

## Calgary's Forgotten Space Below 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Overpass Gains New Life with Award-winning Flyover Park

*With a new award in hand, Flyover Park is changing the game when it comes to urban park design in Canada*

**November 1, 2021 – CALGARY** - The first park of its kind in western Canada, Calgary's Flyover Park has reclaimed the forgotten space under the 4th avenue overpass, creating a vibrant community hub where residents, commuters, and visitors can enjoy an active lifestyle and environmental learning year-round.

On Friday, the park was officially awarded the 2021 Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Parks Excellence Award.

Flyover Park combines the core elements of collaboration, creativity, innovative urban design and community engagement. It is a vital, vibrant and accessible gathering place that is quickly becoming a welcomed member of Calgary's impressive roster of parks and public destinations.

### Revitalizing the Local Community



*Photo provided by Flyover Park designer, Santec.*

Inspired by innovative urban parks that reclaim “forgotten” spaces in cities such as New York, Boston, Miami, and Toronto, Flyover Park has become a recreational hub on the edge of downtown Calgary. Once dark and sometimes dangerous, the park is now visited by Calgarians daily, forging a new way to re-imagine park spaces in urban locations.



*Flyover Park is a convenient 10-minute walk from Calgary's downtown core and a 5-minute walk from the Bridgeland LRT station.*

Sheila Taylor, CEO, Parks Foundation Calgary, explains, “Innovative urban parks like Flyover Park are the way of the future. We were able to leverage the dedication of the community and the imaginative spirit of local school children to create something extraordinary.”

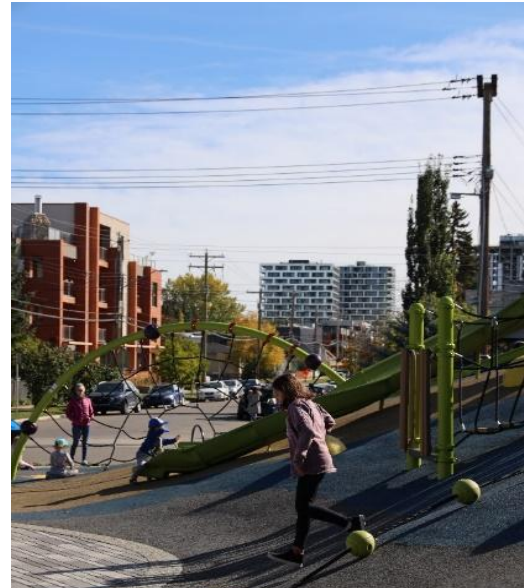
Flyover Park is contributing to a better quality of life for residents in Bridgeland-Riverside by increasing public safety and encouraging a sense of community. Taylor also noted that, “Flyover Park came at exactly the right time. The pandemic has forced us to isolate away from our communities and a space like this helps Calgarians reconnect in a safe, healthy and fun way.”

## Park Design and Features

The original concept of the park was championed by grade 6 students at Riverside School and landscape architecture students at the University of Calgary. With support from partners including The City of Calgary, The Alberta Government and the Bridgeland Riverside Community Association, the project also engaged the broader community to provide additional design input, with the final design created by Stantec.

The park design includes tiered seating, unique play features and artistic features to beautify the space. Specific features include:

- Hill slides
- Creative high-impact lighting
- Accessibility features
- Family fun games (shuffleboard, ping pong, ladder toss)
- Murals

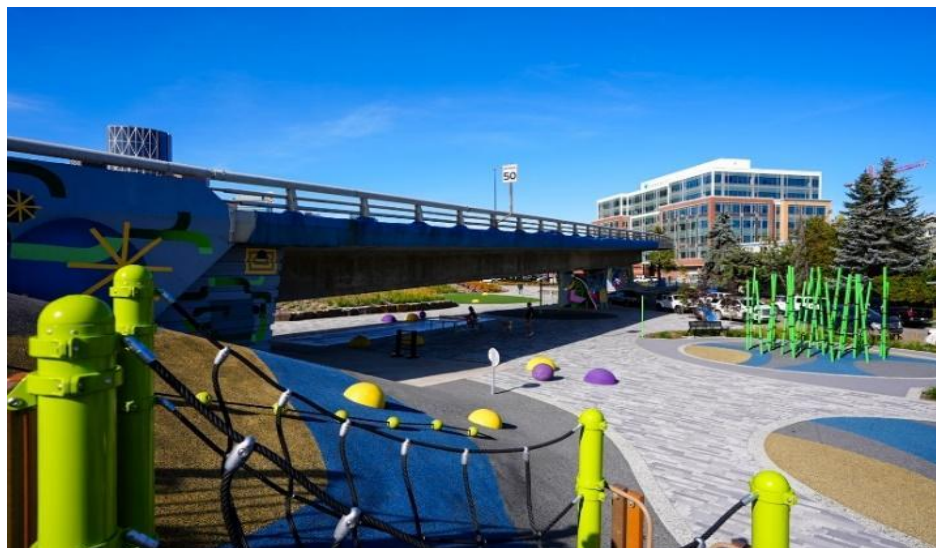


*More than 300 cyclists are anticipated to commute through the park daily*

The combined vision of the students, community and partners led to Flyover Park being awarded the 2018 National Urban Design Award.

## Mindful of the Environment

In addition to creating a beautiful urban space, the park has environmental benefits. Upgrades to the space and the flyover infrastructure divert run-off from the flyover's roadway to the park's rain gardens and bioswale prior to entering the Bow River. This allows the run-off from the flyover to be filtered, reducing the amount of silt, harsh salts, and other substances from reaching the city's river basin.



*When a community comes together, great things happen. It has transformed a concrete jungle into a community hub.*



Flyover Park is located at 651 McDougall Rd NE, Calgary, AB T2E 4Z7, in the community of Bridgeland-Riverside. For more information visit [parksfdn.com/flyoverpark](http://parksfdn.com/flyoverpark).

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**About Parks Foundation Calgary (PFC)**

Since its establishment in 1985 as a non-profit organization, Parks Foundation Calgary (PFC) has supported and improved the communities and public spaces in the city. PFC makes Calgary a great city for its residents and guests by enhancing healthy lifestyle. It also contributes to Calgarians enjoyment by providing easily accessible, unique & recreational sport and green spaces in the community. Visit [www.parksfdn.com](http://www.parksfdn.com) or find Parks Foundation Calgary on social media @ParksFdnCalgary.

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