

Edmonton and District Historical Society Tour of Central Edmonton Parks and Bridges:

October 19, 2013

Todd Report to Edmonton City Council in 1907

"...no one thing is more important for large cities or cities that are assured of a great future, than should early secure open spaces for the benefit of future generations." Fredrick Gage Todd, 1907

Edmonton in 2013

Edmonton has the largest expanse of urban parkland in North America with over 460 parks, including 22 major parks in the 48 km long river valley. The parks and river valley system features natural areas, paved and natural trails, and amenities

Parks and Bridges Tour: October 19, 2013

- Government House Grounds
- Paul Kane Park
- Parkette at 108 Ave./124 St. – former bus turn around
- Rocket Park
- (talk about Grads Park)
- Coronation Park
 - Telus World of Science
 - Lawn Bowling
 - Hemingway Pool
 - Planetarium
 - Woodcroft CL playground
- John G, Niddrie Parkette
- Oliver Park & Kitchener Park (as we go by on 116 St.)

1. Groat Bridge

- Emily Murphy Park
- Wm. Hawrelak Park
- Garneau

LUNCH & REST BREAK: Queen Alexandra School

- Rollie Miles Park
- Joe Morris Park
- Tipton Park

2. High Level Bridge

- Kinsmen Park

3. Walterdale Bridge

- Victoria Park
- Irene Parlby Park
- Diamond Park

4. Low Level Bridge

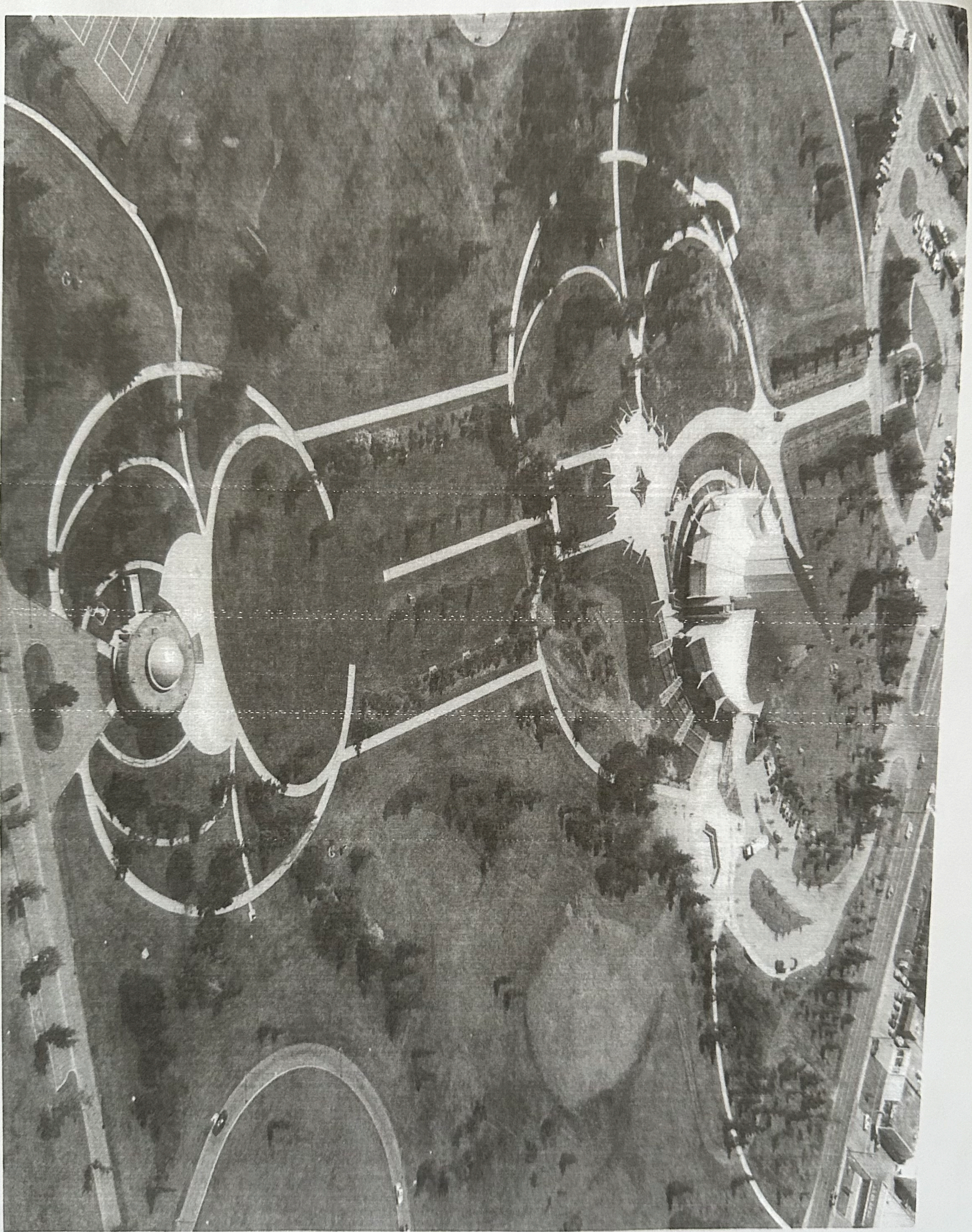
5. Dawson Bridge

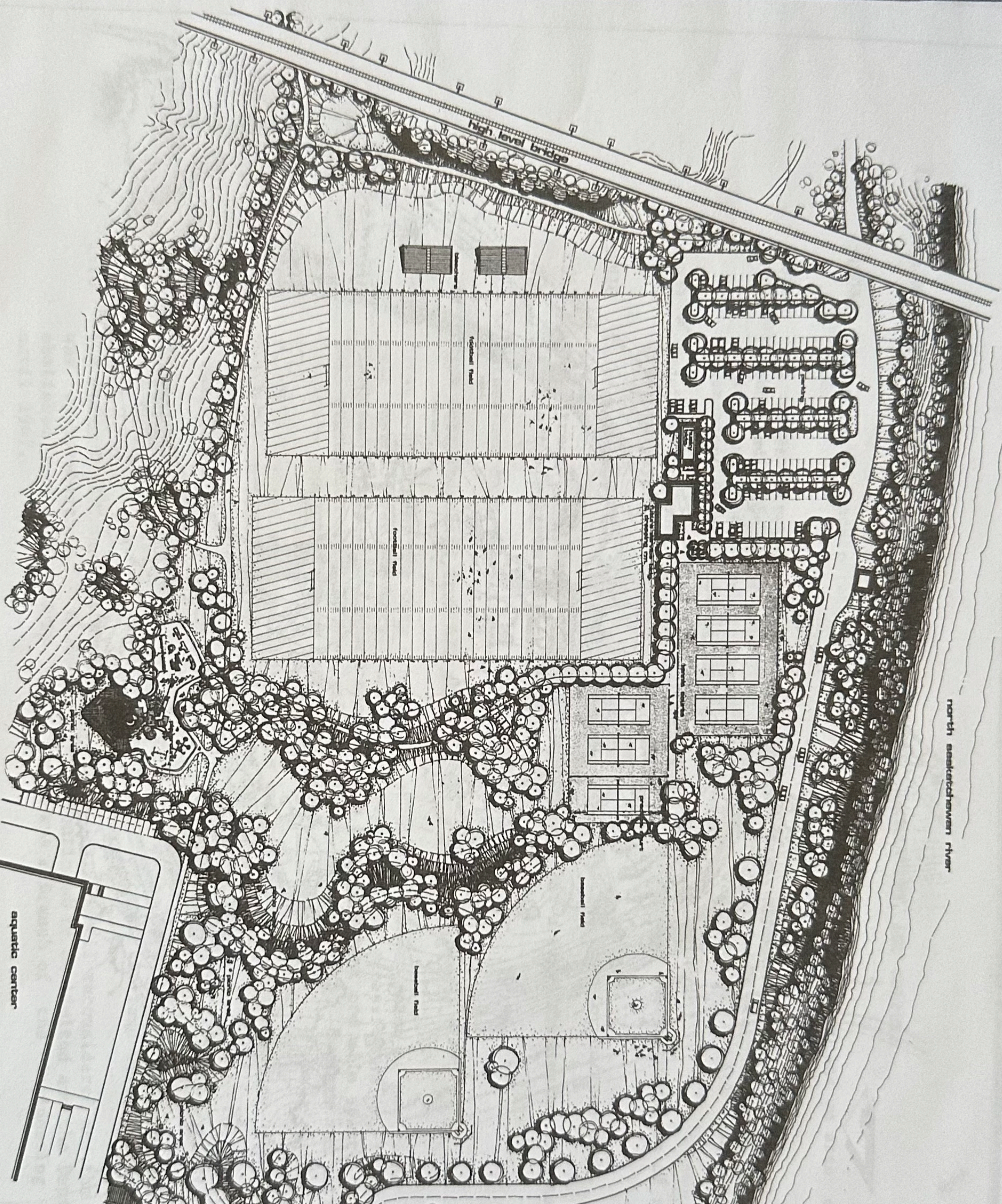
- Dawson Park
- Forest Heights Park
- Henrietta Louise Edwards Park and Louise McKinney Park (view from South Side)

6. James Maconald Bridge

- Nellie McLung Park
- W.C. Tubby Bateman Park
- Fred Morie Park
- No Name Park (104 St.85 Ave.)
- McIntyre Park
- Big Miller Park
- End of Steel Park
- Queen Elizabeth Park
- Legislature Grounds
- Victoria Promenade
- Grant Notley Park
- Groat Ravine

7. Iron Bridge

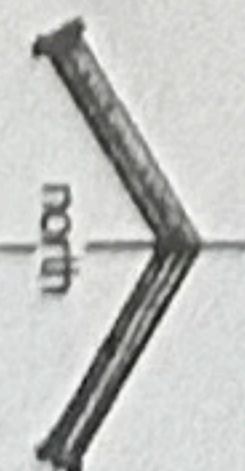




aquatics center

John Water
Museum

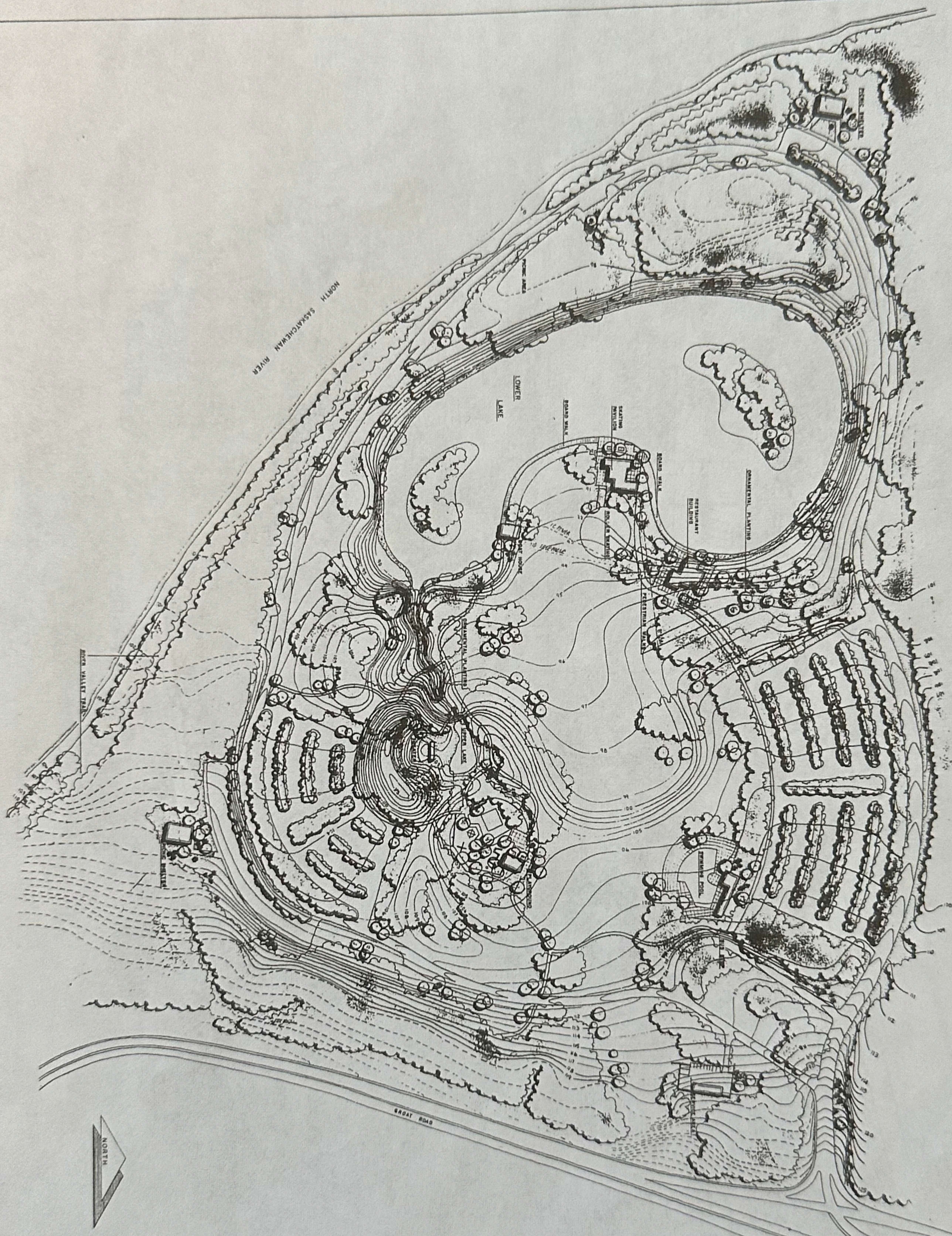
north Saskatchewan river



Author: Edmonton Parks and Recreation
 Designer: Edmonton Parks and Recreation
 Date: May 1982
 Scale: 1:500
 Drawing No.: SD-01
 File No.: SD-01-82-01

Edmonton Parks and Recreation
KINSMEN PARK 3200 Westside Hill
 Sports Fields and Game Courts
SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Checked	Design	Scale	Date	Drawing No.
✓	1:500	1:500	May 1982	SD-01
Checked	Author	File No.		
✓	Author	SD-01-82-01		



LEGEND

Water Lake	—
Proposed Lake	—
Spring	—
Well	—
Drainage	—
Proposed Road	—
Existing Road	—
Proposed Walkway	—
Existing Walkway	—
Proposed Fence	—
Existing Fence	—
Proposed Utility	—
Existing Utility	—
Proposed Structure	—
Existing Structure	—
Proposed Site	—
Existing Site	—
Proposed Planting	—
Existing Planting	—
Proposed Elevation	—
Existing Elevation	—
Proposed Contour	—
Existing Contour	—
Proposed Spot Elevation	—
Existing Spot Elevation	—
Proposed Spot Elevation	—
Existing Spot Elevation	—
Proposed Spot Elevation	—
Existing Spot Elevation	—



REVISIONS:
 DATE: _____
 THE CITY OF EDMONTON
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MAYFAIR PARK
 SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 100' 0"
 SD-3-01
 SD-3

1.0 A BRIEF HISTORY OF NOTEWORTHY EVENTS IN PARKS, RECREATION, AND CULTURE

- 1904 Edmonton was incorporated as a City with a population of 8,350 and an area of 2,425.6 acres.
- 1906 The first Streets and Parks Committee was appointed by City Council. Council authorized purchase of land "for public parks, exhibition grounds, stock yards or other similar municipal public purposes." Land was acquired which eventually became Coronation, Borden and Laurier Parks.
- 1907 Frederick G. Todd, a landscape architect, recommended the preservation of ravines and river valley system for parkland.
- 1910 A tree nursery was started using 6 acres in West End (now Coronation) Park.
- 1911 The Streets and Parks Committee recommended that a Parks Commission be established to carry out a program of park development.
- 1912 Rutherford Park established.
- Park area increased from 477 acres to 881 acres during 1912.
- First evidence of the City's hierarchy of parks: "acquisition of new land should be well spread over the City, having due regard to the necessity of providing many small playgrounds from a half block to one block in size, about one mile apart, larger areas for recreation of the population at large, on evenings, Sundays and holidays, and driveways connecting these different units".
- The City's first municipal golf course was purchased from the Hudson Bay Company (at first called Municipal Golf Course and later Victoria).
- A Parks Commission as an advisory body, and a Parks Department were established.
- The City requires land developers to donate 5% of land being subdivided for park purposes and to sell an additional 5% at the price of the land before subdivision.
- 1913 The Parks Department was abolished. In 1914, Council reconsidered and the Department was re-established. However, funds continued to be limited and the Department was abolished once more in July 1914. Parks was a Branch of the Engineering Department until 1947.

1914 New regulations provide that a subdivision would not be approved unless a "block" was reserved for a park.

Beechmount Cemetery was established.

1917 A movement to provide recreation, cultural and educational opportunities for residents in the absence of a Parks and Recreation Department, resulted in the formation of the 142 Street District Community League (later incorporated as Crestwood).

1920 The first Edmonton arts association, called the Edmonton Art Association, broached the idea of an Edmonton Art Gallery.

1921 The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues was established as a parent organization acting on behalf of individual leagues on issues of general concern. There were ten original members. The Federation, in cooperation with the individual leagues, organized many city-wide recreation programs and events and was of primary importance during the 30 years between 1914 and 1944 when no Recreation Commission existed.

1922 The Queen Elizabeth Outdoor Pool opened as the first municipal swimming pool in Edmonton.

1923 The Gyro Club established and operated the first of three playgrounds.

Oliver Pool was opened.

1925 Council began a policy of reserving portions of tax-forfeited lands for parks. Much of the parkland acquired between 1918 and 1945 came from this source.

Borden Park Zoo was established and Borden Park Pool was opened.

1926 Council passed a motion that "the broken banks, low-lying properties, and other properties not suitable for building purposes and now or hereafter coming into the possession of the City, reserved from resale and added to our parks and ravine reserves...". This policy was extended in 1941.

The Edmonton Journal began sponsoring Learn-to-Swim classes.

1930 Riverside (now Queen Elizabeth) Park was enlarged.

1933 Parkland was listed as 2,146 acres (868.5 hectares).

1938 Council officially designated the new football stadium, Clarke Stadium.

- 1940 The famous Commercial Grads played their last game.
- 1942 Mount Pleasant Cemetery, was established as the first municipally-owned cemetery on the south side.
- 1944 The Recreation Commission was established.
- 1945 Leaders for Children's Summer Programs were offered their first leadership training courses.
- 1946 The first lighted field was established in Kingsway Park by the Recreation Commission and the Edmonton District Fastball Association.
- 1947 The responsibility for parks administration was transferred to the newly created Parks Department from Engineers' Department.
- 1948 A travelling playground was inaugurated in Edmonton.
- 1948 A speed skating oval was constructed at Diamond Park.
- The first Mosquito Control Program was started.
- The first District Recreation Coordinators were hired to provide leadership and guidance to community leagues and other recreational organizations.
- The first City-operated tennis courts were constructed.
- School buildings were made available for public use.
- 1949 Construction commenced on a new golf course to be called Riverside.
- 1950 The City Awards Program for outstanding athletes was initiated.
- 1951 Victoria Pool was officially opened.
- 1952 The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra was revived as a fully professional organization.
- 1953 The Kinsmen Club constructed soccer and baseball fields in Walterdale.
- The Neighbourhood Planning Unit was established as the basis for providing parks and services. The ideal unit was deemed to be approximately 3,000 people.

- 1955 Mill Creek Outdoor Pool was officially opened.
Little League baseball was introduced.
The Parks, Planning, and Recreation Departments jointly submitted a Parks and Recreation Open Space Report to Council entitled "A Report on Active and Passive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Facilities Within the City of Edmonton with Recommendations as to Immediate and Future Needs".
- 1956 The Department's first hard-surfaced and lighted tennis courts were constructed at Kinsmen Park.
The Department sponsored the first track and field meet for the blind and partially-sighted in Canada.
- 1957 Strathcona Pool officially opened.
A lighted football field was constructed at Clarke Stadium.
A coordinating Committee was established to plan the dual development of public schools and City parkland. This was eventually included in the Joint-Use Agreement.
An Expressive Arts Program was established for children.
- 1958 Council appropriated funds to renovate the first John Walter House which had been designated as one of 18 Edmonton Historic Sites.
- 1959 Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, officially opened Coronation Park.
Storyland Valley Zoo was officially opened. Construction had started in 1954.
The first Joint Planning Agreement between the City and the school boards was developed.
The City's Sports Hall of Fame was organized; the first admissions were granted in 1961.
The "Learn-to-Tennis" and "Learn-to-Golf" programs, sponsored by the Edmonton Journal and Parks and Recreation, were started.

- 1960 Queen Elizabeth Planetarium, the first municipal planetarium in Canada, was officially opened.
- Emily Murphy Park was officially dedicated. Construction of the park had started in 1957.
- 1961 Fred Broadstock Outdoor Pool was opened.
- Bylaw #2202 created the Parks and Recreation Department. The Bylaw amalgamated the Parks Department and the Recreation Board (earlier the Recreation Commission). The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was also established.
- 1962 The new Parks and Recreation Department had 3,844 acres of parkland to develop, maintain, and program. There were 12 day camps, 23 tot lots, 6 athletic centers, and 70 supervised playgrounds operating in 1962 in addition to the arenas, pools, and other facilities.
- Land was purchased for Fort Edmonton Park.
- The Klondike Days theme was introduced at the Edmonton Exhibition Association's annual parade.
- The Edmonton Ballet Company was formed.
- 1963 The Jasper Place Indoor Pool was constructed.
- The Edmonton Professional Opera Association was formed.
- Rainbow Valley Campground was opened.
- 1964 Eastglen Pool (Indoor) was officially opened.
- A volunteer organization, the Edmonton Metropolitan Hockey Association, was established as the governing body in the City for all minor hockey.
- The Paralympic Sports Association was formed. Shooting, baseball and archery were offered.
- The Town of Jasper Place was amalgamated with the City of Edmonton

The annual "Learn-to-Ski-Downhill" program sponsored by the Edmonton Journal and Parks and Recreation started.

Helicopters were used for the first time in the mosquito spray program.

1965 Coronation Arena, an artificial ice arena, was officially opened.

Alberta's first resident professional theatre, the Citadel, opened.

O'Leary Indoor Pool was officially opened; it was the first pool to have a separate diving tank.

Purchase of land for Rundle Park began.

Council approved the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's recommendation that a Master Plan for Parks and Recreation be prepared. Preliminary planning began in 1967. The final Report called "The Edmonton Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 1970 - 1980" was adopted by Council in 1971.

Sir Winston Churchill Square was officially named. Council approved in principle that a plan be prepared to landscape the park in the formal tradition.

1966 Santa Rosa Arena (artificial ice) was officially opened.

Parks and Recreation took over operations of historic sites and museums.

Bonnie Doon Indoor Pool was officially opened.

Central Lions Senior Citizens Centre was opened.

Outdoor recreation education programs commenced with the first guided nature walk in Kinnaird Ravine.

Community League Operating Grants were commenced.

1967 Mayfair Park was opened after 6 years of construction and development from a gravel pit that was acquired in the 1930's as tax-forfeited land.

Council gave its approval to a proposal of the Rotary Club to erect a replica of "Fort Edmonton", and authorized the Parks and Recreation Department to collaborate with the Club in its project.

- 1968 The Kinsmen Field House was opened and turned over to Parks and Recreation to operate. At the time, it was the only municipally operated field house in North America.
- Kenilworth Shell Arena was the first of the shell arenas constructed with natural ice.
- 1969 Westwood Shell Arena was constructed with natural ice.
- The Edmonton Art Gallery opened its new home.
- 1970 Coronation Pool was officially opened and became the first 50-meter indoor pool in Alberta.
- 1971 Crestwood Shell Arena with natural ice was opened.
- Construction commenced on Rundle Park.
- 1973 A number of artificial ice arenas were constructed: Londonderry Arena, Grand Trunk Arena and Confederation Arena and Indoor Pool.
- A number of natural ice shell arenas were constructed: Glengarry Shell Arena, Oliver Shell Arena, Donnan Shell Arena, Tipton Shell Arena, and Fulton Place Shell Arena.
- 1974 First Heritage Festival held in Mayfair (Hawrelak) Park.
- 1975 Hardisty Indoor Pool was officially opened.
- John Janzen Nature Centre, constructed with a Provincial Grant, was turned over to the City. City staff began nature walks, school programs, and natural history lectures.
- Edmonton was named as Canada's first Green Survival City by the American Nursery Trades Association.
- Council ratifies the agreement between the City of Edmonton and the Province of Alberta which established the Capital City Recreation Park system.
- Northlands Coliseum opened officially.
- 1976 Grand Trunk Indoor Pool was opened.
- The Muttart Conservatory was officially dedicated.

In 1976, the City listed 7,695 acres of parkland in their inventory. Comprised of: 744 acres for community parks and playgrounds; 221 acres of ornamental parks; 1,374 acres of district parks and sports grounds and 5,356 acres of river valley parkland.

1977

The ACT Recreation Centre for the Disabled, constructed by the Associated Canadian Travellers, was turned over to the City to operate. It was the first recreation complex for the handicapped to be constructed in Canada.

The Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and Edmonton Parks and Recreation commenced the Downtown Tree Planting Program.

1978

The Argyll Velodrome was officially opened.

The Commonwealth Stadium was officially opened.

The Northgate Lions Senior Citizens Centre's first phase was officially opened.

The Londonderry Indoor Pool was opened.

The 3,000 acre Capital City Recreation Park system was officially opened. The park was to provide Edmonton with 29 kilometers of paved bicycle trails linking over 13 parks in the system and including 4 steel pedestrian/bicycle bridges. There were many amenities including structures at Cloverdale, Dawson, Capilano and Kinnaird Ravines; Rundle Family Recreation Centre; 2 interpretive centres; an 18-hole golf course and clubhouse; Gold Bar Park Sports Centre; landscaping development in Rundle Park, Gold Bar Park and Hermitage Park.

The Commonwealth Games were held in Edmonton and provided the City with the use of the new Argyll Velodrome and Clubhouse, Coronation Lawn Bowling Greens and Clubhouse, Commonwealth Stadium and Athletic Recreation Centre, Kinsmen Aquatic Centre, and Strathcona Range and Clubhouse.

1979

The second Master Plan, called the Edmonton Parks and Recreation Master Plan, 1979-1983, was adopted by Council.

The first annual Art Park was held.

1981

Summerfest becomes an annual event.

- 1982 The Mill Woods Twin Arenas were officially opened.
Kinsmen Fieldhouse hosts the World Wrestling Championships.
- 1983 The Mill Woods Indoor Wave Pool was officially opened.
The World University Games were held in Edmonton. The City gained some new and improved sports facilities as a result of the Universiade '83: Commonwealth Stadium was expanded, and improvements were made to Argyll Velodrome and Kinsmen Aquatic Centre.
- 1984 The Edmonton Space Sciences Centre was officially opened.
Mill Creek Ravine Park was officially opened.