

Muttart Conservatory and Outside Gardens

CENTRAL EDMONTON – THE HEART OF THE CITY

DESCRIPTION

A fee is charged for visiting the Muttart Conservatory. Call 780-442-5311 for information.

Three glass pyramids provide special environmental conditions to meet the needs of plants from arid, tropical and temperate climates. The fourth pyramid features a changing seasonal show garden. A mural by well-known Aboriginal artist Alex Janvier encircles the inside perimeter of the central area.

Just north of the Conservatory, colourful beds of perennials, herbs and annuals (all identified) add interest to this tour during the spring, summer and fall. These gardens are in a setting of gentle, grassy hills and trees. Two beds with different hardy rose bushes draw your attention to a bridge, which brings you to a gazebo. The benches and picnic tables here invite you to relax and enjoy this wonderful area, with the city skyline as a backdrop.

HISTORY

Muttart Conservatory. Officially opened in 1976, the Conservatory was designed by Edmonton architect Peter Hemingway. The Muttart Foundation (a charitable foundation of Merrill and Gladys Muttart of Muttart Lumber) contributed \$1 million and the City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta contributed another \$1 million.

The Muttart Conservatory site. In the first half of the 1900s this spot was the city's waste collection site for incineration. In the 1970s the city started buying up all the flood-prone lots with a view to converting them to parkland. As a result, the Mill Creek incinerator was removed in 1975. In 1986 the city reversed its policy and allowed the preservation of the communities that were already established in the river valley.

Thomas Clover. The communities of Cloverdale and Clover Bar, as well as Clover Bar Road, are all named after Thomas Clover, a gold miner who arrived in Edmonton about 1860. The Cloverdale community, which produced grain, lumber, coal, bricks and meat, was originally called Grassy Hill, and then Bird's Flats, Gallagher Flats, Bennett School Community, and finally Cloverdale. Clover Bar Road went through Cloverdale on its way to the farming and mining settlement of Clover Bar in east Edmonton.

*“Climate is what you expect,
weather is what you get.”*

– National Service Office Tucson, Arizona

As you enjoy the River Valley, please remember to be prepared for the weather and leave only footprints. Please take out your garbage.

Our River Valley will benefit as we reduce our Climate Change inputs.