark or [Twitter](#) for official word from The City of Calgary. Fingers crossed, the late November projected end date is within sight. We hope it remains true.

Wildlife at River Park

In October we shared the Elbow Park Community Association's warning about bobcat sightings. Following this notice, we heard various reports of coyotes near River Park and two sightings of lynx down by the dam.



With River Park's close proximity to the river, we should expect that wildlife is present and to coexist.

Keep a watchful eye on your surroundings as well as the dogs in your care. Also ensure your dog has good recall and carry a leash. Be safe everyone!



RIVER PARK FAIRY IDENTIFIED

Aha! We've learned the identity of the other kind person who replaced a broken IKEA bag dispenser in the park.

Many thanks to **Lynn and Mark M.** It comes as no surprise that this is none other than the Lynn who also looks after our Lost and Found box/ contents and "winterizing" the fountain.

We appreciate all of her efforts to help us care for the park.

Everyone is welcome to fill holders with clean empty bags whenever possible.

Paws for Thought

Some heartwarming features to share with everyone this month!

Watch a [2-minute video](#) about the unlikely relationships between abandoned dogs and inmates looking for a second chance



Read an article about how [Thames Centre Service Dogs](#) help veterans with PTSD



Caring for Your Pet In Sickness and Health

This section features some great online info to help keep all of our furry family members healthy and happy.



Learn about [viral papillomas](#) in puppies and young dogs from veterinarypartner.com



An article from [Pet Md](#) about eight different types of dog tumours

