



easy

This walk, which is a continuation of Walk 7, Mill Creek North, follows a path through a lovely treed ravine. One of the unique features of this walk is the four wooden trestle bridges that remain from the days when the Edmonton Yukon & Pacific Railway (EY&PR) ran through the ravine. Mill Creek Ravine also has 18 footbridges, and most of them are in the south section.

If you keep to the higher multi-use trail, you can look down into the valley floor for glimpses of the creek. Many granular trails and stairs lead down to the shaded valley floor.

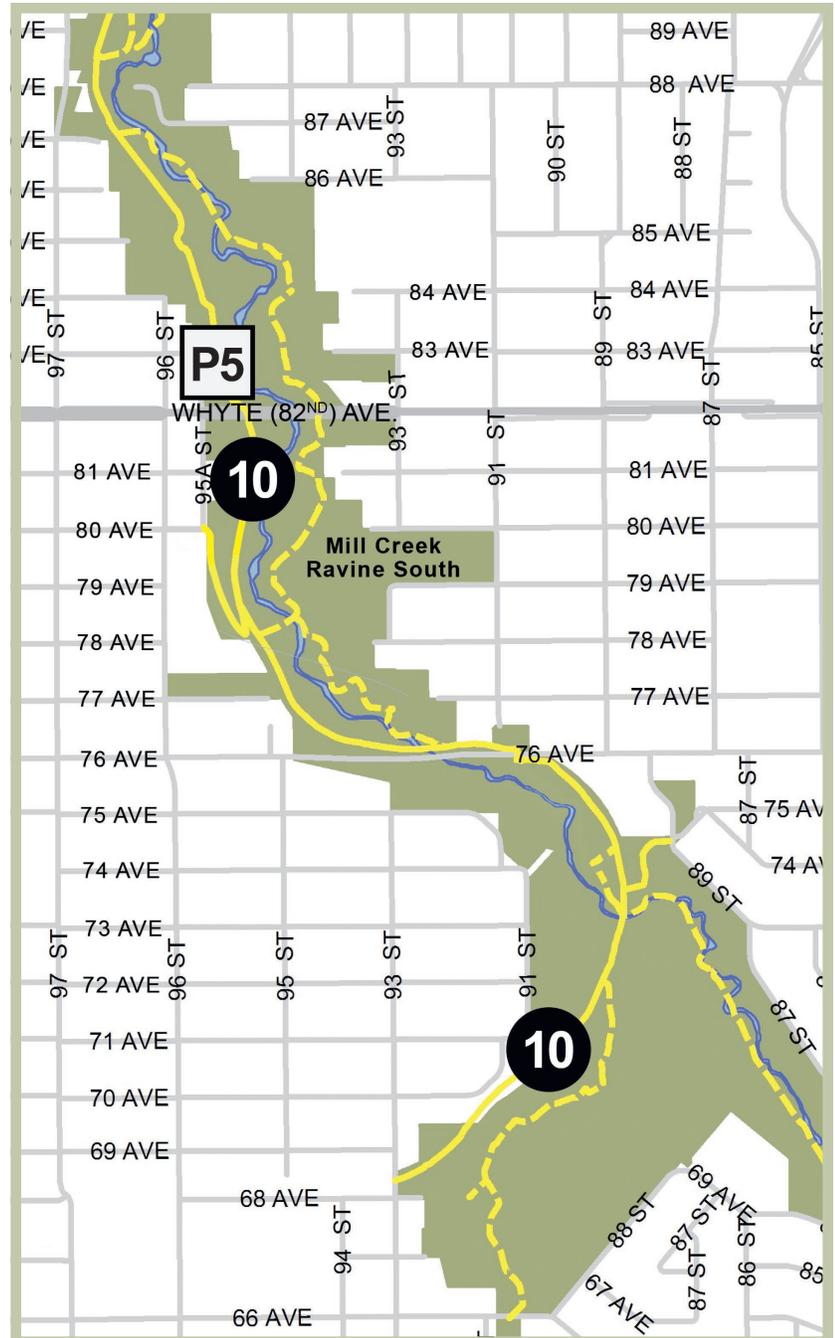
TO GET TO THE MILL CREEK MIDDLE (PARKING) LOT FROM WHYTE AVENUE

From Whyte Avenue proceeding east, turn left at 95A Street just west of the Mill Creek Bridge and go down a small hill to the Mill Creek Middle Lot.

DIRECTIONS FROM MILL CREEK MIDDLE (PARKING) LOT

- Walk south up a slight hill to a viewpoint overlooking the ravine and the Mill Creek outdoor pool. Continue south under the Mill Creek Bridge on Whyte Avenue and past the Creekside condominiums.
- Cross the restored trestle bridge of the Edmonton Yukon and Pacific Railway near 76 Avenue.
- Cross 76 Avenue at a walk light at 93 Street.
- Keep to the high road, that is, the multi-use trail near 75 Avenue, behind The Conservatory condominiums.
- You will arrive at the second trestle bridge (#33) just south of The Conservatory near 75 Avenue and 89 Street.
- Below this bridge, on the valley floor, the southeast arm of the creek has a strong flow of water but is joined by only a trickle coming from the southwest arm.
- Continue a short distance to the next trestle bridge (#32), which is open but under repair. Continue further south to the fourth trestle bridge (#29).
- Follow the paved path until it ends, at 68 Avenue and 93 Street (the old EY&P right-of-way) and return to the Mill Creek Middle Lot.

CONTINUED >



FOR A MUCH SHORTER WALK THAT STILL PROVIDES A TASTE OF THE FASCINATING MILL CREEK RAVINE

- Park on the road at 75 Avenue and 89 Street, near The Conservatory condominiums, and walk towards the ravine. Cross the trestle bridge (#33).
- Take the trail to the left (before you cross the next trestle bridge) up to the Argyll Velodrome, past the community hall and old Argyll School to a shallow part of the east fork of the creek and to the large separator.
- Turn north at the separator and walk on a granular path, crossing the creek on several lovely footbridges back to the trestle bridge.
- Go up the stairs on the east side of the bridge and return to your car.

FOR A VERY LONG WALK

Combine this walk with Walk 7, Mill Creek Ravine North, which begins at the Muttart Conservatory.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Easy paved and relatively flat multi-purpose path; universal access.

LENGTH OF WALK

The longer walk following the multi-use trail is about 2.4 km one way. Allow about 2 to 3 hours return. The shorter walk is a circle of 1.8 km.

AMENITIES

Just south of the Mill Creek Middle parking lot: Emergency phone; portable toilet in summer; picnic tables and stoves.

*“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.

DESCRIPTION

Mill Creek passes under many bridges and is a delight to explore. A plaque on the restored trestle bridge north of 76 Avenue outlines the history of the Edmonton Yukon & Pacific Railway (EY&PR), which once ran through the Mill Creek ravine.

The second trestle bridge is located near The Conservatory condominiums, 7510 – 89 Street, which replaced the Allan Gray Nursing Home. Four trestle bridges still remain from the days of EY&PR.

Near the second trestle bridge the two forks of Mill Creek join to flow as one to the river. The east fork flows from the County of Strathcona, through Mill Woods. It is piped underground under roads and industries. It appears again as the Roper Park Natural Area, then is piped underground again and reappears near 70 Avenue, where it flows through a spill containment filter (separator) located in a wide, flat section of the ravine. The filter is designed to catch pollutants such as oil spills before they are carried further down the creek and into the river. The west arm of the creek used to flow from 51 Avenue but now has water in it only after a rainstorm.

The creek winds downstream in tight curves, and rocks in baskets help to stabilize the banks.

If you take the east fork of the trail near 73 Avenue, you will see the Argyll Velodrome, an outdoor cycling track near the Argyll Community Centre.

HISTORY

Edmonton Yukon and Pacific Railway. From the south the EY&PR connected with the Calgary and Edmonton Railway south of 68 Avenue and 102 Street.

Whyte Avenue (82 Avenue) was named by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) after Sir William Whyte (1843-1914), who came from Scotland to Canada in 1863. He worked for the Grand Trunk Railway and the CPR, rising to become vice-president after 48 years.