

Forest Heights Park to Riverside Golf Course

CENTRAL EDMONTON – THE HEART OF THE CITY



moderate

This is a challenging walk if you do the full circle of about 6.0 km from the Muttart Conservatory to the Riverside Golf Course and back. This hike takes you on paved paths along both sides of the river, starting in Cloverdale and returning through Riverdale. The lower granular trail to the Riverside Golf Course parking lot, which goes through a wilder natural space, may be closed.

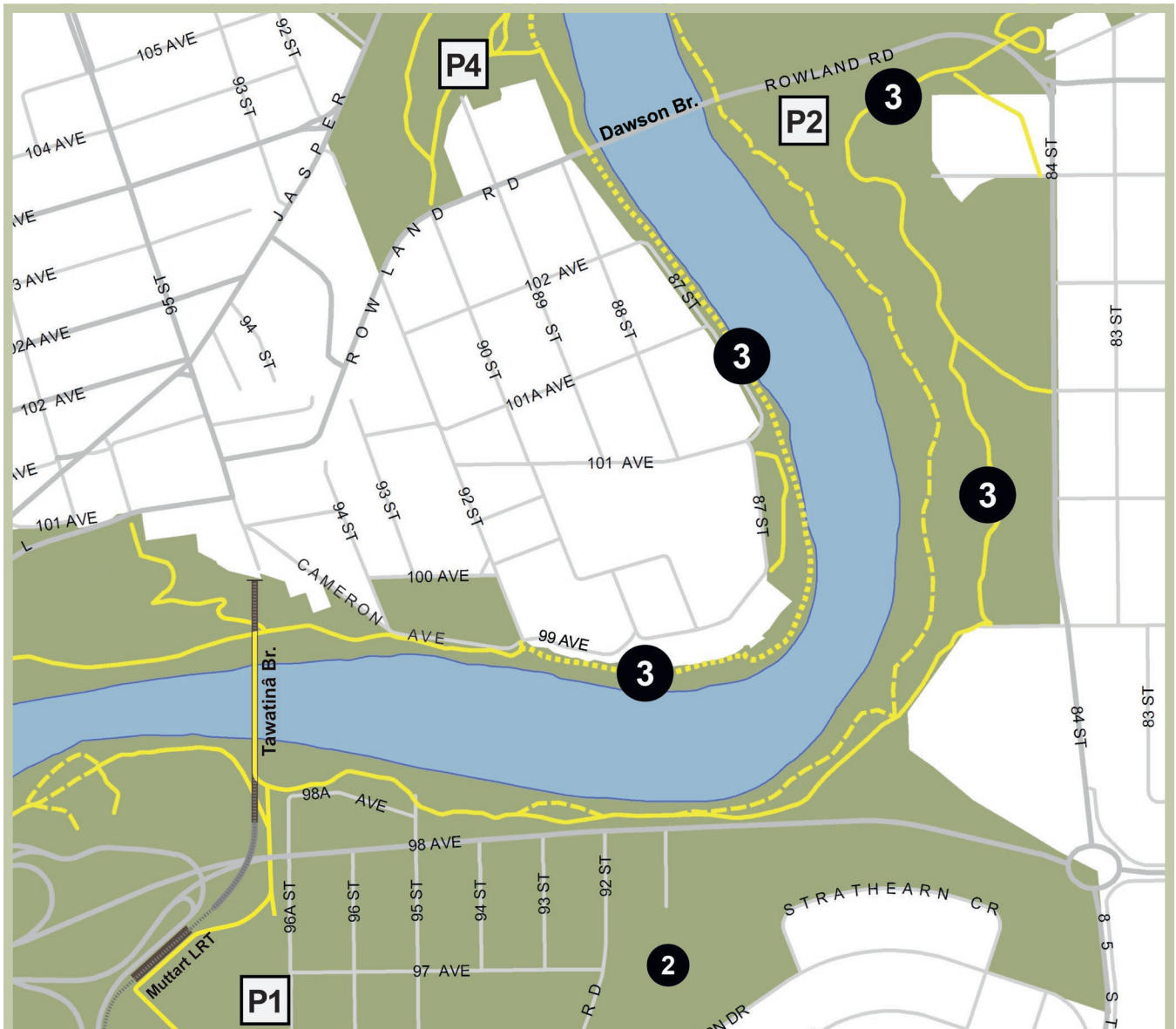
DIRECTIONS FROM THE MUTTART CONSERVATORY PARKING LOT (9626 – 96A STREET)

- Walk north on the multi-use trail over 98 Avenue to Henrietta Edwards Park.
- Do not cross the Tawatinâ Bridge over the river, but instead turn right (east) and follow the paved multi-

use path along the river, which takes you behind The Landing condominiums and past George Hustler’s Memorial Plaza on your right.

- Follow the path, which descends slightly through a forest. Before the path starts to climb (about 1.2 km from Muttart), you will see a granular path to your left.

CONTINUED >



	PAVED MULTI-USE TRAIL	P1	Muttart Conservatory
	GRANULAR MULTI-USE TRAIL	P2	Riverside Golf Course
	GRANULAR PEDESTRIAN TRAIL	P4	Dawson Park

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This path may be closed, as the hillside has slumped and cracks have appeared. The city plans to repair the trail when the hillside has settled.

- You may wish to continue on the paved path or return the way you came for a short but pleasant walk.
- The longer walk takes you up a steep hill to the top of the bank. On your right is the Catholic Pastoral Centre and on your left are the sports fields of Forest Heights Park, with McNally High School in the distance.
- Walk north towards the school, enjoying the benches and the great views to the west.
- On the north side of the school, cross the McNally wooden footbridge over Rowland Road and circle right to come under the same footbridge. Go west down the hill on the sidewalk, facing downtown, to the Riverside Golf Course.
- Use the crosswalk to the golf course parking lot or the underpass to enter the south side of the bridge.
- Cross the Dawson Bridge, on your left, facing downtown. Go down the wooden steps into Riverdale and back across the Cloverdale Bridge to the Muttart Conservatory along the north side of the river to complete the loop.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

A paved, easy multi-use path takes you along the river and offers universal access. The longer trail is also multi-use but the hill up to Forest Heights Park is steep and does not provide universal access. Some may find walking poles useful. Stay right, and be aware of cyclists.

LENGTH OF WALK

The easy part of this paved path from Muttart Conservatory to the granular path is about 1.2 km. If you carry on up the steep hill through Forest Heights Park to the end of the McNally wooden bridge, the distance is 2.5 km. The loop from Muttart Conservatory to the Riverside Golf Course, across Dawson Bridge and back to the Muttart Conservatory through Riverdale is about 6.0 km (2½ to 3 hours).

AMENITIES

- Muttart Conservatory: washrooms and restaurant; picnic tables in the outside gardens.
- Henrietta Edwards Park: Blufone (City of Edmonton emergency phone), picnic tables, stoves and water fountain.
- Blufone on the top of the bank in Forest Heights Park where the path forks to 82 Street.

DESCRIPTION

Take time to enjoy the Edmonton Horticultural Society's Garden in Henrietta Edwards Park (12 ha), as well as the picnic tables and stoves located south of the shelter. Mill Creek once emptied into the river between this picnic site and Rafter's Landing. Now it is piped under Scona Hill and empties into the North Saskatchewan River just south of the James MacDonald Bridge.

The paved path going east behind The Landing condominiums leads along the river through Cloverdale Park, where benches and picnic tables are sited to overlook the river.

When you go up the hill and along the top of the bank in Forest Heights Park, the views of the sun setting in the west can be breathtaking. If you are there during the day to watch a soccer game, remember to wear a hat. The many sports fields have very few trees to shade spectators from the sun.

HISTORY

Capital City Recreation Park. The plaque on a concrete pillar in Henrietta Edwards Park explains how this park came to be. The Alberta government, jointly with the city, built this ribbon of green on both sides of the river from the legislature downstream for 16 km. It "is our vision of a good quality of life to be enjoyed by the people of Edmonton and their children," the plaque states, and goes on to say that this unique park includes "a Water Conservation Area encompassing a minimum 240-metre setback from each shoreline of the river with appropriate bank protection, terracing and landscaping along the river." What a wonderful setback, to protect our river and riparian (riverbank) area!

McNally High School is named after Fred McNally, Alberta's minister of education from 1935 to 1946.

*"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.