

WILLIAM PEARCE PARK

HISTORY



Long before the RiverStone subdivision existed, the area was farmland divided by barbed wire fences.

William Pearce Park is a unique park south of the University of Lethbridge. It is named for one of the Dominion Land surveyors who, in 1876, laid out the grid system for townships, ranges, sections and road allowances.

Remnants of a bygone day, 2013. Photo: T. Purkis

William Pearce was born in Upper Canada, educated in the University of Toronto's engineering course and gained his certification for land surveyor in 1872. In addition to his survey work, he also developed the layout for irrigation for the Prairie Provinces.

PHYSICAL LAYOUT

William Pearce Park is bordered by the Grand River and Riverpark Boulevards with pathways connecting to Rivermont Crescent and Riverdale Terrace.

There is a pond with fountains and a waterfall, and stocked with fish, and a canal that runs through the park and behind the houses. Each area of the park is connected by asphalt and graveled walks. At the entrance of the park there is a boardwalk which juts out into the lake—an ideal spot for fishing. South of the parking lot is a playground area.



The Pierce Park pond with fountain, 2013.
Photo: T. Purkis



The Pierce Park stream under the walking bridge, 2013. Photo: T. Purkis



The fishing deck in William Pierce Park,



A circle of obelisks with a story to tell, 2013.
Photo: T. Purkis



Lining up a view, 2013. Photo: T. Purkis

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES



The surveying story, 2013. Photo: T. Purkis

One of the main features of the park is the surveying history markers. As the visitor walks the pathways towards the centre, there are obelisks at each directional point: north, south, east and west. On each a surveying story is told. A hole at the top of the obelisks lines up with the centre ones as one looks through the hole. This gives the visitor an appreciation of what the surveyors saw. At the centre of the park there are four obelisks situated among a grouping of rocks which completes the surveying history.

There are several wooden bridges connecting the different areas of the park with either an asphalt or gravel paths.

ACTIVITIES

At the entrance of the park at Grand River Boulevard there is a small parking lot and beyond that is the playground. The playground has slides, swings and a climbing apparatus and is equipped with a fish-shaped bike rack.

