

WEST EDMONTON - PRECIOUS GREEN SPACES



easy

This lovely shaded multi-use trail circles Fort Edmonton. When you reach the river, note the long stairway built down the steep bank on the other side. **WALK A**

For another walk, head north from the John Janzen Nature Centre to the River Loop Trail and east to Quesnell Bridge. Walk under the bridge to the new stairs that go up to the southeast bridge ramp and to Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park. **WALK B**

TRAILHEAD: John Janzen Nature Centre

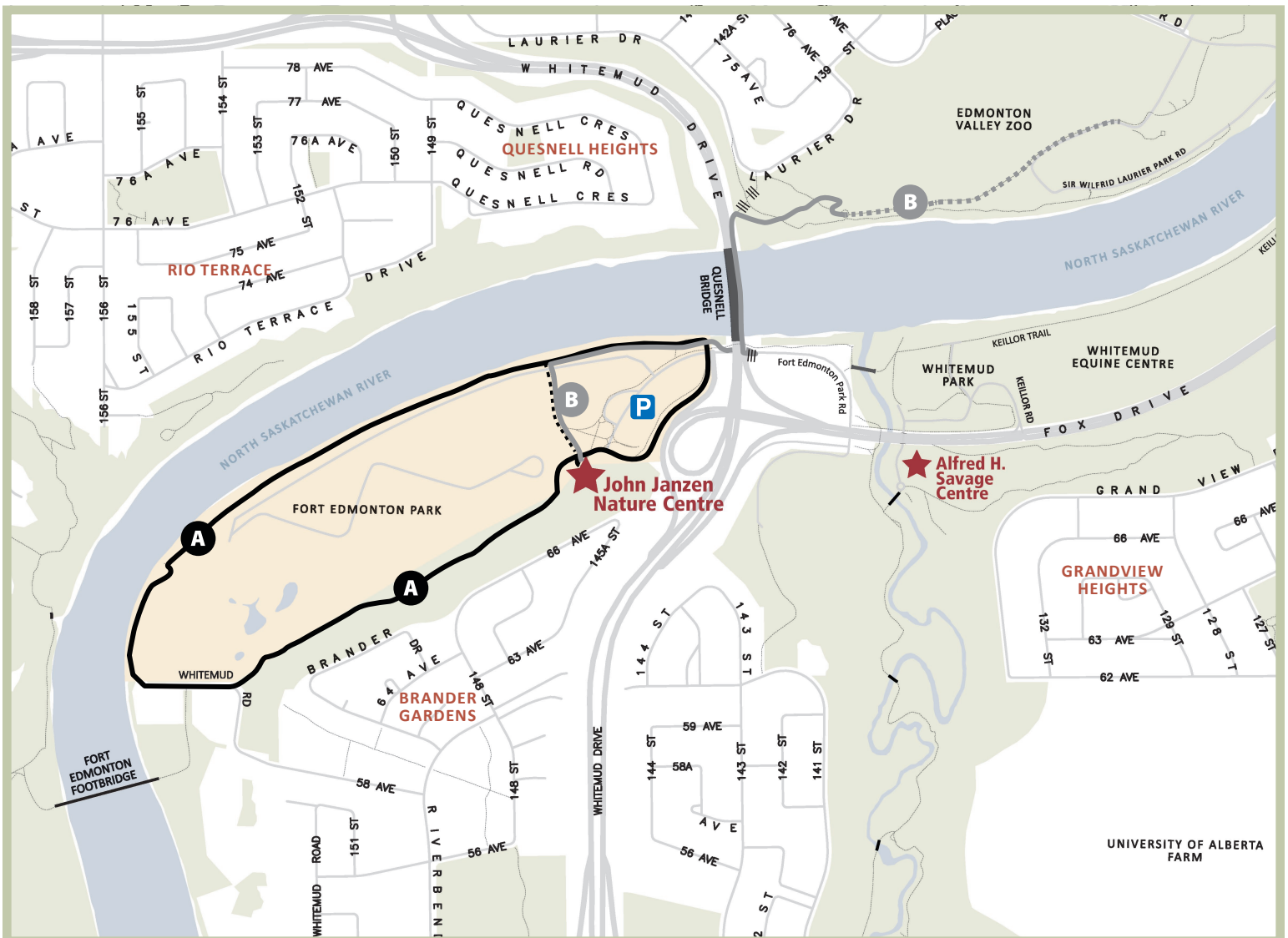
WALK A To Whitemud Road and circle Fort Edmonton.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: 3.3 km round trip; easy (only 1.1 km from the John Janzen Nature Centre west to Whitemud Road)

The River Loop walk is fairly level but includes a couple of easy hills. The trail surface is asphalt up to Whitemud Road and granular along the river. The river section of the trail can be icy in early spring.

- From the John Janzen Nature Centre head left (west) to the River Loop sign and walk through a pleasant treed area with some easy hills.
- Follow this paved trail west to Whitemud Road and then curve right to the river.
- Continue along the river, past Fort Edmonton. At the first fork to the right, walk south, up the bank and back to the nature centre.
- If you miss the first fork, walk to the Quesnell Bridge and come back on the multi-use path below the bank or through the parking lot.

CONTINUED >



WALK B To the roundabout in Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park.**DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY:** *About 3 km round trip: easy*

- From the John Janzen Nature Centre walk directly north to the River Loop Trail and (right) east to the Quesnell Bridge (0.8 km). Proceed up to the bridge deck via a set of stairs on the southeast side, near the shiny steel balls of the Talus Dome.
- Follow the wide concrete sidewalk to the north end of the bridge; then turn right on the paved path and continue to the roundabout (circle) in Laurier Park.
- Consider a picnic in the park or visit the Valley Zoo. Return the same way.

HISTORY

The **John Janzen Nature Centre**, opened in 1976, has inspired everyone from 3 to 103 to appreciate the importance of biodiversity and connections to the natural world. It is named after John Janzen (1923-1972), a former superintendent of Edmonton Parks and Recreation. Hawrelak Park (formerly Mayfair Park) and Coronation Pool were built under his

leadership. George Hughes, City Commissioner, said of John Janzen, “He was a man of unswerving principles. An example of this is his protection of the river valley. He fought every attempt to move into that river valley. John believed that some encroachment leads to more encroachment and to total takeover.” (*Edmonton Journal*, March 7, 1972)

Fort Edmonton Park is open to the public from the May long weekend to Labour Day. Established as a living historical park in 1966, Fort Edmonton depicts four distinct eras of Edmonton’s history:

- a Hudson’s Bay fur trading fort in 1846
- a small city during the 1885 gold rush
- a bustling capital city in 1905
- a growing city after World War I (1920)

The last Edmonton fort, built in 1830, was torn down to make way for the Legislature Building in 1915.

The Quesnell Bridge opened in 1968 and was widened in 2008-2011. Excavations for a sewer line in 2010 about 27 metres deep produced several dinosaur bones.

*“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.