

## New downtown park named after Alex Decoteau

Alex Decoteau, an athlete, a soldier, and Canada's first aboriginal police officer, is being honoured through the naming of a new park in downtown Edmonton.

Decoteau became the country's first aboriginal police officer when he joined the Edmonton Police Service in 1909. He was renowned as a long-distance runner, and went to compete at the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm, Sweden. He later enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1916, and was killed in action at the Battle of Passchendaele in October 1917.



"Students from Patricia Heights School approached us after learning about Alex Decoteau, wanting us to find a way to honour his legacy," said Jeff Nachtigall, Chair of the City's Naming Committee. "The downtown community and Edmonton Police Services got behind the idea, and we are excited to be honouring him through this park."

"Edmonton has a rich aboriginal history and it is fitting that a park in the heart of our city is named for Alex Decoteau, who was a remarkable Edmontonian," said Mayor Don Iveson. "Parks bring a sense of community as places to gather and relax. As an important space, a park deserves a notable name. I applaud those who helped make this happen."

The new park, which will be located at the northwest corner of 105 Street and 102 Avenue, is being designed as a gathering space for all seasons, and is part of the City's vision for building a great downtown. Design work is underway, and construction of the park is expected to begin in 2016, subject to Council approval.

The City's Naming Committee approves names for municipal facilities, new neighbourhoods, parks and roads. The Naming Committee was first established in 1956 as the District Names Advisory Committee. It was one of the first of its kind in North America.

### For more information:

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