

WEST EDMONTON – PRECIOUS GREEN SPACES



moderate / difficult

WALK A, which begins at the John Janzen Nature Centre, is lovely but challenging. You will walk about 7.5 km round trip and climb a double dose of steep stairs. For a shorter walk, begin at Patricia Ravine (**WALKS B AND C**).

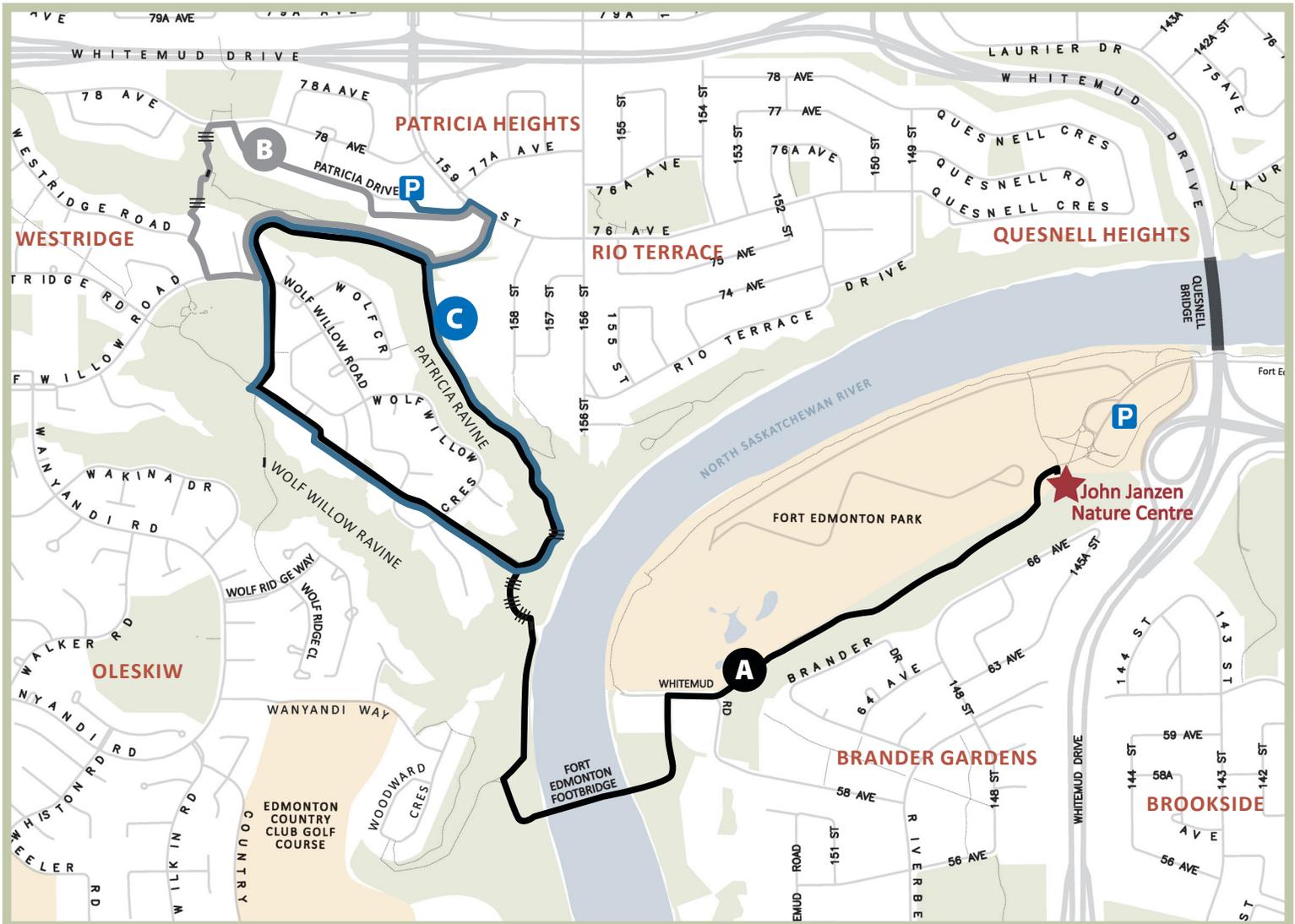
There are two main trails through the shady and peaceful Patricia Ravine. The easiest and shortest access is from 159 Street. The trails start as one but within a short distance the new trail, opened in 2011 (**WALK C**), forks left (southeast) following the downward slope of the intermittent creek that flows to the river. The trail moves away from the creek and climbs upward to stairs leading to a great view overlooking Wolf Willow Ravine and the new footbridge. The original trail (**WALK B**) continues west, through the Patricia Heights neighbourhood, at an easy and steady climb up to Wolf Willow Road.

TRAILHEAD: *John Janzen Nature Centre or Patricia Drive, close to Patricia Ravine*

The stairs in Walk C are steep but have sturdy handrails and bike ramps on both sides. The sheltered stairs on the northwest side of Patricia Ravine (Walk B) have a series of 157 easy steps. The stairs, slopes and gravel present barriers for wheelchairs.

TO GET TO PATRICIA RAVINE
From Whitemud Drive take the 159 Street exit and turn south on 159 Street. When 159 Street starts to curve, watch on your right for the 77A Avenue sign – the next opening is Patricia Drive. Turn right and park on the drive. If you are on foot, there is a bus stop by the ravine access.

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NOTE 1. The distance from the John Janzen Nature Centre to the bottom of the steep stairs is 2.3 km one way.

NOTE 2. There are several walks connected to this ravine. Since the two ravines, Patricia and Wolf Willow, are close together, the walks may overlap.

WALK A Starting from the John Janzen Nature Centre.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: *about 7.5 km round trip; difficult*

- Walk west on the multi-use trail and cross the Fort Edmonton footbridge.
- Turn right and climb the very steep stairs.
- At the top, walk through the caragana tunnel and turn right to go down a flight of stairs, looking over Patricia Ravine and east to Quesnell Bridge.
- Follow the trail to your left until it meets the old Patricia Heights trail at the bottom of the ravine. Turn left to go up Patricia Ravine to Wolf Willow Road.
- Cross the road at the Walk sign to the sidewalk going south past the Westridge Park soccer fields.
- Turn left on the sidewalk between houses until you reach Wolf Willow Crescent.
- Continue east on a granular path over the underground pipeline, turning right to go to the top of the steep stairs. Go back down to the footbridge and the nature centre.

WALK B Starting from Patricia Drive to walk the original Patricia Heights trail and to Patricia Heights School.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: *2.1 km round trip; moderate*

- Walk a few metres southeast to where the curve of 159 Street turns into 76 Avenue.
- Walk right, down a granular multi-use path into Patricia Ravine. Continue west on a paved trail (formerly the Country Club road) with the ravine on your left. Where the trail crosses the ravine there is an opening in the trees on your right.
- The path curves away from the deep Patricia Ravine and emerges at Wolf Willow Road in Westridge. Patricia Ravine continues west to 170 Street.
- Turn right on Westridge Road (opposite the community hall) and turn right again into cul-de-sac 325-335. The path starts inside the cul-de-sac beside the walk/bicycle sign.
- Go into the ravine down 85 wooden steps, over a small bridge and up 72 steps to Patricia Heights School.
- From the school, continue east on 78 Avenue or Patricia Drive to the trailhead.

WALK C Starting from Patricia Drive to walk the new Patricia Ravine trail.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: *About 3 km round trip; moderate*

- Walk a few metres southeast to where the curve of 159 Street turns into 76 Avenue.
- Walk down the same granular path as in Walk B, but this time turn left on the new trail at the first fork. Continue past a long set of stairs that leads up to 158 Street on your left.
- Remain in the valley and walk through some lovely woods, past a retaining wall and then up a set of 59 steps.
- At the top, look back across the river for a stunning view of the river and Quesnell Bridge. Ahead, caragana bushes line both sides of the path.
- Turn left at the intersection and proceed to the top of the riverbank. Enjoy the outstanding view from above the steep set of stairs.
- Return to the intersection through the caragana-lined trail and head left (west) on the granular path over a right of way pipeline, between houses. This path will lead you to Wolf Willow Crescent.
- Cross the road and continue west on a broad concrete sidewalk to the soccer fields of Westridge Park. Turn right (north) on the sidewalk leading to Wolf Willow Road.
- Cross the road at the Walk sign and go straight ahead to a narrow trail between houses into Patricia Ravine.
- Continue down the asphalt trail back to the trailhead at Patricia Drive.

AMENITIES

- none on the trails
- washrooms in the Westridge/Wolf Willow Community League building (not always open)
- services at Westridge, Callingwood and Meadowlark shopping centres

DESCRIPTION

The Patricia Heights neighbourhood is on the north side of the Patricia Ravine, extending to 156 Street on the east. The Westridge neighbourhood is on the south side.