

## Revitalized Borden Park ready to welcome Edmontonians

The newly revitalized Borden Park is officially open for business following four years of planning and construction.

Established in 1906, the century-old park has undergone extensive renovations including new picnic shelters and upgraded site furniture, a formal garden with interactive fountains, a revamped playground incorporating features from the original fairground and Edmonton's first zoo, more than 200 new trees, approximately two kilometres of new walkways, and a new park pavilion.



"As one of Edmonton's first parks, Borden Park holds a special place in the hearts of Edmontonians," said Mayor Don Iveson. "The goal of the revitalization was to provide residents with a unique park experience while honouring its rich history. It provides an active, vibrant green space and year-round outdoor recreation experience for all Edmontonians to enjoy."

Concepts for the revitalization plan began as a result of changes to the surrounding communities and aging of park amenities. The project links the park to the existing multi-use trail system, preserves and enhances the mature tree canopy, improves the opportunity for sport and recreation use, redevelops aging infrastructure, and provides year-round recreation access.

The total cost of the project was \$9.5 million, with \$730,000 from the City of Edmonton and \$8.77 million from the Government of Alberta's Municipal Sustainability Initiative (MSI).

"The Alberta government is proud to partner on the revitalization of Borden Park which provides a vibrant outdoor space for families and neighbours to enjoy," says Diana McQueen, Minister of Municipal Affairs. "The Municipal Sustainability Initiative continues to be the province's key program for strengthening municipalities and helping them plan for the future."

The park revitalization also highlights Edmonton's diversity as a cultural city. Two artworks, commissioned by the Edmonton Arts Council via the City of Edmonton Percent for Art program, are prominently displayed; *Willow* is a brightly coloured interactive sculpture by Marc Fomes, and *Carousel* is an abstract mural by Edmonton painter Nicole Galellis for the new Pavilion. Ten other abstract sculptures, created by renowned Edmonton visual artists, will be on display until 2016.

"Public art is another way to encourage citizens to interact with public space and the community," says Katherine Kerr, Public Art Director, Edmonton Arts Council. "Borden Park has a long and vibrant history in Edmonton and as such, we wanted to ensure the artworks reflect and incorporate elements of this diverse history."

The Borden Park Pavilion, designed by architectural firm gh3, was the winning design in an international design competition, held by the City of Edmonton, and references the original carousel which once stood in the park. The competition generated a high level of interest and design excellence, and also includes pavilions in Mill Woods Sports Park, John Fry Sports Park, Victoria Park, and Castle Downs District Park.

The last remaining piece of the revitalization plan will see the redevelopment of the Borden Outdoor Pool into the Borden Natural Swimming Experience, which is scheduled to be completed in 2017.

For more information on the Borden Park Revitalization Plan, visit [edmonton.ca/bordenparkrevitalization](http://edmonton.ca/bordenparkrevitalization).

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