

Magrath Heights Neighbourhood Loop: A Fantastic View

WEST EDMONTON – PRECIOUS GREEN SPACES

- Continue down the path and cross a rushing stream (in summer) that tumbles down to the storm water ponds. Further down, a pathway to the right crosses a bridge over the stream where there is a seating area.
- Continue southeast down the pathway until you reach the first of two storm water ponds.
- Cross the bridge and head south to the second and larger storm water pond. Check out the third naturalized pond which is located in Larch Park, just east of the second pond.
- Continue around the second pond and take the path left up into Magrath View.
- Head south on Magrath View and cross Magrath Boulevard and continue south to a pedestrian footpath.
- Cross Martell Lane and continue south on a landscaped footpath between houses with fabulous backyards.
- As the path winds to the right, take the left exit and cross Martell Crescent to the footpath on the other side. Voila! Once more, you are on a familiar granular path.
- Turn left and return to the trailhead (Magrath Boulevard near the May Gate entrance to Larch Park).

Alternative Access to the Rabbit Hill Natural Area: Climb the big hill from MacNeil Way via a short sidewalk and stairs or up the grassy west slope from Malone Way.

AMENITIES

- none on the trail
- washrooms, telephones and various eating facilities in the shopping areas at the intersection of Rabbit Hill Road and 23 Avenue

HISTORY

Rabbit Hill was a farming community. Rabbit Hill School (1895-1955) was built on Thomas Stewart's south quarter and named after the prominent hill nearby.

This natural area (elevation 713 metres), an irregularly shaped hill, is geologically known as a kame. During the last ice age huge volumes of sand, gravel and till were deposited by the continental ice sheet as it receded. This sand ridge extended from Rabbit Hill towards Terwillegar Towne. A plaque on the floor in the Tomlinson Green gazebo (in Terwillegar Towne neighbourhood) documents this kame. The highest hill at 720 metres is in Millwoods between Wild Rose and Tamarack neighbourhoods. The newest high point is the almost-full West Edmonton Landfill site on 170 Street and north of the Yellowhead Trail at 735 metres.