



easy

This park in the centre of Edmonton (at the foot of the Edmonton Conference Centre) welcomes people of all ages and provides easy access to the river along with facilities for various types of recreational and cultural events. Relax, and enjoy this small park that celebrates our river of life!

DIRECTIONS FROM THE MUTTART CONSERVATORY PARKING LOT (9626 – 96A STREET)

- Walk north on the multi-use trail over 98 Avenue and through Henrietta Edwards Park.
- Cross the Tawatinâ Bridge (the span across the river is 200 m) and turn left into Louise McKinney Riverfront Park.
- Walk past the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion and follow the paved Trans Canada Trail west to the switchback section (Capital Health Link) that leads to the Riverfront Promenade. Or take the path from the footbridge straight ahead that switchbacks gently through a lovely rose garden up to the Canadian Chinese Garden, the Shumka Stage and parking lot for conference attendees. Enjoy the benches with views of the river, read the poetry on the lamp posts, and then make your

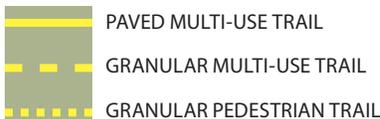
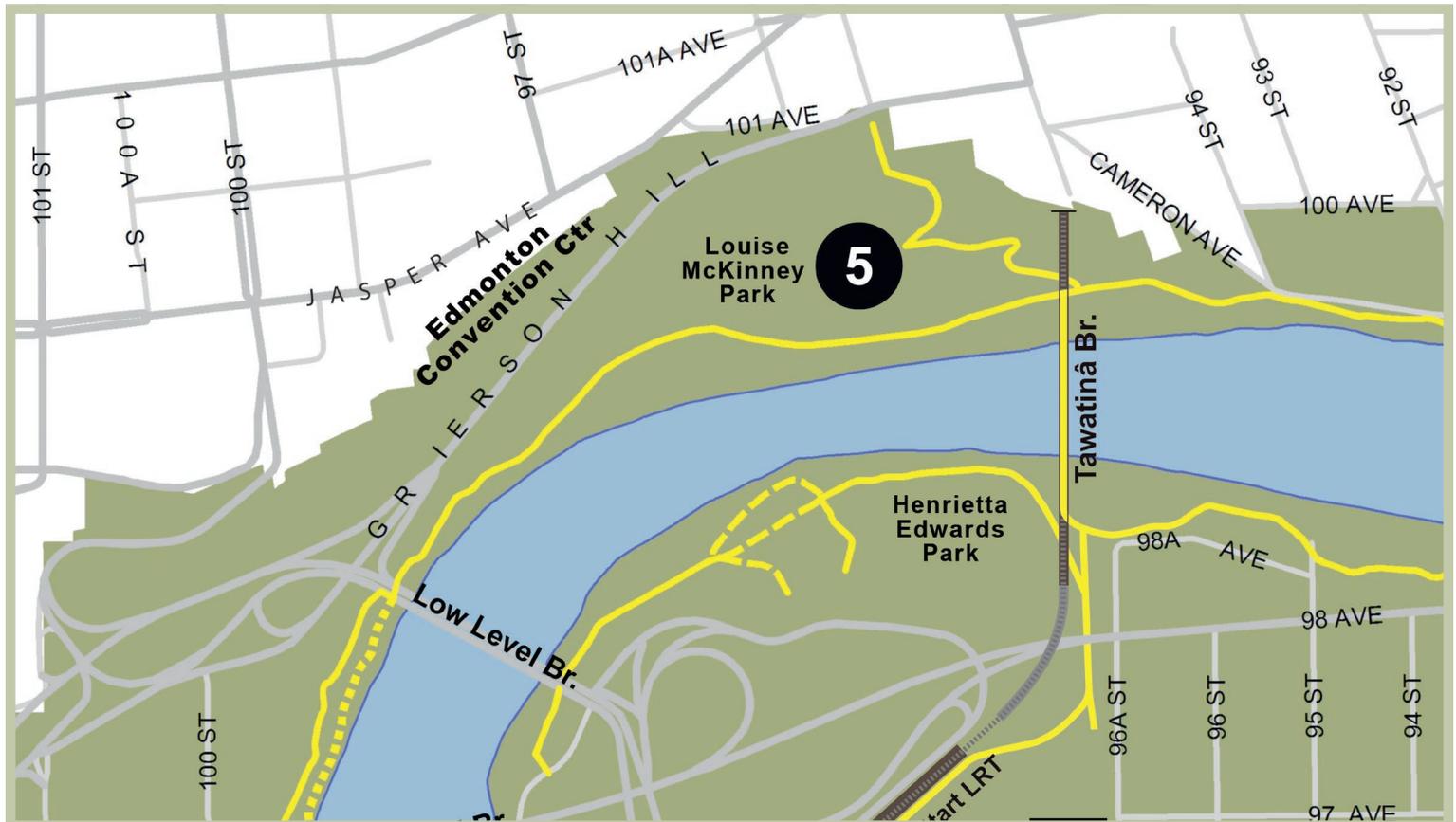
way to the Riverfront Plaza and up to the Edmonton Conference Centre.

- Continue up the wooden steps and overpass to the terrace and into the Edmonton Conference Centre.
- If you wish, proceed up the escalators (or use the wheelchair elevator) and out the door to Jasper Avenue, where you can find many good places for lunch or a snack. Or continue on Walk 6, McDougall Hill Heritage Trail. Or walk east along 101 Avenue past the inukshuk to 95A Street for more great views of the river valley.
- You may cross Grierson Hill by pushing the walk button on 95A Street and re-enter Louise McKinney Riverfront Park via a long set of stairs back to the Chinese Garden.

LOCATION

9529 Grierson Hill, below Grierson Hill Road and northeast of the Low Level Bridge.

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Louise McKinney Riverfront Park

CENTRAL EDMONTON – THE HEART OF THE CITY

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Easy, with paved paths. Henrietta Edwards and Louise McKinney parks have universal access. Currently there is no wheelchair access from Louise McKinney Riverfront Park to the Edmonton Conference Centre.

LENGTH OF WALK

From the Muttart Conservatory parking lot to the Edmonton Conference Centre, 1.1 km one way. From the Conference Centre to Chateau Lacombe, an additional 0.8 km one way.

AMENITIES

- Riverfront Plaza of Louise McKinney Riverfront Park: washrooms for trail users and park patrons.
- Henrietta Edwards Park: Blufone (City of Edmonton emergency phone).
- Emergency phone at the north end of the Tawatinà Bridge.
- Lunch, coffee or snacks: food court in the basement of Canada Place, just across Jasper Avenue from the Edmonton Conference Centre, as well as several other places along Jasper Avenue.

DESCRIPTION

The area of Louise McKinney Riverfront Park is 14.5 ha, and the area of Henrietta Edwards Park is 12 ha. Both of these parks are named after Famous Five women (see Walk 8). The Edmonton Horticultural Society has planted a charming garden and provided benches in Henrietta Edwards Park just before the footbridge.

The park, officially opened in 2008, was sponsored by the City of Edmonton, the Alberta Lottery Fund, Capital Health (Edmonton Area) and the River Valley Alliance. This park is designed for

riverfront activities in summer and cross country skiing in winter. Future plans for the Riverfront Plaza may include street vendors and a funicular railway. A floating public dock will be accessible to everyone.

Lines of poetry celebrating the significance of the river are wound around the light poles. This poetry is by E.D. Blodgett, Edmonton's Poet Laureate at the time the park was opened.

The eastern section of Louise McKinney Riverfront Park, designated as the Canadian Chinese Community Garden, was opened in 2007. The entrance to the garden is guarded by a lion on each side, one male and one female. The male has a ball under his foot representing world dominance, and the female has a baby under her front foot showing the care and nurturing of the people. In the garden, 12 small animal statues represent the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac. Other permanent structures include a small bridge over a dry riverbed and a pavilion.

Just west of the Chinese garden is the Shumka Stage built by the Ukrainian community for music and dance performances.

Joe Fafard's see-through sculpture of a bison at the south entrance to the Edmonton Conference Centre commemorates the fact that bison were once very numerous in this area and were the major source of food, clothing and shelter for aboriginal people.

HISTORY

For information about Henrietta Edwards and Louise McKinney, see Walk 8, Queen Elizabeth Park and the Famous Five Parks.

*“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.