



Glenmore Reservoir & Dam Operation

Operational Priorities

The City of Calgary owns and operates the Glenmore Reservoir and Dam, which receive water from the Elbow River. They were constructed to provide Calgarians with a safe and sufficient supply of drinking water and are managed according to the following priorities, in order of importance:

- Store an adequate supply for drinking water
- Reduce the impact of high river flows and sustain environmental health
- Provide recreational opportunities

Reduce the Impact of High River Flows

Calgary is in the upper portion of the Elbow River Watershed, which is short and steep. As a result, Calgary often has to respond to sudden changes in river flows entering the Glenmore Reservoir. This is especially true during the spring runoff season from mid May to mid July. To prepare for this period, The City of Calgary monitors and forecasts river flows so that the Glenmore Reservoir levels can be adjusted to reduce the downstream impacts of high river flows. River flow predictions are based on data that is collected from snow pack, precipitation, weather forecasts, and changes in real-time river flows, soil moisture, and air temperature information.

What to Expect During Spring Runoff

The City of Calgary is committed to delivering clean and safe drinking water to all Calgarians. During spring runoff, Calgarians can expect:

- Uncompromised drinking water quality
- Possible recreational restrictions
- Elevated flooding risk in low lying areas
- Guidance and updates on local flood conditions
- Increased turbidity in our rivers and reservoir
- River advisories issued by the Province of Alberta
- Dangerous conditions near the river banks

The City of Calgary has plans and procedures in place to respond to water related emergencies.

Recreational Use

When conditions are unsafe, [City of Calgary, Recreation](#) will close the Glenmore Reservoir in the interest of public safety. Calgarians, especially children and pets, should stay at a safe distance from stream and reservoir banks during high stream flows and obey all Alberta Environment river notifications. Visit [The City of Calgary Recreation page](#) for further information about recreational use of the reservoir including its status.