

**Policy Title:** **Source Water Protection Policy**  
**Policy Number:** **CP2020-04**  
**Report Number:** **UCS2020-1007**  
**Adopted by/Date:** **Council / 2020 October 5th**  
**Effective Date:** **2020 October 5th**  
**Last Amended:** **N/A**  
**Policy Owner:** **Water Resources**

## **1. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 1.1. The City of Calgary is committed to delivering safe, clean, high quality drinking water to our city and regional customers through proactive stewardship and management of regional source watersheds and riparian areas within Calgary.
- 1.2. The City of Calgary is committed to restoring and protecting Calgary's waterways and riparian areas as part of The City's goals for clean drinking water, flood and drought resilience, and biodiversity.
- 1.3. The City of Calgary's Source Water Protection Plan and the Riparian Action Program, as amended, address current and future risks to drinking water quality, as well as river and riparian health.
- 1.4. Continued growth and development in the Calgary region requires proactive management of cumulative risks to protect the quality of Calgary's water sources prior to withdrawal from reservoirs and rivers for city and regional customers.
- 1.5. Effective implementation of this Council policy shall be achieved by integrating and aligning land use and watershed planning within City and regional plans and administrative processes.

## **2. PURPOSE**

- 2.1 This Council policy addresses the need to:
  - 2.1.1 Integrate land and water management to protect the health of watersheds and drinking water quality now and for the future.
  - 2.1.2 Collaborate with regional stakeholders throughout the source watersheds through partnerships and shared watershed stewardship to manage cumulative risks.
  - 2.1.3. Maintain affordability in the treatment operations of drinking water.
  - 2.1.4. Enhance the resilience of Calgary's watersheds to a changing climate and meet the needs of customers, the environment and a sustainable economy now and in the future.

2.1.5. Provide a more systematic and consistent application to source water and riparian area protection across all City business units.

2.1.6. Provide guidance for land use decisions for source water and riparian protection within Calgary.

2.1.7. Promote the value of watershed management as a collective responsibility through education and outreach initiatives.

2.1.8. Promote watershed management innovation and demonstrate watershed leadership at The City.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 Riparian area: Transitional lands between upland and aquatic ecosystems. Riparian lands usually have soil, biological and other physical characteristics that reflect the influence of water and hydrological processes.
- 3.2 Source water: Water in its natural or raw state, prior to withdrawal for treatment and distribution as a drinking water source.
- 3.3. Source watershed: The land areas from which water drains downstream and provides raw water supplies for a drinking water utility.

### **4. APPLICABILITY**

- 4.1 This Council policy applies to members of Calgary's City Council and City Administration.
- 4.2. This Council policy applies to the following geographies:
  - 4.2.1 Riparian areas within the city of Calgary's boundaries as it relates to the implementation of the Riparian Action Program.
  - 4.2.2. To the extent that The City has decision making authority or influence, the source watersheds of the Bow and Elbow Rivers upstream of the City of Calgary's drinking water intakes as it relates to the implementation of the Source Water Protection Plan.

### **5. PROCEDURE**

- 5.1. Implementation of this Council policy is outlined in the Source Water Protection Plan and Riparian Action Program.

- 5.2 This Council policy should be applied in conjunction with other Council and Administrative policies and standards related to watershed management and land use.

5.2.1 The City will continue to work with the Government of Alberta, regional municipalities, stakeholders and First Nations to protect the quality of the source water.

5.2.2 For any proposed changes to land uses, The City commits to engagement with stakeholders and will follow the legislative requirements for land use amendments.

- 5.3. The process by which the Council policy will be monitored and reported on will be through the annual Integrated Watershed Management Update report to Council.

**6. AMENDMENT(S)**

| Date of Council Decision | Report/By-Law | Description |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
|                          |               |             |

**7. REVIEW(S)**

| Date of Policy Owner's Review | Description                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2021 June 30                  | Reviewed with no changes needed |