



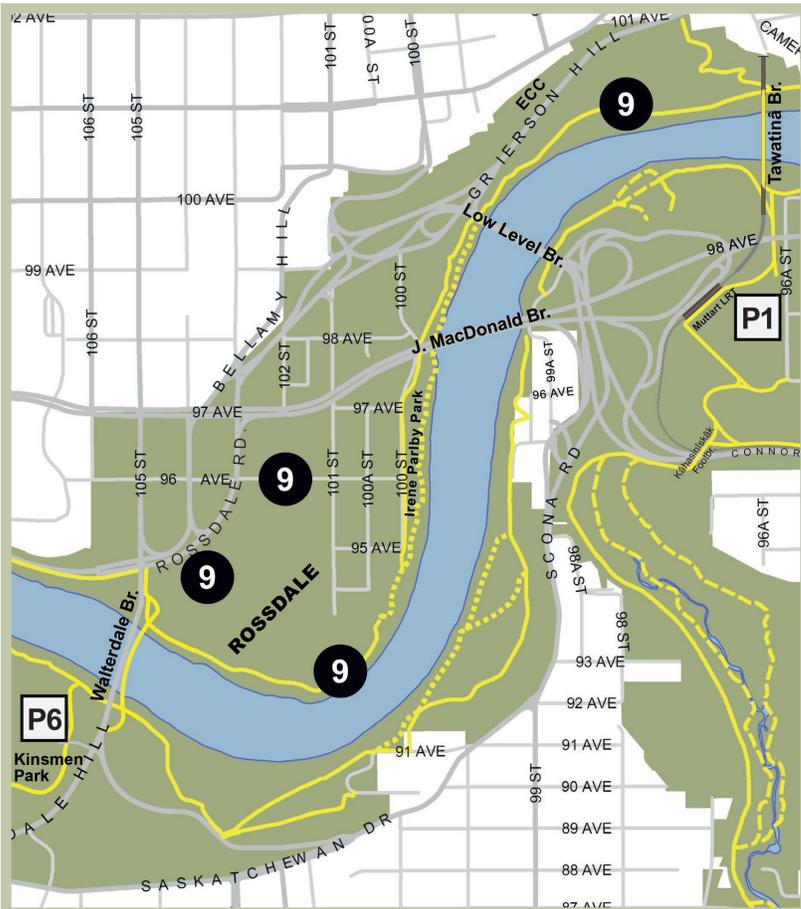
moderate

This walk is lengthy (3.3 km one way), but easy and paved throughout. Take it when you have half a day to spend. Use this opportunity to learn about Edmonton’s fascinating history and refresh yourself by enjoying the year-round beauty of the river valley.

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

- Walk north over 98 Avenue, through Henrietta Edwards Park.
- Cross over the Tawatinâ Bridge to Louise McKinney Riverfront Park.
- Check out the Trans Canada Trail Pavilion (Capital Region) and walk west on a multi-use trail along the north side of the river. Keep to the higher main path and save the lower one for the return trip.
- Walk under the Low Level Bridge until you come to a fork in the road. Follow the Alberta Government Centre sign to the left.

- Continue past a sign referring to the early history of Edmonton’s coal mines and walk under the James MacDonald Bridge to the community of Rossdale.
- At Irene Parlby Park (1.6 km from your starting point at Muttart), continue south to a play park. At the high wire fence surrounding the EPCOR Power Plant, take the left fork and walk through the gate to the benches and note the historical displays.
- Continue past the red brick water treatment and power plant, and arrive at the north end of the Walterdale Bridge (2.9 km from the Muttart Conservatory).
- Turn left to cross Walterdale Bridge (105 Street) on a wooden sidewalk. At the south end of the bridge go left down some steps and under the bridge to get to the Kinsmen Sports Centre parking lot.
- Return the way you came.



FOR A SHORTER WALK

Skip the visit to the Kinsmen Sports Centre and turn back just before crossing the Walterdale Bridge. Walk past the metal memorial teepee on Rossdale Road and the Telus Field House (baseball park). Turn right (east) at 96 Avenue (John Ducey Way). Join the multi-use trail at the Mother Earth sculpture and go back to the Muttart Conservatory.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Moderate because of the length, but easy walking on a flat grade with universal access.

LENGTH OF WALK

3.3 km one way including visit to Kinsmen. Allow about 3 hours, depending on stops.

AMENITIES

- Henrietta Edwards Park: Blufone (City of Edmonton emergency phone).
- Louise McKinney Park: energy-efficient washrooms (open 9 until dusk) and pay phones at the pavilion; picnic tables below the Edmonton Conference Centre.
- Irene Parlby Park: benches and a drinking fountain.
- Kinsmen Sports Centre: cafeteria, pay phones and washrooms.

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	PAVED MULTI-USE TRAIL		Muttart Conservatory
	GRANULAR MULTI-USE TRAIL		Kinsmen Sports Centre
	GRANULAR PEDESTRIAN TRAIL		

DESCRIPTION

Some of the things you can see on this walk:

- Across from Louise McKinney Park at Rafter's Landing is the Edmonton Queen riverboat, which is the site of concerts, social events and short tours during the summer.
- Enjoy the wide stretch of riparian (riverbank) area on your left and homes on your right.
- A little park area on 96 Avenue has benches and a "Mother Earth" stone sculpture by Stewart Steinhauer.
- At the north end of the Walterdale Bridge: a large First Nations display with many informative signs and photographs relating to the traditional Burial Ground and Fort Edmonton Cemetery.
- The metal memorial teepee on Rossdale Road dedicated to the people of Alberta to commemorate Alberta's 100th anniversary in 2005. Note the list of the names of many of the Aboriginal, Metis, French and Scottish people from the early 1880s who may have been buried at this grave site.
- Watch the space beside Rossdale Community Centre and Little Flower School for changing displays of wonderful sculptures by Stewart Steinhauer.

HISTORY

The Five Forts. The river flats in Rossdale are where Fort Edmonton was located twice, first in 1801 and again in 1813. Five different trading posts built by the Hudson's Bay Company were called Edmonton House/Fort Edmonton, as follows:

- (1) 1795. Edmonton House was built beside the North West Company's Fort Augustus (near present-day Fort Saskatchewan).
- (2) 1801. Edmonton House (a.k.a Fort Edmonton) and Fort Augustus moved to present-day Rossdale, near the present-day power plant.
- (3) 1810. Fearing an attack both forts moved to White Earth Creek, near Smoky Lake.
- (4) 1813. Both forts returned to Rossdale, and in 1821 the two companies merged as the Hudson's Bay Company.
- (5) 1830. To avoid the floods, Fort Edmonton was rebuilt on higher ground, below what is now the site of the legislature. It was dismantled in 1915.

Donald Ross (1840-1915). Rossdale takes its name from this man, who came to Edmonton in 1872, bought land from a Hudson's Bay employee, built a house and turned it into Edmonton's first hotel. He mined coal on his land, which he used

to keep his hotel warm, and he provided the hotel with fresh produce from his market garden and greenhouse.

John Walter (1849-1920). This boat builder and Edmonton's first millionaire arrived in 1870 from the Orkney Islands, Scotland, to work for the Hudson's Bay Company. He built York boats at their Fort Edmonton post. He claimed River Lot 19 and built his first house in 1875 across the river from the fort. He operated the first ferry service, and established a lumber mill and coal-mining operation (where the Kinsmen Pitch N Putt is today) as well as a riverboat operation. He served on the councils of Strathcona and Edmonton, and he donated one block of land to the city to build a hospital. John Walter had many successes. However, the building of the High Level and 105 Street bridges, both completed in 1913, reduced the need for his ferry, and the flood of 1915 destroyed his sawmills.

Walterdale Bridge, originally called the 105 Street Bridge, was renamed in 1967 to honour John Walter. Walterdale Hill is also named after John Walter.

John Ducey (1908-1983) came to Edmonton in 1909 and was involved in baseball for 60 years. Ducey is known as Edmonton's Mr. Baseball. Telus Field, on John Ducey Way, is the home of the Edmonton Capitals, a baseball team owned by the Edmonton Oilers Hockey Club.

EPCOR Power and Water Treatment plants. The power and water plants were originally built in 1903 and owned by the city. These buildings have long been a landmark in Edmonton's river valley. The power plant has recently been decommissioned, although some part will be saved as a historic site. Edmonton now gets its power from Genesee and also at peak times from the Cloverdale plant. The Rossdale Water Treatment Plant is one of two water treatment plants for the city. The North Saskatchewan River is the source of the water supply for both the Rossdale and E.L. Smith plants. Edmonton's water treatment plants provide drinking water for 45 communities.

*"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.