

Welcome to the John Janzen Nature Centre! Explore the river valley along two trails: Birch Tree Trail & River Loop Trail

Keep your eyes and ears open for signs of the changing seasons and for local wildlife on your nature walk! Please remember to dress appropriately for the weather and trail conditions.

Help keep our trails clean by placing all garbage and recycling in a Nature Centre receptacle. On-leash dogs are permitted on the trails, and owners are responsible for cleaning up after their pets (Bylaw 13145).

Trail terrain information:

The Birch Tree Trail is a dirt and gravel multi-use trail, with occasional branches and twigs on the path. Sloped parts of the trail may contain exposed rocks and tree roots.

This trail is divided into two parts:

Lower trail: Flat and even terrain. The lower trail is fully accessible and maintained year-round.

Upper trail: Most sections along top of upper trail are flat and even with two short, steep sections to access upper part. Slopes can become slippery with rain and snow (*not recommended for use in the winter).

What will I see?

Trees and shrubs, including trembling aspen, paper birch, balsam poplar, prickly rose, saskatoon, beaked hazelnut, chokecherry and dogwood.

If you look closely, you may see (and hear) signs of nesting birds, red squirrel middens, and woodpeckers. Examine fallen branches and snags for bark beetle galleries, small piles of sawdust created by carpenter ants, moss, lichen, and bracket fungi.

Along the top of the upper trail, you can see the John Janzen Nature Centre's green roof through the trees.



Trail Terrain and Information:

Accessible year-round, this multi-use trail loops around Fort Edmonton Park. The trail is divided into two sections, connected by Whitemud Road.

Hillside (South side of loop) - Paved, divided trail. Some sections have a slight slope. This portion of the trail is fully accessible and maintained year-round.

Riverside (North side of loop) - Dirt and gravel trail, with occasional branches and twigs, exposed rocks and tree roots. Some sections are narrow and uneven, and may not be suitable for those with reduced mobility.

What will I see?

You will see trees and shrubs, including trembling aspen, paper birch, mountain ash, balsam poplar, prickly rose, saskatoon, dogwood, and occasional white spruce. From Whitemud Road, it's a quick walk to the footbridge, which leads across the river to the Wolf Willow neighbourhood. Along the Riverside section, search for signs of beaver-chewed trees, paths and tracks made by animals, exposed tree roots and river banks, willows and poplars growing near the water, and beautiful views of the river.



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