



NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

Kiniski Gardens is one of the 26 neighbourhoods of Mill Woods. The Government of Alberta assembled the Mill Woods land bank in 1970. Mill Woods was named for Mill Creek which crossed it and the groves of Parkland forest trees that stood there. By 1971, a development plan had been prepared by the City of Edmonton. The City began to purchase the land, subdivide it and sell residential and commercial building lots.

Kiniski Gardens is a triangular shaped neighbourhood bounded on the east by 34th Street, on the northwest by a pipeline utility corridor, and on the southwest by part of the Mill Creek Ravine. The proximity of the Mill Creek Ravine provides residents with access to a large natural amenity area. The focus of the neighbourhood is a pair of multiple purpose school/recreational sites. The dominant residential structure type in the neighbourhood is the single detached house, with a limited number of low rise apartment units and semi-detached homes. Residents are served by businesses on small commercial sites along 50th street and 34th street. The Jackson Heights neighbourhood lies directly northwest of Kinisky Gardens and is the partner neighbourhood in the pair of neighbourhoods that make up the Burnewood Neighbourhood Area Structure Plan.

Kiniski Gardens was named in honour of Polish-born Julia Kiniski (1899-1969) who was a dedicated local politician. Kiniski ran for election as a city alderman ten times before she finally succeeded in 1963, and was only the third woman to take a seat on Council. Over the course of her ten previous unsuccessful bids at public office Kiniski became known as “Big Julie” and her election was said to have reinvigorated the public’s interest in City Council. After her initial election she was re-elected three more times, and in her final election run (1968) Kiniski had so greatly increased her share of the votes that she led all other councilors by a large margin. In addition to being a celebrated local politician, Kiniski was also the mother of six children, one of whom became the professional wrestler Gene Kiniski. In the late 1910s the southern portion of Kiniski Gardens formed part of the Edmonton Market Gardens.