

WEST EDMONTON - PRECIOUS GREEN SPACES



difficult

This short walk takes you to an unusual area that deserves a special mention. Walk carefully in this fragile area.

TRAILHEAD: *Whitemud Ravine Nature Reserve north parking lot*

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: *Less than 1 km round trip (about 4 km round trip if you start at the John Janzen Nature Centre); difficult, rough trail with a steep hill surrounded by natural and wild boreal forest. There are several wet areas throughout because of the many small springs.*

- From the Whitemud Ravine North parking lot, walk towards the steep stairs on the big hill. Just a few metres before the stairs, take the well-marked granular trail to the right and walk south up the slight slope into the trees.
- This area can be wet because of water seeping out of the steep slopes and flowing down tufa channels to the creek below.

- Continue south on the shaded, woody path to the fork in the trail. Walk down to the creek to look at a huge balsam poplar tree felled by beavers many years ago. Nearby is an extensive carpet of sarsaparilla plants.
- Return to the fork and continue up the steep hill. At this point you may wish you had gone up the stairs, but persevere and walk north along a goat path near the top of the bank through chokecherry and saskatoon bushes to the grand viewpoint.
- Return to the trailhead (parking lot) by going down the stairs, or walk a few metres east to the Hidden Trail. Or walk further east on Grandview Drive to 125 Street and back through the Hidden Trail to the trailhead.
- The stairs are a challenge (240 steps), so hang onto the guardrail. (Many runners and joggers go up and down these steps several times a day.)

