

PAVAN PARK

HISTORY

The Pavan Farm, 1950
Galt Archives 19720153008



This park is part of the Urban Parks project and is located at the north end of the river valley parks northwest of Hardieville. The name commemorates the Pavan Family who were owners of the land. Joseph (Giuseppe) Pavan came to Lethbridge from Treviso, Italy in 1911 followed three years later by his fiancée Maria Morandin. While working for the mines as a stationary engineer he and Maria bought a dairy

farm 2 miles north of the Lethbridge city limits . While Joseph worked swing shifts, Maria tended the farm and their seven children. By 1920 the dairy began making home deliveries via horse and buggy, switching to trucks, then vans in the 1930s. In the 1940s the Pavans sold a portion of the business to Purity Dairy. Previously, Joe purchased a portion of land in the river valley that came to be known as the Pavan Bottoms, eventually becoming Pavan Park in 1987.

PHYSICAL LAYOUT

The entrance to the park begins at the top of the coulees just north of Hardieville and



Roadway down through the coulees to the floodplain, 2013 Photo T. Purkis

winds down through the narrow coulee to the flood plain. The park is a natural reserve on 450 acres and was developed in 1986. A portion of the park is on the floodplain, while the rest consists of coulee and prairie environments. There are several trails - an equestrian trail as well as paved and red shale walking trails which border both the river and the lake. There is the Coal Banks Trail which connects the park to North Lethbridge and continues to Henderson Lake to the Ravine Park and back to the river valley.

The 10 acre lake, once an old gravel pit, has a depth of 6-8 metres and is fed by groundwater. It is sheltered by cottonwood bluffs bordering the river. As with all river valley parks and nature reserves, Pavan Park has been subjected to flooding over the years. The worst was in 1995 when flooding severely damaged the area.



The lake at Pavan Park, 2013. Photo T.Purkis

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES



A place for family gatherings: the John Martin Recreation Area, 2013. Photo T. Purkis

The John Martin Recreation Area is a popular place for large family gatherings or company picnics. It is located opposite the parking lot and has a fenced in enclosure for privacy. The recreational area comes with kitchen, washrooms, fireplace and large outdoor cooking grills and activity facilities such as a volleyball court, horseshoes pitch and a playground area.



The picnic area is tucked away in the cottonwoods. Photo City of Lethbridge

The Jeanne Sauvé open picnic area is set in amongst the cottonwoods and the area is dotted with tables, washrooms and a playground area. It is also an area where water enthusiasts can access the river for boating. The area is named for Jeanne Sauvé who was the 23rd Governor General of Canada from 1984-1990.

ACTIVITIES

Visitors can enjoy the trails for running, hiking or simply watching the river valley ecosystem for the variety of plants and animals. The park is also a great place for photographers and back-to-nature types. Pavan Park is home to the Southern Alberta Equestrian Council which has a riding arena located at the top of the coulee.