

# Cottonwood Park

**Cottonwood Park** is located west of Popson Park on 60th Avenue in west Lethbridge and comprises a total of 43.7 hectares or 108 acres of land purchased from the Block family, and a further 6.9 hectares or about 17 acres adjacent to the river which has been deemed to be within the boundaries of the city. This parcel of land extends from 60th Avenue south to the bottom lands of the Oldman River Valley.

This City Nature Reserve was named for its extensive cottonwood forest, including significant areas of regeneration resulting from the June 1995 Oldman River flood.



Fantastic views of the river valley, Milk River Ridge, Chief Mountain, and the old narrow gauge incline railway bed can be enjoyed in Cottonwood, when you aren't distracted by wildlife. Among the inhabitants of the reserve, you'll see deer, great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, red foxes, skunk, and woodpeckers. There's even a mountain bluebird trail around the boundary.

It's a steep hike down to the floodplain from the parking lot. A shale trail leads visitors to a lookout area, and then down to the cottonwood forest along the river.

**Cottonwood Park** is also important from an ecological perspective. It is a prime example of increasingly rare cottonwood forest in floodplains of Southern Alberta, and home to varied species of wildlife and migratory birds, including the prairie rattlesnake. Fortunately, it is relatively isolated and undisturbed, and the goal is for it to remain so in order to retain its critical role in our regional ecosystem.

*An Out of the City Experience*



*parks...*

&

*...pathways*

*playgrounds...*

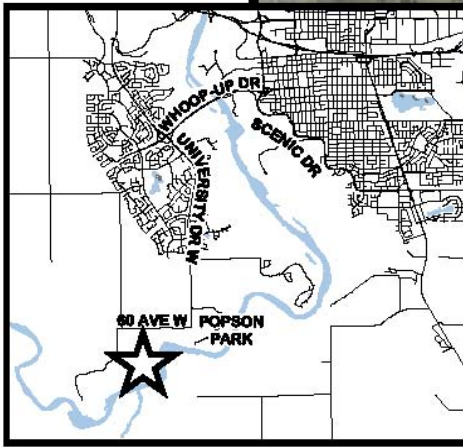
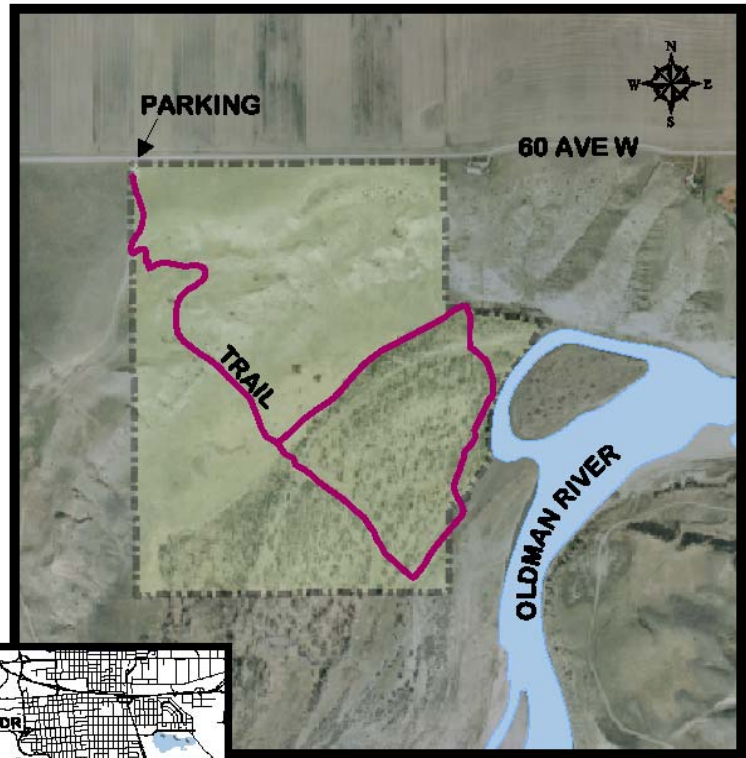


CITY OF  
*Lethbridge*  
LEISURE SERVICES

If you have an appreciation for nature, undisturbed, tranquil and wildy beautiful, **Cottonwood** is a park you won't want to miss. Get yourself on University Drive and go South, passing Popson Park and continuing on to Cottonwood Park.

### *Enjoy ...*

- the beautiful colours of fall
- the autumn stillness in the air
- a day outdoors
- “an out of City experience”



**LOCATION MAP**

# **COTTONWOOD PARK**

