

Downtown Park Named after Michael Phair

May 26, 2016

In recognition of Michael Phair's long service to Edmonton and hard work in bringing more park space to Downtown, the City's Naming Committee has named the park at 10126-104 Street in his honour.

"Michael Phair is one of the great Edmontonians that has made our city an amazing place to live. He knows what makes us great and motivates us to be even better than we are." Said Councillor McKeen, "I know many Edmontonians along with myself are grateful for his many contributions."



Michael Phair, a City Councillor from 1992 until 2007, was a key member of Edmonton on the Edge. This group had identified the park area just north of the former Sobeys as a reclaimable 'lost space'. They dubbed the park 'Alley of Light', and led a campaign to have the park refurbished to be more inviting for lunch-goers, residents and employees. Following his retirement from elected politics, Michael Phair has continued to be active in the pride, arts, and academic communities. Phair is active in the Pride Committee and founded HIV Edmonton. This year Phair was named the Chair of the University of Alberta board of governors. Michael Phair also has a junior high school named after him in Edmonton's west end.

The Michael Phair Park is one of Downtown's newest park spaces. On the west wall, installation has just begun on Destiny Swiderski's art piece, entitled [Amiskwac wî Wâskâyhkan Ihtâwin \(Beaver Hills House Park\)](#). The park is 685 square metres, or about 7,400 square feet. This summer construction begins on another Downtown park: Alex Decoteau Park at 105 Street and 102 Avenue.

Joining Phair to celebrate this event were Mayor Don Iveson, Councillor McKeen, Marion Haggerty-France (University of Alberta Secretary), Jim Taylor (Downtown Business Association), Jon Hall (co-chair 104 Street Steering Committee) and residents of Downtown.

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