



SUMMARY		
	Bylaw#	POSSE#

#### 1.Description

Resource Name(s)	Windsor Park		
Address	8905 Windsor Road NW		
Neighbourhood	Windsor Park		
Legal Description	Plan 4419HW Block 6 Lo	ot 1	
Geographic Position			
Site Area	1.57 ha		
Contributing resources	n/a		
Date of Construction	1955		
Architectural Style	Garden City design principles		
Designer	Robert Falconer Duke and William Pasternak		
Builder	City of Edmonton		
Original Use	Neighbourhood park		
Current Use	Neighbourhood park		
Criteria of Significance (see attached worksheets)	Activity/Theme Valued for its association with the development of the Windsor Park neighbourhood during Edmonton's population boom in the post-Second World War period.	Style/Design/Co Valued as an ex neighbourhood p designed using of principles.	ample of a park
	Event/Cultural Practice	<b>Landmark/Sym</b> Valued as a loca	





		for the Windsor Park neighbourhood.
	Institution/Person Valued for its association with several notable designers and city- builders during the post-Second World War boom period.	
2005 Provincial Master Plan Theme (please select any that apply)	Prehistoric Alberta Fur Trade Aboriginal Life Resource Development Transportation Agricultural Development Urban Development Politics and Government Health	Work and Leisure Spiritual Life Business and Industry Law Enforcement Military Education Sports Intellectual Life The Face of Alberta





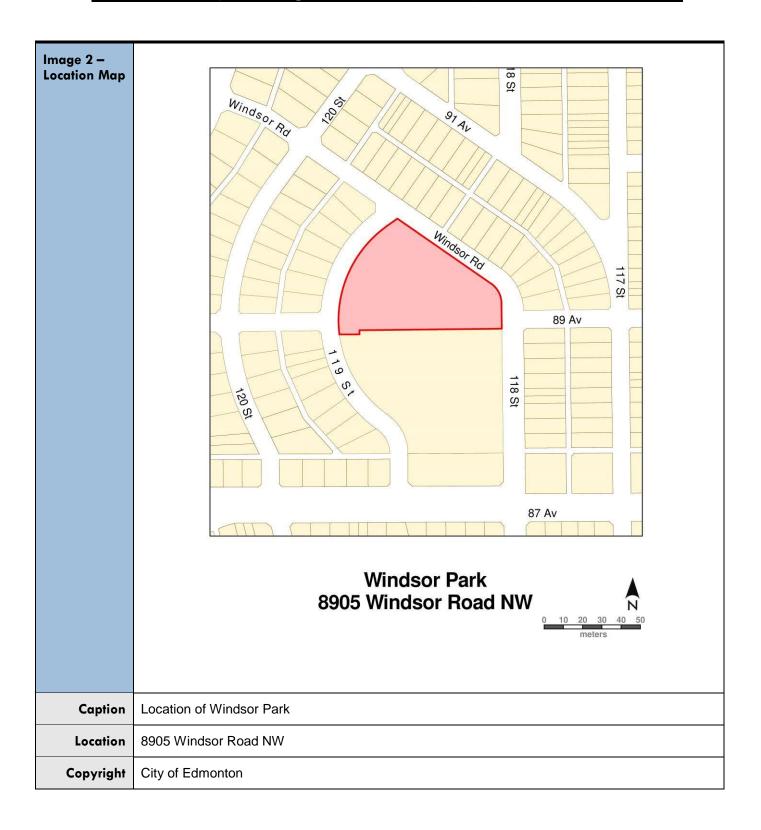
Image 1 – Aerial Photo



Caption	Location of Windsor Park
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Edmonton Maps











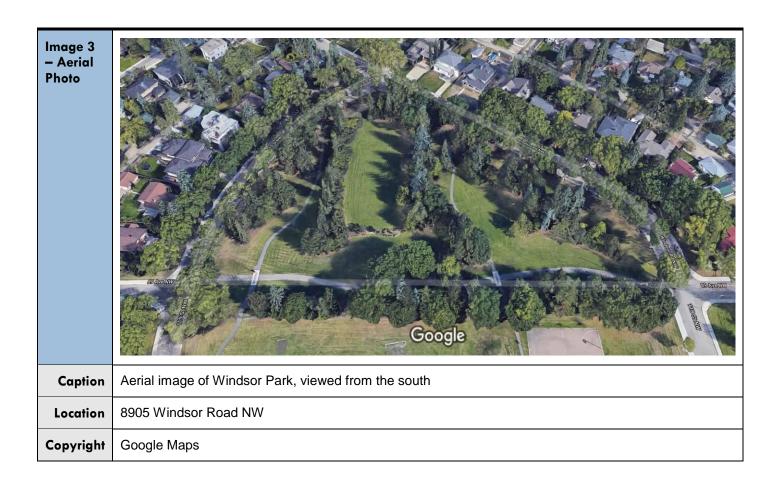






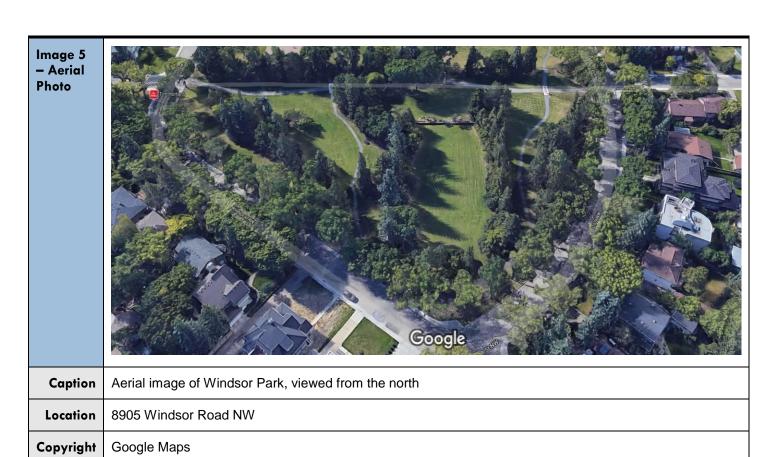
Image 4 – Aerial Photo



Caption	Aerial image of Windsor Park, viewed from the east
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Google Maps





















Caption	View into sunken garden and Great Lawn looking north over lintel and steps
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League









Caption	View of Great Lawn and sunken garden, looking south towards steps and brick wall
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League









Caption	Eastern border liminal space looking south towards Windsor Road
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 10 – Contemporary Photo



Caption	Western border liminal space looking south towards Windsor Road
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League









Caption	Southern border liminal space looking east towards Windsor Park School
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 12 – Contemporary Photo

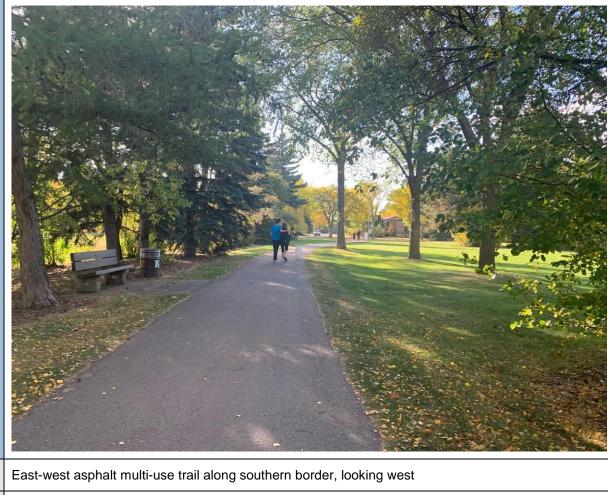


Caption	Park interior (western glade) and soft-surface shale pathway looking north
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League









Caption	East-west asphalt multi-use trail along southern border, looking west
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 14 – Contemporary Photo



Caption	View from multi-use trail past sentinel lilacs and rose garden into sunken garden, looking north
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 15 – Contemporary Photo



Caption	View of sunken garden's Great Lawn, bordered by lilacs and conifers, looking north
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 16 – Detail



ı		
	Caption	Original concrete stairs and brick wall with sentinel lilacs, looking south
	Locations	8905 Windsor Road NW
	Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





lmage 17 – Detail



Caption	Detail of original concrete steps leading into sunken garden
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 18 – Detail



Caption	Detail of original I-XL Roman brick wall, looking south from sunken garden
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 19 – Detail



Caption	Detail of I-XL Roman brick used for wall at south end of sunken garden
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyrigh	Windsor Park Community League





Image 20 – Detail



Caption	Detail of original brick wall and concrete lintel, looking northeast into sunken garden
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





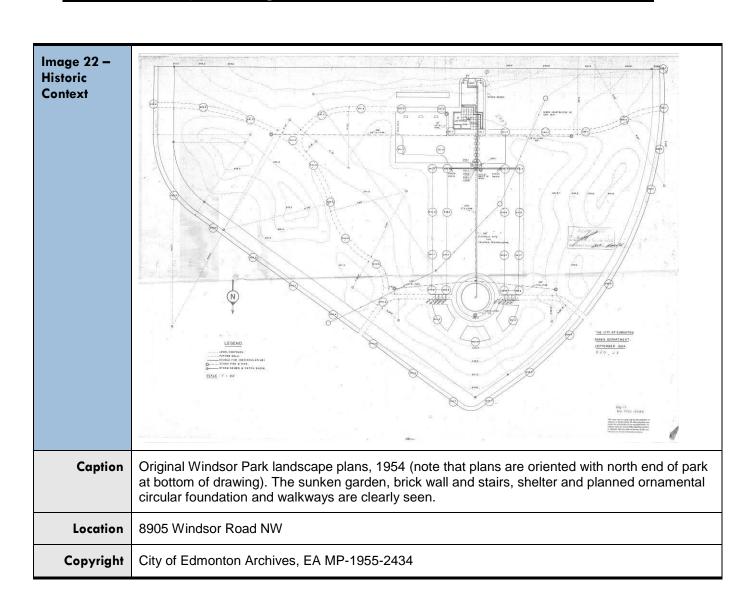
Image 21 – Detail



Captio	n Detail of original 1954 Standard Iron & Engineering drain cover
Location	n 8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyrig	Windsor Park Community League











# Image 23 – Historic Context



Planning and Infrastructure

# 1921 Campus Aerial and 1928 St. Joe's Aerial

Caption	University of Alberta campus aerial view, 1921, with Windsor Park neighbourhood in the background.
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 24 – Historic Context



The Campus in 1942

**Caption** University of Alberta campus aerial view, 1942, with Windsor Park neighbourhood in the background at top left of image.

**Location** 8905 Windsor Road NW

Copyright | Windsor Park Community League





# Image 25 – Historic Context



The Campus in 1951

Caption	University of Alberta campus aerial view, 1951, with Windsor Park neighbourhood in the background. Note the significant amount of development, and portion of the Windsor Park site in top left corner.
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 26 – Historic Context



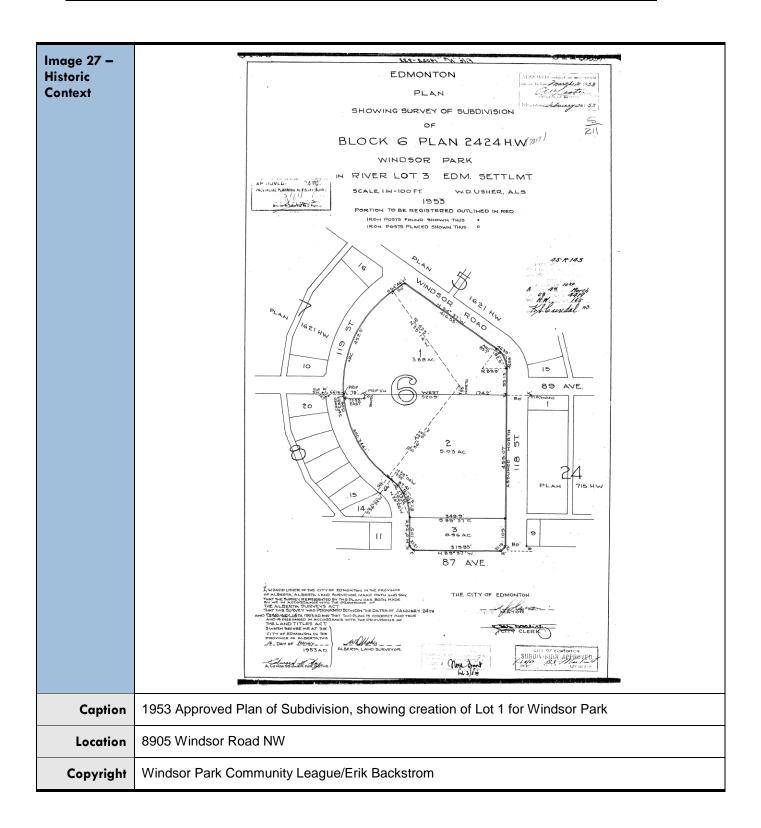
Caption | Aerial image of Windsor Park, 1952, prior to park development

**Location** | 8905 Windsor Road NW

**Copyright** Windsor Park Community League/Dane Ryksen











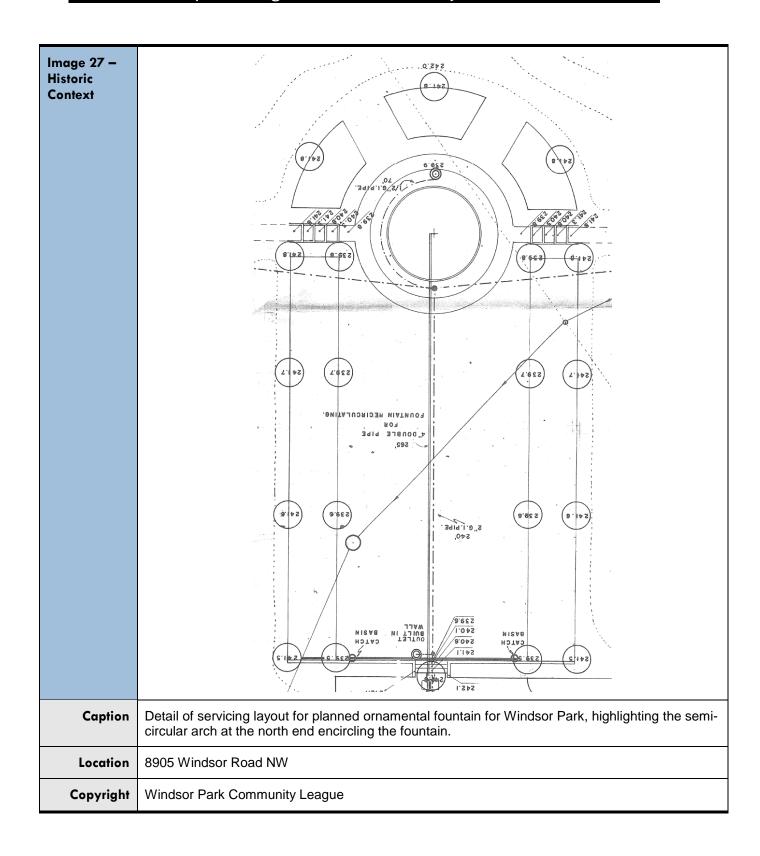






Image 27

— Historic
Context



Caption

Location

8905 Windsor Road NW

Copyright

Windsor Park Community League/Dane Ryksen





Image 28 - Historic Context



Caption	View of Windsor Park and plantings, looking northeast from west side of park, 1958
Location	8905 Windsor Road NW
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 29

– Historic
Context



Caption	View of Windsor Park and staircase and brick wall, looking northwest towards Great Lawn, 1958. Note the significant amount of annuals planted by the City at the time.

**Location** | 8905 Windsor Road NW

Copyright | Windsor Park Community League





# Image 28 — Historic Context

#### INSTITUTIONAL LAND USE



1. University of Alberta-an example of public land use.

#### Caption

University of Alberta campus aerial view, 1963, with Windsor Park in the foreground. The neighbourhood is largely built out; Windsor Park site and its associated landscaping, shown with red arrow, is clearly visible.

#### Location

8905 Windsor Road NW

#### Copyright

Windsor Park Community League





Image 29 - Historic Context



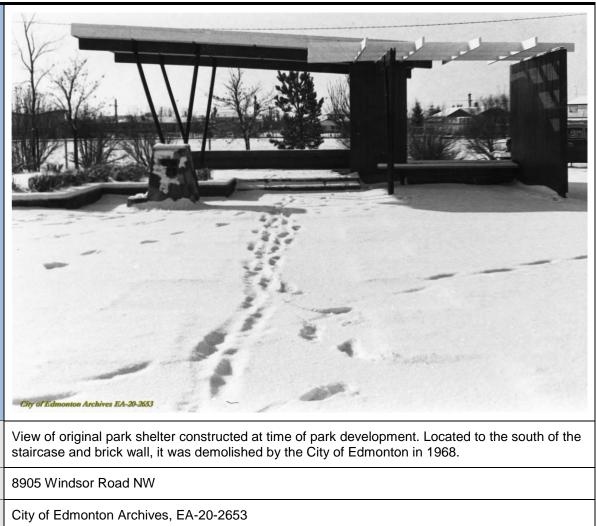
Caption	Aerial image of Windsor Park, 1965, showing brick wall and stairs structure, shelter, planned fountain area, and plantings starting to mature

Copyright Windsor Park Community League/Dane Ryksen





Image 30 -Historic Context



Caption

Copyright





Image 31 — Historic Context	to
Context	Varsity Architecture Head Retiring After 27 Years  Prof. Burges Is One of Oldest Members of Faculty  JONED STAFF IN 1913  Maving devoted the greater part of his lite to the instruction of embryonic architecta. Coedi Boott Burges, PLILA. FRALO, head of the department of architecture in the University of Abesian and modest, one of the dedest members of the Relativy plants to take a busical He hopes to continue as a member of the Relativity plants to take a busical He hopes to continue as a member of the Relationation town planting greater and more beautiful city.  The retiring professor blonded that the standards who registered in his in which the architecture course will be offered in the university offeder that he is the continuation of the warrant after of the Relativity and the continuation of the warrant the continu
Caption	December 1939 retirement notice for Cecil Burgess, University Architect at the University of Alberta. Burgess had recommended a new park for the Windsor Park district in his role on the Edmonton Town Planning Commission.
Location	
Copyright	Windsor Park Community League





Image 32 – Historic Context



Caption

Maxwell Dewar, Edmonton City Architect. Dewar had been a champion for the retention of land in neighbourhoods for local park spaces, including Windsor Park, and was involved in the initial park design in 1948-1949.

Location

Copyright | Windsor Park Community League





Image 33 – Historic Context



Caption

Location





Image 34 – Historic Context



Caption Noel Dant started as the City's first Town Planner in October 1949. Dant would be involved in establishing the subdivision layout that finalized the boundaries of Windsor Park.

Location

Copyright | Windsor Park Community League









Caption	Alexander Campbell "Sandy" Patterson (right, in 1951) became Edmonton's first Superintendent of Parks in 1946, and approved Duke's design for Windsor Park.
Location	

Copyright | City of Edmonton Archives EA-600-7094a





Image 36 — Historic Context

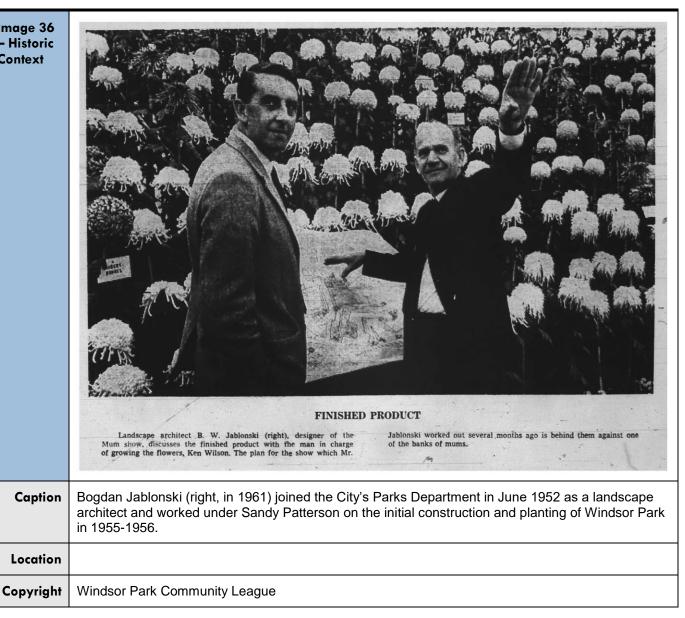






Image 37 — Historic Context



Caption

space and other beautification elements in communities.

Location

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Windsor Park Community League





## 2. Significance

Summary	Originally built and planted between 1955 and 1956, Windsor Park is valued for its association with the development of the Windsor Park neighbourhood during Edmonton's population boom in the post-Second World War period.  (Significance Criteria – Activity/Theme Value)  Windsor Park is valued as an example of a neighbourhood park designed using Garden City principles, with innovative approaches to its landscape features and plantings.  (Significance Criteria – Style/Design/Construction)  Windsor Park is valued for its association with several notable designers and city-builders during the post-Second World War boom period, including Cecil Burgess, Maxwell Dewar, Robert Falconer Duke, Noel Dant, Sandy Patterson, Bogdan Jablonski and William Hawrelak.  (Significance Criteria – Institution/Person)  Windsor Park is valued as a local landmark for the Windsor Park neighbourhood, and as a focal point for neighbourhood gatherings and activities.  (Significance Criteria – Landmark/Symbolic Value)	
Era of Development (please select one)	Development Era         ☐ Pre 1850         ☐ 1850 to 1874 (Pre Settlement)         ☐ 1875 to 1884 (Frontier)         ☐ 1885 to 1905 (Railway/Early Settlement)         ☐ 1906 to 1913 (Pre WW I Boom, Age of Optimism)         ☐ 1914 to 1918 (WW I)         ☐ 1918 to 1929 (Post WW I to Stock Market Crash)         ☐ 1930 to 1939 (Depression)         ☐ 1940 to 1945 (WW II and Early Modern)         ☐ 1960 to 1980 (Late Modern)         ☐ 1981- Present	
Period of Significance	1955 - 1968 (from original construction to the demolition of the park shelter by the City)	
Integrity	Does the resource retain sufficient integrity to convey significance?  No	
Designation	Federal ☐ Yes ☒ No	
	Provincial ☐ Yes ☒ No	
	Registered	





	Municipal ☐ Yes ☒ No
Evaluation Author and Contact Information	David Johnston, Principal Heritage Planner 780-496-5281
Date Evaluated by HRRP	November 10, 2020
Date Approved by Edmonton Historical Board	





#### 3. Statement of Significance

# **Description of Historic Place**

Windsor Park is a cultural landscape centrally-located within the overall Windsor Park neighbourhood. The park site is approximately 1.57 ha (3.88 acres) in size, and is bounded on the north and east by Windsor Road, the Windsor Park School site to the south and 119 Street to the west. The park functions today as a passive park site, and features a wide variety of mature plantings and structural remnants from its original design in 1955.

#### Heritage Value

#### Activity/Theme

Originally constructed between 1955 and 1956, Windsor Park is valued for its association with the development of the Windsor Park neighbourhood during the boom period in Edmonton in the years following the end of the Second World War.

Windsor Park is located in ⊲୮nb·r˙⊲˙nb"∆b¬ (Amiskwacîwâskahikan) on Treaty 6 territory, the territory of the Papaschase, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. As the area's fur trade was winding down, farming began to take on a greater importance in the lives of the people around Fort Edmonton. Many began staking claims to land in the Fort's immediate vicinity, farming in a river lot fashion. A staple of Métis culture, this style of farming allowed for access to the river, wooded areas, cultivated land, and provided space for hay lands as well. A government-approved survey in 1882 formalized the division of the land in terms of a river lot pattern, which is what the predominantly Métis population in the area at the time desired. The survey created 44 large lots across the banks of the North Saskatchewan, most of which stretched east of the Hudson's Bay Company reserve lands. Bound on the north and west by the North Saskatchewan River, the location of what is now the Windsor Park neighbourhood was surveyed in 1882 as River Lot 3. Its neighbour to the east, River Lot 5, became the University of Alberta. The original title for River Lot 3 was held by Allan Omand. By 1910, it was owned by John McFadden. He sold his estate to Magrath, Hart, & Company (later Magrath & Holgate) who, in turn, subdivided the land and resold it to investors in England making "several hundred percent" in return as a 1911 article in the Edmonton Journal reported.

The original 1911 design of the community, which featured a "park like circle" amongst the stately residential lots, was never realized. Unfortunately for the British investors and local speculative buyers, the development boom occurring in Edmonton at the time collapsed in 1913, leaving many lots unsold and the area virtually undeveloped. While the City Town Planning Commission still saw great potential in the area, by 1930, there were only nine houses built in Windsor Park, and the area still resembled a mostly rural setting. Nothing was paved and there were no sidewalks, streetlights, or bus service.





The boom period after the end of the Second World War saw renewed interest in the area, and the City took steps to purchase dozens of lots from the British investors as a means to stimulate development. The new neighbourhood, designed initially by the City Architect's office (at first under City Architect Maxwell Dewar and then more directly by Assistant City Architect Robert Falconer Duke), and later completed under City Town Planner Noel Dant, brought many new residents into the community and maintained Windsor Park's secluded feel and unique contours of properties dictated by the contours of the banks of the North Saskatchewan River and the contours of the green space at the heart of the neighbourhood, including Windsor Park. A central park, approximately 4 acres in size, was to be a key feature of the rapidly-developing community.

#### Style/Design/Construction

Windsor Park is also valued as an example of a neighbourhood park using Garden City principles and other innovative approaches to horticulture and plantings. The registered plans for the site suggest that the initial configuration of the park was delineated by the City Architect's office before Noel Dant started work as Edmonton's first town planner in mid-October 1949. In 1948, pre-Dant, it was the City Architect's office that led the design of and drew the plans for Edmonton's subdivisions. At this time, the province of Alberta was dominated by the monotony of "the grid", as was its capital city. Edmonton maps from 1930 and 1933 show the predominance of the grid pattern, including the grid pattern initially envisioned for the streets and avenues in Windsor Park. Introducing streets and park boundaries that curved when they did not have to, following Garden City design principles, was a remarkable innovation for the city of Edmonton in 1948-1949; the natural, wide contoured curves along 119 Street and Windsor Road set Windsor Park off and declared its uniqueness.

By the early 1950s, development in the neighbourhood was well underway, and many of Edmonton's notable designers and citybuilders had located in the community, including Maxwell Dewar, Frank Winspear, John Janzen, Neil McKernan, John Decore and Mayor William Hawrelak. Attention turned to the design of the central community park for the area, and Robert Falconer Duke began developing the initial layout for the site. Duke must have been aware that he was designing Windsor Park not only for the Edmonton parks department and the fine new subdivision of Windsor Park (a district of "\$20,000 and \$30,000 residences,") but for his boss Mayor Hawrelak, his former boss and colleague Max Dewar, and for friends and fellow architects like Neil McKernan (who happened to live directly across the street from Windsor Park). In view of these professional and personal ties, it seems likely that Duke put more than a little extra time and thought into his landscape design for Windsor Park.





In September 1954, Duke's landscape plan for Windsor Park was approved by the City of Edmonton's Parks Department under Sandy Patterson. The masterful design is built around a central, symmetrical sunken garden, Great Lawn, an ornamental fountain 40 feet in diameter, long, low retaining wall, and wide, gracious concrete steps. On either side of the formal sunken garden, the forms are fluid and organic: curvilineal "future walks", varied elevations and naturalistic, informal glades of trees, lawns and shrubs were planned.

Trees and shrubs played a central role in the design of Windsor Park. Sandy Patterson's extensive knowledge of trees (specifically trees that would thrive in Alberta), his interest in botany and his familiarity with the principles of European-derived landscape design are evident in his expert embellishment of Windsor Park with a wide variety of trees and shrubs, planted in layers (to mimic nature) and to screen and to establish views. Patterson would have considered things like eventual size, shape, form, positioning, hardiness, rate of growth, evergreen interest and fall colour, when siting trees in Windsor Park. All of the trees and shrubs in Windsor Park today were planted deliberately as components of its architecturallydesigned landscape. The heritage trees in Windsor Park strike a dynamic balance between evergreen and deciduous species. The evergreens provide year-round screens and deciduous trees provide seasonal colour. Trees are used in Windsor Park both to frame and to block out views and to lead one's eyes around the designed landscape. The shrubs in the borders of the formal sunken garden provide a setting for mid-range plants, and the repeated planting of lilacs (for example) creates visual reference points. On the "raised ground" running along the southern portion of the park" there is an Olmstead touch: broad pastoral lawns studded with specimen American elm trees. Remarkably, the four-acre Windsor Park boasts at least 27 types of trees and ornamental shrubs: 12 conifers and 15 deciduous. It is notable that this variety of trees and shrubs is much more extensive than the list of Alberta's "common native trees and shrubs".

Like trees, flowers are an integral part of any landscape design - they animate and materialize the ground plan. Windsor Park is valued today for its heritage of floral splendor (courtesy of Mayor Hawrelak and Robert Jablonski) and the Edmonton Parks Department's embrace of flowers as a means to "beautify" Edmonton in the 1950s. Initially, flowers predominated in Windsor Park. For years the trees were practically invisible saplings. Beds of annuals and perennials were planted as place holders for the future ornamental fountain. Parks department landscape architect Robert Jablonski selected the flowers for Windsor Park and worked out the "planting plan" on graph paper. Historic photos provide ample evidence that the flowers in Windsor Park were bright, glorious and super-abundant, and included snapdragons, marigolds and sunflowers. Ornamentals were a hallmark of the Edmonton parks





department in the 1950s, and some of the favourite heritage combinations (like snapdragons and dusty miller, which were used in Windsor Park in 1958) are still planted by the City today (for example, in the formal beds at Hawrelak Park), a horticultural legacy. Of course, choices were also dictated by pragmatic concerns about what plant material would survive in Edmonton's climate, and the parks department under Sandy Patterson was always on the lookout to identify and procure a greater variety of plants that would thrive in Edmonton's severe climate and short growing season. The more extreme the climate, the more specific the plants, and the parks department greenhouses did a lot of ground-breaking research and development of new "Edmonton-friendly" flowers, trees and shrubs in the 1950s.

Tucked away and hidden today behind mature trees and shrubbery, the most notable void in Windsor Park is also its centerpiece: the sunken garden and Great Lawn. A sunken garden is a formal, traditional English garden that gets its name from the fact that it is set some feet below the level of the main ground surrounding it. Sunken gardens were very popular throughout the Edwardian period of the early 1900s. They provide a delightful secluded area and a stunning use of space. Windsor Park's sunken garden creates a protected and relatively moist micro-climate on the Alberta prairie; a pragmatic as well as an aesthetic pay-off. In Windsor Park, the sunken garden (with its great lawn and lilac borders), is clearly distinguished from the naturalistic, Picturesque romantic landscape that surrounds it on "raised ground".

Windsor Park features architectural elements that serve to offset the natural vegetation features of the site, and provide added interest. The defining architectural elements in Windsor Park are the original Roman red brick retaining wall and four wide, low, gracious, unbroken concrete steps. The wall and steps are the connection and the transition between Windsor Park's formal sunken garden and Great Lawn, and the "raised ground" around it. The autumnal colours of the terra cotta I-XL Roman brick and weathered concrete evoke the "palette of the prairie." The rusticated finish of the bricks echoes natural textures (like the textures of tree bark) that are found in Windsor Park. The long low Roman red brick retaining wall with concrete caps recalls the Prairie architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. The terra cotta bricks in the existing wall are original and were shaped and fired in Alberta from Alberta clay. As such, these I-XL red Roman bricks epitomize the idea of being "of this place" and are a testament to Duke's respect for local Alberta materials. The bricks are imprinted with "I-XL" in the frog of the pressed brick, clearly visible in places where the wall is missing pieces of its original concrete cap. Some of the original homes in the Windsor Park District were built with identical I-XL Roman bricks with a rusticated finish: visually, these bricks connect and unify Windsor Park's original residential architecture and the original landscape architecture in Windsor Park.





Two original cast iron Standard Iron and Engineering drain covers are situated just north of the Roman brick wall. Raised lettering reads "Standard Iron and Engineering" in one direction and "Edmonton Date 1954" in the other. There are also drainage covers labeled "Trojan"; no information about this company was located. The original design and construction of the park also included a flatroofed shelter to the south of the brick retaining wall. This structure was demolished in 1968. Duke's design also included a 40-foot circular ornamental fountain at the north end of the sunken garden and Great Lawn. In April 1956, Windsor Park residents opted out of the City's required \$3,000 co-payment for the ornamental fountain; this element for Windsor Park was abandoned as part of on-going completion of the park.

#### Institution/Person

Windsor Park is also valued for its association with some of Edmonton's most noted architects, designers and city-builders, including Cecil Scott Burgess, Maxwell Campbell Dewar, Robert Falconer Duke, Noel Buckland Dant, Alexander Campbell "Sandy" Patterson, Bogdan "Robert" W. Jablonski, William Hawrelak and Pearl Shandro Hawrelak.

As a University of Alberta professor of architecture, Cecil Burgess was a guiding light for his student Maxwell Dewar on the subject of the importance of green space in a beautiful capital city. As an influential member of Edmonton's town planning commission, Cecil Burgess was instrumental in the setting aside of the parkland that would become Windsor Park. Born in Mumbai, India, to Scottish parents, Burgess moved to Edmonton in 1913 and became the sole Professor of Architecture and University Architect for the fledgling University of Alberta campus at the invitation of the University President, Henry Marshall Tory. From the 1920s through the 1940s, Burgess was a consistent and vocal advocate for the need for town planning in the province of Alberta. His service of almost 20 years with Edmonton's Town Planning Commission (1929-1948) allowed him to implement many of his ideas and approaches. While he failed to achieve his goal of a "Central Park" for Edmonton, he was instrumental in the adoption of the reservation of park land and open space as a basic feature of the city's town planning approach. In 1944, Burgess submitted his "listing" of 39 proposed Edmonton "neighbourhood parks" to the town planning commission, for presentation to City Council. Burgess' list, prefaced with "here is the listing of the proposed parks by district," includes an entry for "Windsor Park – new park, 87-86 aves. 119-120 streets". Although the park's location was later modified, Professor Burgess' 1944 "listing" is the earliest known documented reference by the Edmonton Journal of to what would become Windsor Park. Burgess continued to work for the town planning commission until March of 1949, when he resigned to protest the loss of his "cherished idea" of a "Central Park" for Edmonton.





As Edmonton City Architect between 1943 and 1949, and as a former student of his, Maxwell Dewar shared Burgess' passion for Edmonton parkland and championed the primacy of dedicated greenspace in the architecture of modern city planning. Dewar's commitment is demonstrated by the design for the subdivision of Windsor Park. Drawn by the City Architect's office under Dewar, the district of Windsor Park had a generous, beautifully-shaped green space at its core. In 1949, Max Dewar signed off on the western boundary of what would become Windsor Park. Dewar was born in Scotland. In 1921, his family (mother, father, 11-year-old Max and six siblings) made the Atlantic crossing to Canada on The Empress of Britain, landing in Quebec on May 7. They arrived in Edmonton shortly thereafter, and Max attended technical school. By August of 1928, Max was serving an apprenticeship with MacDonald & Magoon, a leading firm of architects in Edmonton. He was admitted into the fledgling architecture program at the University of Alberta, where he studied under Burgess and was granted professional status in 1931. He joined the Alberta Association of Architects and worked independently until 1939, when he was hired as assistant City Architect. Four years later, in 1943, he was appointed Edmonton City Architect.

Sharing the philosophy of his mentor Burgess, Dewar used his position as City Architect to advocate for the importance of reserving parkland in the city's new subdivisions, including in Windsor Park. In October of 1949, Dewar signed off on the line that delineated the full western curve of Windsor Park (along 119 Street). Shortly thereafter, in November 1949, Dewar tendered his resignation as City Architect. In 1954, Dewar, now in private practice, chose a lot in Windsor Park as the location where he would design and build "the home of the future". The house was one of 10 "Trend Houses" across Canada that demonstrated the beauty, versatility and practical advantages of Western Red Cedar and Pacific Coast Hemlock Lumber, Douglas Fir Plywood, Red Cedar Shingles and Sidewall Shakes. As resident of the Windsor Park community, it seems plausible that Dewar might have taken a very active, personal interest in his former colleague and fellow architect Robert Falconer Duke's 1954 landscape design for Windsor Park, the park at the heart of Dewar's own neighbourhood.

Robert Falconer Duke's birth was registered in Birkenhead, England, in 1904. He made the Atlantic crossing to Canada as an infant with his parents and older sister on the *Kensington* in 1906. The family settled in Saskatchewan, in the Qu'Appelle district, and moved to Saskatoon in 1909. After he finished University, Duke trained in an apprenticeship at the well-regarded and prolific Saskatoon firm of [David] Webster & [E.J.] Gilbert, Architects, and later took further "extra-mural" (correspondence) studies in architecture from 1932 to 1934. In 1938, Duke joined the Dominion (federal) Department of Public Works as a local supervising ("District Resident") architect





posted to Saskatoon. As supervising architect for the Dominion Department of Public Works, design of outdoor spaces, including landscapes for public plazas and parks, would have been part of his responsibility and part of his skill set. Duke remained in Saskatoon at the federal Department of Public Works for 8 years. One day in 1946, he must have spotted an advertisement in the Royal Architecture Institute of Canada journal placed by Maxwell Dewar and, looking for a change, applied for the position of assistant Edmonton City Architect. Duke accepted Dewar's offer and moved his family west to Alberta, starting his new job in June of 1946.

By June of 1948. Dewar's City Architect's office was working on plans for the new subdivision of Windsor Park, and Duke signed off on the line that delineated the elegant eastern curve of Windsor Park (along Windsor Road). In November 1949, when Dewar had a heart attack, Duke was named Edmonton's acting City Architect, and then chief City Architect in February 1950 following Dewar's resignation. In late 1950, Duke hired an award-winning young graduate from the School of Architecture at the University of Manitoba, William Paul Pasternak, as assistant City Architect. One of Edmonton's most prolific and most defining architects, Duke is credited with the design of many of our most important Modernist structures including the Borden Park Swimming Pool and Bandshell (1954), the Glenora Substation (1956), and the Westwood Transit Garage (1960). The Number 4 Fire Station (1954), the Rossdale Water Filtration Plant (circa 1955) and the Number 1 Fire Station (1960) are other municipal architectural designs credited to Duke. In what architect David Murray and local historian Marianne Fedori describe as "an excellent and delightful example of Modern Expressionism," and "one of the most outstanding buildings of its time in Canada," Duke and his assistant Walter Telfer oversaw the development of the design of the Queen Elizabeth II Planetarium in Coronation Park as the city's tribute to the visit of the Royal Family in 1959. Once Edmonton had hired Noel Dant (its first paid professional town planner) in 1949, the City Architect's office was no longer responsible for the design of subdivisions. But most of the other design needs of the city still fell into Duke's lap; indeed, as City Architect, Duke was frequently called on to produce designs for Edmonton's parks department. In March of 1953, the Edmonton Journal reported that Mayor William Hawrelak "said a park in the Windsor Park district had been suggested. This comprises an area of about four acres and is located north of the new elementary school under construction." As City Architect, Duke was tasked with creating the park department plans for the existing site less than a block from his boss's new home. Duke turned his talented hand to landscape design for the new park.

Noel Buckland Dant was born in England in 1914 and started work for the City of Edmonton in October 1949. As Edmonton's first town planner, he championed new ideas about how the city should grow and established the practice of "neighbourhood unit planning." Dant





endorsed a "town planned" approach with curvilinear street patterns leading to school and community league sites and green spaces at the heart of the neighbourhood, to encourage walking and social interaction. Some of the first Edmonton neighbourhoods to be designed this way by Dant were Parkallen (1951), Sherbrooke and Dovercourt. Plans for the subdivision of Windsor Park by the City Architect's office were already well underway when Dant came on board in October 1949. Dant had been 'at his new post' for only a month when Dewar submitted his resignation early in November 1949. "Appointment of Noel Dant as town planner was expected to lift some of the burden from the city architect" the Edmonton Journal bemusedly observed in announcing Dewar's resignation. On February 26, 1953, Dant signed off on the southern boundary of Windsor Park, a straight line running east-west that divided the dedicated parkland from the schoolyard to the south. Dant's southern boundary completed the triangular park space. It paved the way for Mayor Hawrelak to mention (exactly one month later) that "a new park for the Windsor Park district had been suggested" and for Robert Falconer Duke to pull out his pencil and begin working on "sketch plans" for the designed landscape of Windsor Park.

Alexander Campbell "Sandy" Patterson was Edmonton's first Superintendent of Parks, and when the parks department was amalgamated with recreation in 1950, he became Edmonton's first Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, a post he held until 1958. Windsor Park was designed, constructed and planted on Patterson's watch, as evidenced by the landscape design, which reads "The City of Edmonton Parks Department, September 1954." Patterson oversaw the annual planting of thousands of flowers in Windsor Park and he selected for Windsor Park a remarkable variety of trees, including his favourite, the tamarack. Those specimen trees have matured beautifully and grace Windsor Park to this day. It is also thanks to Patterson that Windsor Park boasts 30 beautiful, mature, perfectly-spaced American elms, pillars anchoring and defining the park's liminal space along 119 Street and Windsor Road.

Patterson was the son of the late H.S. Patterson Q.C. of Calgary. He served as a commissioned officer with the Royal Canadian Artillery in Italy, including the Ortona engagement, and northwest Europe. Patterson earned a Bachelor of Science and Botany and a Master of Science in Horticulture from the University of Alberta. During his time with the City of Edmonton, he was involved with the planning, design and building of many parks and green spaces during a period of rapid growth for the city of Edmonton. His achievements include the redevelopment in Borden Park, the original planting and concept for Hawrelak (formerly Mayfair) Park, keeping the development of the river valley to a minimum and the relocation of the Zoo to its current location. Patterson was an early proponent of the naturalization movement. Edmonton's continuing naturalization program has resulted in many naturally-appearing and eye-pleasing areas,





particularly by thoroughfares and in the city's rivers and ravines. Patterson was also known for his innovative use of natural and hardy species in Edmonton's parks.

A tremendous achievement of Patterson's was his single-minded pursuit of lining Edmonton's streets and boulevards with perfectly-spaced elm trees. In order to accomplish this, he first had to remove other mature trees (like Manitoba maples) that had been haphazardly planted and had often been planted too close together. This was politically unpopular, particularly with those individuals who had planted their own trees in front of their homes. It not only resulted in endless letters to the *Edmonton Journal* and articles about "the battle of the trees," but in guerilla tactics by disgruntled citizens and vandals, who maimed and cut down Patterson's young elms with alarming frequency, including in the Windsor Park neighbourhood. Ultimately Patterson prevailed, and thanks to his efforts, Edmonton has beautiful, mature, perfectly-spaced elm trees lining the streets and avenues in many of the city's mature communities.

Sometime prior to 1952, it had come to Patterson's attention that that one of the parks department "gardeners," Bogdan Jablonski, was actually an extremely talented, experienced, European-trained horticulturist and landscape architect from Poland. Shortly thereafter, Patterson began an ultimately successful campaign to have Jablonski promoted to landscape architect for the City Parks Department, with a commensurate boost in his salary. In September 1954, Patterson's parks department approved Duke's landscape plan for Windsor Park, and work on the site began in May of 1955. By September 1956, a variety of saplings and a "galaxy of blooms" had been sited and planted in Windsor Park under the expert eyes of Patterson and Jablonski.

Bogdan Jablonski was born and raised in Poland, where he studied and practiced landscape architecture. After seeing action in the Second World War in the Polish Army, he married Hilda Berry in Essex, UK in 1946, and in 1951, Bogdan and Hilda arrived in Canada and shortly thereafter in Edmonton. Jablonski oversaw a remarkable horticultural program for the City's Parks Department. The department needed plants well adapted to Alberta, so this effort included test greenhouses and nurseries and experimentation with seeds that would thrive under Edmonton's conditions and constraints: climate, growing season, soil, and precipitation. It is likely that Jablonski and Patterson collaborated on the "Planting Plan" for Windsor Park. Jablonski was undoubtedly responsible for Windsor Park's stunning, spectacular, and defining floral displays, with the park becoming known as "The Flower Park".

At its official opening in 1958, Mayor Hawrelak had high praise for Jablonski's design of Borden Park ("the city's first major park development"): "the mayor voiced high praise for Robert Jablonski,





landscape architect with the city parks department, who designed Borden Park." Mayor Hawrelak "termed Borden Park 'a magnificent job' on the part of the parks department." In 1959, Jablonski took a leave of absence from his post with the City and earned his B.L.Arch. (Bachelor of Landscape Architecture) from the University of Oregon's School of Architecture and Allied Arts. Jablonski resigned from his position with the City of Edmonton in 1965 and accepted the position of Landscape Architect for the *Ornamental Plant Section* of the Plant Research Institute in Ottawa, the "main research centre for ornamental horticulture in Canada and . . . responsible for the development and maintenance of the Dominion Arboretum and Botanic Gardens."

The origins and development of Windsor Park are also connected with Mayor William Hawrelak and his wife Pearl (Shandro) Hawrelak. First elected at the age of 37, Hawrelak served as Edmonton's Mayor from 1951 to 1959, 1963 to 1965, and 1974 to 1975. The development of Edmonton parks and beautification of Edmonton's streetscapes are key features of his legacy. His administration lined streets with elm trees, expanded the area of city parks, and oversaw the design of playgrounds, parks, and golf courses. The design and construction of Windsor Park coincided with the early years of Hawrelak's euphoric first term (1951-1959), before any taint of future inappropriate conduct had emerged. He was young, admired, popular and well-liked. His star was ascendant during the period when Windsor Park was taking shape. Hawrelak not only thought parkland was important for Edmonton, but he thought about parkland. For example, in a speech he gave at the dedication of Coronation Park, he said that since city dwellers are "denied free contact with the soil, society has found it wise to set aside land" for parks and recreation areas. In planning a city, he added, it is necessary to foresee the needs of future citizens as well as those of today. While the demands of housing and industry are great it would be an injustice not to provide a release for "the citizen's yearning for the earth".

In the early 1950s, Edmonton was "an exuberant young city on the rise," and Mayor Hawrelak "was at the height of his power." Bill and his wife Pearl Shandro (a civic dynamo in her own right) purchased a large corner lot in Windsor Park. In 1950, Pearl's brother, Dr. William Shandro and his wife, Rose, had built a beautiful Prairie Style home in Windsor Park, along the south ridge of the North Saskatchewan River valley. In late October 1952, Bill and Pearl and their young daughters moved into a new home they had planned and built. This elegant stucco bungalow (8730 - 120 Street) was both their home and their base of political operations for decades. Given his love for parks, it can be assumed that Hawrelak would have taken a very personal interest in the genesis of Windsor Park; just a block from his front door, it would provide greenspace for family, friends and neighbours. But Hawrelak walked a notoriously porous line between private and public life and spheres of influence, and hence it seems





likely that he may also have envisioned creating in the 4-acre Windsor Park a jewel of a municipal showpiece, a nexus of civic pride and boosterism. Hawrelak was a consummate politician, and as such, regarded public works (including parks) as a useful political tool that should serve political goals. Questions about how much money would be spent on Windsor Park, which materials, trees and flowers would be used for Windsor Park, and who would be selected to design Windsor Park were likely all influenced by both political and personal considerations. The Hawrelaks clearly had vested interests in the development of the site. Marigolds were planted in Windsor Park in profusion in the late 1950s, and subsequently became the "flower of Edmonton" in 1964. "We want people to grow whatever flowers they like" said Hawrelak, "but we hope to highlight the marigold". Throughout history, beautiful gardens have been used to convey power. An "emblem of pride," Windsor Park would epitomize the best Edmonton had to offer. When "His Worship, Mayor of Edmonton" and "Edmonton's First Lady" entertained visiting dignitaries at home in their spacious new bungalow, perhaps the evening ended with a leisurely after-dinner stroll through Windsor Park's immaculately manicured "sunken garden" with its "galaxy of blooms."

#### Landmark/Symbolic Value

Windsor Park is further significant as a landmark site within the wider Windsor Park community. Centrally located beside the new elementary school, Windsor Park became a focal point for the rapidly growing neighbourhood in the 1950s. Former residents who moved into a home across the street from the park in 1958 as children recall how great it was to have a park nearby, and remember beautiful flowerbeds full of brightly coloured snapdragons, marigolds, and sunflowers. The beautifully-tended, lush lawn provided space for games of hide and seek, kick the can, and even for two brothers to ride their pet Irish setters around while being pursued by other playmates. Former residents remember the park in the 1960s making a great sports field, especially when the adjacent school fields were occupied. "The flower beds formed great, wellmarked sidelines. A bunch of us in junior high school years used to play there regularly – it was the perfect size for 3-on-3 touch football and of course the grass was nice and soft. We could play in our stocking feet. And, at that time, the water fountain was very handy. I have a vague recollection of being kicked out of the park by a city maintenance guy who didn't like us putting the flowerbeds in danger. But, of course, knowing the park was off-limits made playing there even more special."

Elementary school students from the late 1990s and early 2000s also remember the sunken lawn providing an important play space. "The area provided for countless games of soccer, ultimate frisbee and football throughout our youth. It often served as no-man's-land in games of capture the flag, as well as serving as the forum for three-legged races and egg relays at our Grade 3 year-end picnic."





They too appreciated the park's flexibility and availability. "From May to July, when minor soccer occupies the school fields for the majority of weeknight evenings, this space remains open for non-organized recreation. Indeed, where leisure on the school grounds is often restricted, leisure in the Flower Park remains unregulated and available for the community." The park's massive trees were treasured by local children - one climbable tree nicknamed "The Elephant Tree" was especially popular. Another, a Ponderosa pine that had fallen on the ground and grown horizontally for decades, was affectionately nicknamed "The Banana Tree." Only blocks from home, the park "felt like another time and place." "For us, crossing the threshold from the schoolvard into The Flower Park was like entering Narnia." The naturalistic woods and hidden meadows on either side of the formal sunken garden lent themselves to endless games of make believe where children pretended to be elves, sprites, and other forest creatures. "In junior high, in the summer, a big group of us would go get candy and slushies and then hang out at the park pretty much every day, laughing and talking, out of earshot of our parents." At night, families came to the park to stargaze together and watch the northern lights, shielded from the city's brightness by the towering pines, cedars and spruce trees. Windsor Park has evolved into a beautiful, forested space. The large number and variety of trees has become a more dominant feature than the flower beds, while the appeal of the sunken garden's "Great Lawn" appeal endures.

In 2012, Canadian landscape historian Edwinna von Baeyer studied and admired the clear artistic vision expressed by Robert Duke's 1954 landscape plans for Windsor Park. Von Baer explained that before 1880, municipal green space was rare. Providing beautifully landscaped, contemplative public green space was part of the City Beautiful movement that many Canadian cities embraced by the turn of the 20th century. But by the 1950s, "providing space for ["active"] public recreation was winning out over providing 'landscaped' ["contemplative"] public green space – which is what differentiates your Windsor Park".

In 2020, Michelle Reid, Cultural Landscape Lead for the City of Calgary Parks Department, and author of the City of Calgary's *Cultural* Landscape Strategic Plan (2011) concurred with Edwinna von Baeyer's assessment of Windsor Park's rarity. Based on her examination of Windsor Park's 1954 landscape plans and 2020 satellite photos of Windsor Park, Reid stated that in her opinion, classic "Picturesque" landscape elements underpin Windsor Park's design. Reid observed that Duke's 1954 landscape design for Windsor Park shows open forms. The design is not "prescriptive." There is no soft ball diamond or tennis court to "prescribe" how people are expected to use the park; no equipment to suggest that there is an expectation that the park is to be used for a particular purpose. There is nothing to make you think, upon entering the park, "I really shouldn't be sitting here admiring the trees — I really should





	be playing volleyball. Or tennis." Windsor Park was designed to be a beautiful, contemplative green place in which park goers feel at liberty to choose how to spend their time in the park: somewhere all feel welcome and none feel out of place or excluded.
Character Defining Elements	<ul> <li>Central location to the wider Windsor Park community, bounded by Windsor Road to the north and east, the Windsor Park School site to the south, and 119 Street to the west</li> <li>1.57 ha size featuring turfed and planted areas</li> <li>Primarily flat site with slight undulations in the topography</li> <li>Mature tree and shrub landscaping, including 27 different species (12 deciduous, 15 coniferous)</li> <li>Mature American elms lining the west, north, east and south boundaries</li> <li>Eastern and western interior glades with crushed rock walkways</li> <li>East-west hardsurfaced walkway extending along southern boundary between Windsor Road and 119 Street</li> <li>Central sunken garden and Great Lawn area, set a few feet below the grade of the surrounding land, ringed with mature trees and shrubs</li> <li>Original I-XL brick wall and concrete stairs at south end of sunken garden</li> <li>Sentinel lilacs on either side of concrete stairs</li> <li>Original drain and grate infrastructure</li> </ul>

#### 4. Additional Information

Owner(s)	City of Edmonton
Owner(s) Address	





## **Statement of Integrity**

	To
Values Summary	Originally built and planted between 1955 and 1956, Windsor Park is valued for its association with the development of the Windsor Park neighbourhood during Edmonton's population boom in the post-Second World War period.  (Significance Criteria – Activity/Theme Value)  Windsor Park is valued as an example of a neighbourhood park
	designed using Garden City principles, with innovative approaches to its landscape features and plantings.  (Significance Criteria – Style/Design/Construction)
	Windsor Park is valued for its association with several notable designers and city-builders during the post-Second World War boom period, including Cecil Burgess, Maxwell Dewar, Robert Falconer Duke, Noel Dant, Sandy Patterson, Bogdan Jablonski and William Hawrelak.  (Significance Criteria – Institution/Person)
	Windsor Park is valued as a local landmark for the Windsor Park neighbourhood, and as a focal point for neighbourhood gatherings and activities.  (Significance Criteria – Landmark/Symbolic Value)
Period of Significance	1955 – 1968 (from original construction to the demolition of the park shelter by the City)
Chronology of Alterations	<ul> <li>Planned 40-foot ornamental circular fountain and associated stairs at north end of sunken garden planned as part of original design abandoned in 1956</li> <li>Original ornamental reflecting pool removed after falling into disrepair (date unknown)</li> <li>Original annual flower beds replaced with ornamental shrubs and trees in some locations (date unknown); a few heritage perennials (day lilies, peonies) and a small white rose garden survive</li> <li>Original shelter to the south of the brick wall and staircase demolished by City in 1968</li> <li>Asphalt, 2.5m wide multi-use trail along southern boundary added by City in 2012</li> <li>Soft-surface shale pathways added by Windsor Park Community League in 2012 in the eastern and western glades (reflecting original design intent, but were never constructed)</li> <li>Decorative light poles installed as part of neighbourhood renewal program</li> </ul>
Aspects of Integrity	Location
	Design       ☑ Yes       ☐ No       ☐ Not Applicable         Windsor Park is in good condition overall, with several of the key
Navambar 00, 0000	





	elements of the original design still largely intact.
	Environment ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable The environment remains a residential neighbourhood, with many of the original tree and shrub plantings still surviving in a mature state.
	Materials Yes No Not Applicable Many of the original tree and ornamental shrub plantings in the park remain to this day, in a mature and healthy condition. The original I-XL brick wall and concrete stairs remain, as well as original drain and grate hardware. The City of Edmonton introduced a 2.5m wide asphalt, multi-use trail along the southern boundary of the site in 2012. Also in 2012, the Windsor Park Community League introduced soft-surface shale pathways in the eastern and western glades, consistent with the original design intent. Decorative streetlights were also added along the multi-use trail that did not exist previously.
	Workmanship ⊠ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable Overall, much of the original tree and ornamental shrub plantings in the park remain, in a mature and healthy condition. The original I-XL brick wall and concrete stairs are in decent condition, with a need for minor repairs and repointing only.
	Feeling
	<b>Association</b> ⊠ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable Windsor Park still maintains its association with the surrounding residential neighbourhood and natural landscape.
Statement of Integrity	Despite some of the original design features not being constructed or having been removed, and some alterations to the site landscape over the years, Windsor Park maintains the aspects of integrity necessary to convey its significance/heritage value. The park is in good condition overall, with the main layout and design features still generally intact.
	The park's landscape and plantings have "rounded out" over the years, but it is still easily recognizable as the design on the original 1954 blueprints. From the air, Windsor Park's organic triangular shape, reminiscent of an alluvial fan, is clearly trisected into an arched symmetric central interior space, and two asymmetric interior spaces (one on either side), in keeping with the original design intent.
	Windsor Park as it exists today is remarkably close to Duke's original 1954 design, with the exception of the circular ornamental fountain at the north end of the sunken garden that appears on



