



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

In 1882 the property which is now the neighbourhood of Abbotsfield was owned by E. F. Carey, co-founder of the merchandising firm of Norris and Carey and one of Edmonton's most prominent nineteenth century citizens. Since the Abbotsfield area was east of the Town of Beverly, it remained a rural area beyond the limit of urban development until it was annexed to the City in 1961.

For a decade after annexation there was no residential development in Abbotsfield. The area was thought to be too close to both the Beverly landfill site, south of 118 Avenue, and to the chemical plants east of the North Saskatchewan River. However, at the end of the 1960s work began to transform the land fill site into Rundle Park, a multiple purpose educational and recreational resource on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. After this change to the local environment, Abbotsfield developed rapidly. Almost all of Abbotsfield was constructed in the 1970s.

Abbotsfield is unique among Edmonton's pre-1980s neighbourhoods in that all residential development consists of row housing and walkup complexes. The housing is built around a centrally located multiple purpose school and recreation site. Situated near the junction of major traffic routes, Abbotsfield residents have good access to employment and commercial centres throughout the City. The inward orientation of the community is enhanced by a berm that partially encircles the neighbourhood to shield it from highway traffic noise. Abbotsfield Park, with its close proximity to the river valley and park system, provides for a wide variety of recreational activities, while the Abbotsfield Recreation Centre provides space for recreational programs and community groups.