



## Bridgeland Walks 2020 – Self Guided #8 Fireworks Viewing

In Bridgeland- Riverside we are blessed with 2 escarpments that offer us great views of Calgary's downtown skyline, the Rocky Mountains and other distant locations. There are some places that are particularly ideal for watching the fireworks displays which take place at various times of the year. Take a walk and check out all the great viewpoints!

This vigorous walk is 5.5 kilometers long and includes a significant trek up to the top of the escarpment, with stairways both up and down. There are numerous benches along the way to rest. The views are definitely worth it!

*Start from the Community Centre at 917 Centre Ave NE. Walk West along Centre Ave and turn left at 7A St and walk to the end of the street where you reach the top of the lower escarpment. Follow the sidewalk to the West till you get to the 6A Street stairs*

**Stop#1.** From the sidewalk pathway you can see the Calgary Stampede fireworks and it is the best place to view the New Year's Eve fireworks.

*Turn to the right and walk North to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Turn left, walk along 1<sup>st</sup> to Edmonton Trail,, turn right and continue North past 4 Ave till you reach the end of the Bridgeland Hill condo building where you will find a gravel trail that winds up the hill. Continue around till you reach the top of the hill and the 2 benches.*

**Stop #2.** This as yet unnamed park was created from a deconstructed hillside after the condo buildings were completed in 2017. The historic housing area at the top of the hill was originally called Regal Terrace. We think you'll agree that this is a Regal View of Bridgeland below, the downtown, and of course the Stampede fireworks, with benches or a grassy hillside for seating! You can also see the city's New year's Eve and aspects of July 1<sup>st</sup> fireworks from here.

*Walk East along 5 Ave, downward and then up again till you reach the 6 Street stairs. Climb the stairs to the grassy area, with the 2 benches to the South of the church.*

**Stop #3.** This is a great place to pause and take in the vista of the distant Tom Campbell Hill plateau, Scotsman's Hill in Ramsey, our Bridgeland community below, and the Calgary Stampede fireworks.

*Walk North to 7Ave and turn right – walk along 7 Ave till the houses and sidewalk end – you can walk on the sidewalk on the North side.*

**Stop #4.** All along this road – about 200 meters, there are great fully open views of Stampede fireworks. The cars of Calgarians from other communities will typically line the road to watch these fireworks.

*Walk down the nearby stairway to Bridge Crescent, and turn right to reach house number 854, then turn left, cross the street, and go down the lane beside the apartment building. Turn right on Drury Avenue and walk around the corner to 5 Avenue. Turn left and walk East on 5 Ave, crossing 10 Street. It becomes Jamieson Avenue and walk upward to the end of the road. Continue on the lane till you reach a grassy pathway that follows along the top of the escarpment in front of numerous homes.*

**Stop #5.** The entire length of the escarpment ridge offers a fantastic view of the historic Bridgeland School below – now called DeltaWest Academy... and the downtown. From here you can see Stampede and July 1<sup>st</sup> fireworks. One bench is available at the South end of the escarpment.

*Continue till you reach the road, known as Cardell Street. Cross and take the sidewalk down till you reach a junction – Thompson Rd, turn left and walk to the top of the hill – where you arrive at the 13 Street entrance to Tom Campbell Hill Natural Park. Enter the park and walk South along the treed lined promenade to the end where there are interpretive panel.*

**Stop #6** There are great views of Memorial Drive and the Calgary Zoo to the South. From here you will not only see the Stampede fireworks but also the GlobalFest fireworks to the South and East (in the area of Elliston Park) This usually happens in late August when the skies get dark earlier in the evening. The Canada Day fireworks can be seen to the West. Several stone benches are available here.

*Retrace your steps North till you reach a bench and the paved pathway, turn to the left and head down the hill.*

**Stop #7** The entire route down to the bottom of the hill offers great views of the downtown and the Riverside area of Bridgeland, with Columbus housing buildings(Manor, Place, and Court which is under construction in 2020). There are a number of large rocks halfway down where you can sit and watch the Stampede fireworks. You are surrounded by prairie grasses and different wildflowers, depending on the season.

*Continue down till you reach 12 Street, turn right and proceed North till you reach Centre Ave. Turn left, cross 12 street and proceed West on Centre Avenue till you reach 9 Street, the BRCA Centre and the end of our walk.*

Now you know all the best vantage points for fireworks launched from different points in Calgary!