

WEST EDMONTON - PRECIOUS GREEN SPACES



easy

Buena Vista Park offers an easy walk on its one main multi-use (granular) trail plus many other side trails. This 66-ha park still has a great many native trees and shrubs. The park is the home of the Yorath House, the Edmonton Rowing Club, the Edmonton Whitewater Paddlers and a large off leash dog park.

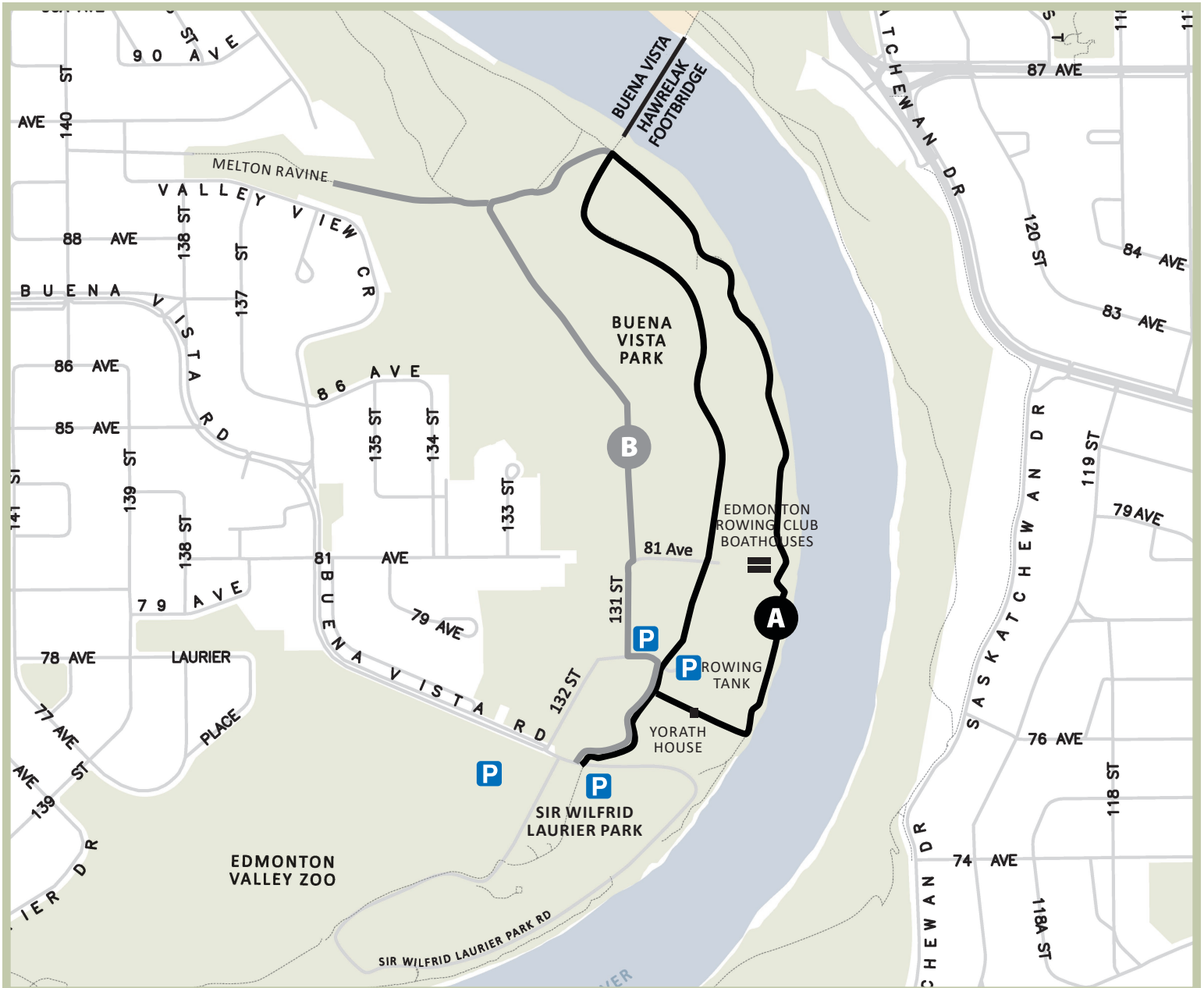
TRAILHEAD: Granular parking lot south of Buena Vista Road in Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park

WALK A Starting from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park parking lot.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: About 3 km round trip to the footbridge and back by river trail; easy granular path. The path beside the river is uneven.

- From the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park parking lot, walk north across Buena Vista Road to the main multi-use granular path and through the trees. The path passes the Yorath House and the Edmonton Rowing Club's training tank facility on your right.
- The granular path continues through a tunnel of caragana bushes and soon passes the road to the Rowing Club's boathouses on your right. On your left is a field that is a very busy off leash dog park where you will see dogs of all sizes and colours.

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- Continue on the granular trail to the Buena Vista/Hawrelak footbridge. Do not cross the footbridge but make a loop; walk down to the right, to a pleasant granular path by the river.
- Follow the path south, back to the area in front of the Yorath House.
- Come up from the river through the Yorath property to join the main granular path to the parking lot.

WALK B Starting from the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park parking lot.

DISTANCE/DIFFICULTY: *About 3 km round trip; easy*

- From the Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park parking lot, walk to the Buena Vista/Hawrelak footbridge (see Walk A).
- Go left (west) on the dirt path through the trees to reach the foot of Melton Ravine. This ravine provides access from Valleyview Crescent (about 88 Avenue) and 138 Street for walkers and cyclists to go through Buena Vista Park to the footbridge. You will meet many dogs.
- From the foot of Melton Ravine, head south or east back to the parking lot.

AMENITIES

- emergency phone and portable toilet at the entrance to the dog park parking lot (on 131 Street)
- emergency phone just west of the footbridge

HISTORY

Dennis K. Yorath (1905-1981) worked for Northwestern Utilities and Canadian Western Natural Gas Company. In 1940 he temporarily left both companies to direct pilot training in southern Alberta. In 1949, he moved into the newly built Yorath House (7825 - 131 Street) when he was transferred to Edmonton to become general manager of Northwestern Utilities. In 1956 he became president of Northwestern and Canadian Western Natural Gas. He was named a member of the Order of the British Empire for his work in directing pilot training – much of the training for the RAF and RCAF was done in High River. He was also named a member of Canada's Aviation Hall of Fame in 1973.

In 1992 the city bought the 4.5-ha (11-acre) Yorath property to consolidate public ownership of river frontage in Buena Vista Park. A stone memorial at the foot of the Yorath house is inscribed with the names of Dennis Yorath and his wife Betty, and Betty's parents, William and Hilda Wilkin.

Melton Ravine is named after the Melton Family, probably Louis Timothy Melton, who lived on Ravine Drive and founded Melton Realty in 1923.

In the late 1880s, this area was known as Miner's Flats. Many miners panned for gold, upstream and downstream.

*“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.