

Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve – South of Whitemud Drive

WEST EDMONTON – PRECIOUS GREEN SPACES



easy / moderate

This is a lovely walk through the woods, over four bridges and a boardwalk. There are multiple viewing areas along the creek, and in the evening you may see beavers, muskrats and ducks. The walks in Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve are especially beautiful in the fall when the bright yellow leaves of the poplars contrast sharply against the dark green spruces.

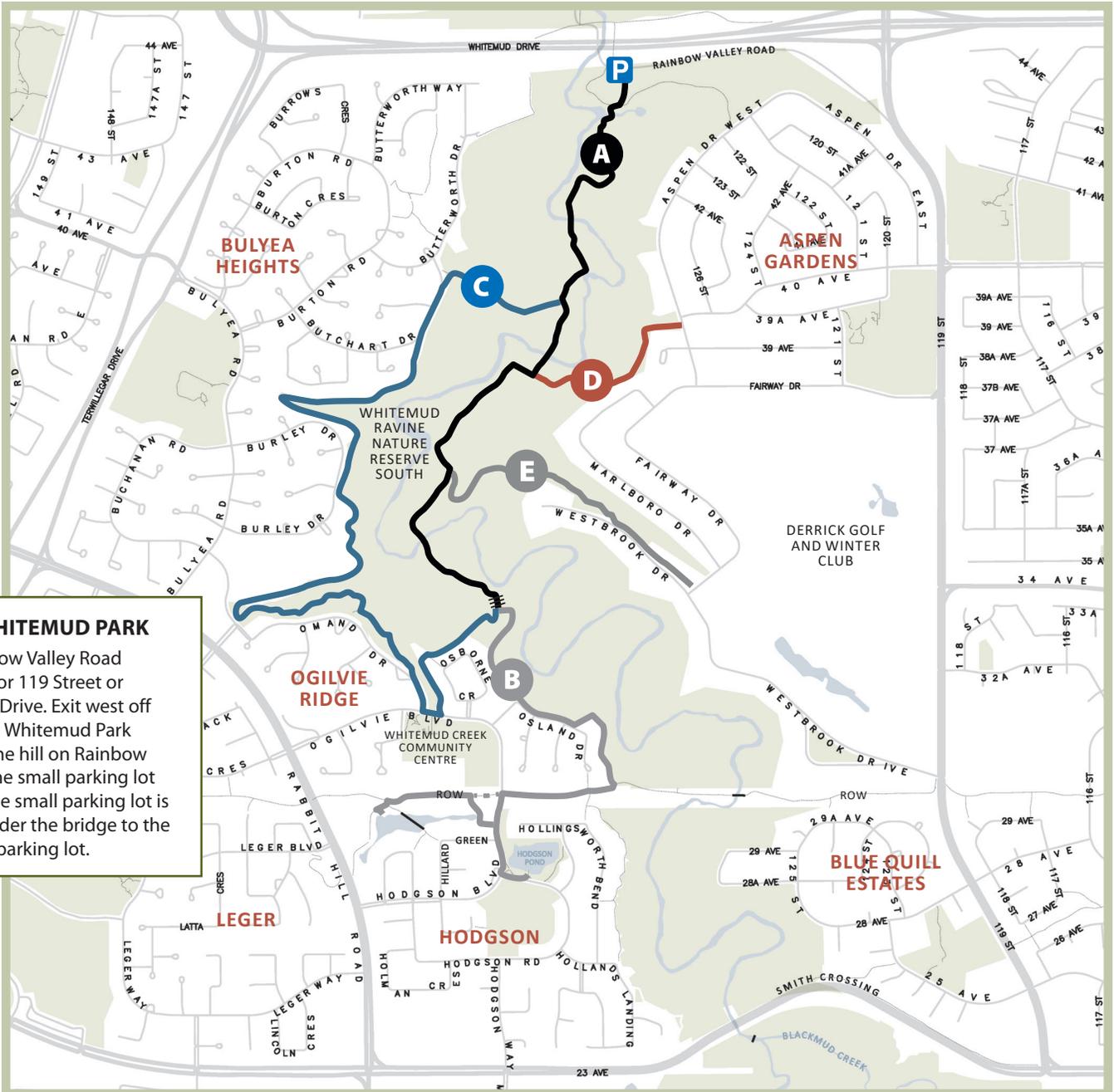
TRAILHEAD: *Small parking lot in Whitemud ravine Nature Reserve South (south of Rainbow Valley Road)*

The main trail (Walk A) in the south part of Whitemud Ravine is situated between Whitemud Drive and Ogilvie Ridge but does go further south to 23 Avenue – about 6 km one way.

The side trails (Walks B, C, D and E) take you up to the following neighbourhoods: to Bulyea Heights, Ogilvie Ridge and Hodgson on the west side of Whitemud Creek, and on the east side to Aspen Gardens, Westbrook and Blue Quill Estates.

Dogs must be on a leash, and no bicycles are allowed.

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TO GET TO WHITEMUD PARK

Approach Rainbow Valley Road from 122 Street or 119 Street or from Whitemud Drive. Exit west off 119 Street at the Whitemud Park sign. Go down the hill on Rainbow Valley Road to the small parking lot on your left. If the small parking lot is full, continue under the bridge to the Snow Valley Ski parking lot.

WALK **A** Main trail to stairs at Ogilvie Ridge.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: 4.5 km round trip; easy granular trail with some moderate hills

- From the small parking lot in Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve (south of Rainbow Valley Road), head south over the grassy field to the first bridge (#250) over the creek.
- Follow the granular path to the first sign that has an arrow pointing right to Bulyea (Walk C) and another arrow pointing straight ahead (south) to Aspen Gardens.
- Follow the main trail through the spruce forest to the Aspen Gardens sign (Walk D). Stay right on the main trail to the signs that say Westbrook (on your left, Walk E) and Ogilvie Ridge to your right.
- Continue on the main trail down the hill to Ogilvie Ridge. Soon you will come to a viewpoint and a set of stairs that lead up out of the Whitemud Ravine to a concrete path.
- Return to the trailhead OR continue on Walk B.

SIDE TRAILS

WALK **B** From Ogilvie Ridge (at stairs and sign) and south to Hodgson Pond.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: 2.4 km round trip; easy
From the trailhead to Hodgson Pond is about 7 km round trip.

- From the top of the steps in Ogilvie Ridge neighbourhood, walk left on the sidewalk above Whitemud Ravine and proceed around a field on your right and behind neighbourhood houses to come out at Osland Drive.
- Walk to the left to follow a steep sidewalk trail (the steepest sidewalk in Edmonton) behind more houses. The trail eventually curves and climbs up to the right of way (ROW).
- On your left (east) is the multi-use path down to a footbridge over Whitemud Creek below Blue Quill neighbourhood. To your right (west) is the path in the ROW to Hodgson Boulevard.
- At Hodgson Boulevard turn south to Hodgson (natural) Pond and look for wildlife from the viewing platform.
- To visit the nearby constructed storm water facility, cross Hodgson Boulevard at the Walk sign and walk uphill to the ROW and west to the pond. A circle of benches at the west end of this pond welcomes the wildlife watcher and those who just want to relax.

- Return to Hodgson Boulevard and walk north to meet Ogilvie Boulevard.
- At the Whitemud Community Centre (951 Ogilvie Boulevard) cross Ogilvie Boulevard to The Pointe (Osborne Crescent) and walk around the left side of the Pointe.
- Head down the hill to the stairs and sign for Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve. Return to the trailhead (small parking lot in Whitemud Park).

WALK **C** Bulyea Heights Trail.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: About 7 km round trip; easy with some moderate climbs in and out of the valley

- From the small parking lot (trailhead) south of Rainbow Valley Road, follow the trail to the Bulyea sign (1 km south of the trailhead).
- Turn right to Bulyea on the level granular trail, which soon climbs up in stages to the top of the bank and to the sidewalk on Butchart Drive in Bulyea Heights neighbourhood.
- Turn left and continue on the sidewalk. Walk down the bank to a fork and take the left fork behind the houses.
- Walk around a tributary ravine. Stay left on the top-of-the-bank path behind more houses, parallel to Burley Drive.
- Go around another tributary ravine and arrive at two small bridges leading to a clock tower on Omand Drive (at Oakes Gate) in the Ogilvie Ridge neighbourhood.
- Return to the path and follow it right (east) along the top of the bank until you reach Ogilvie Boulevard. Note the Ogilvie Ridge Park and Whitemud Creek Community Centre south of Ogilvie Boulevard.
- Curve around the Pointe (Osborne Crescent) on the north side of Ogilvie Boulevard and walk down the hill on the concrete sidewalk until you come to the Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve sign.
- Take the stairs down into the Whitemud valley and back to the trailhead.

WALK **D** Aspen Gardens Side Trail.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: 3.4 km round trip; moderate climb out of the valley

- From the trailhead in Whitemud Ravine, walk south 1.2 km to the Aspen Gardens sign.
- Proceed up to Aspen Drive (0.5 km) and return the way you came.

WALK **E** Westbrook Side Trail.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: *About 5 km round trip; easy but moderate climb out of the valley*

- From the small parking lot in Whitemud Park, stay on the main trail past the Aspen Gardens sign. Walk south to where the trail forks at the sign Westbrook/Ogilvie and turn left to Westbrook Drive. This trail leads to a viewpoint overlooking Whitemud Creek.
- Continue to Westbrook Drive.
- Return the way you came.

AMENITIES

- phone outside Rainbow Valley Campground office
- shopping centres along 23 Avenue

DESCRIPTION

The Snow Valley Ski Chalet and Rainbow Valley Campground are located in Whitemud Park). The campground is open April to October, and the ski hill lodge is open in winter.

In 1990 Whitemud Ravine was classified as a nature reserve – a pedestrian park for the enjoyment of Edmontonians and the protection of the environment. Bicycles are not permitted and dogs must be on a leash.

HISTORY

In earlier years the Waskahegan Trail Association cleared trails and built log bridges throughout Whitemud Ravine.

John Hodgson (1888-1969) was Edmonton's comptroller and financial commissioner for almost 40 years.

Bulyea Heights is named after George H. V. Bulyea (1859-1928), who was Alberta's first Lieutenant Governor from 1905 to 1915.

J.H. Ogilvie (1893-1977) was a lawyer and city alderman.