

NICHOLAS SHERAN PARK

HISTORY



Entrance sign to park

1983

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The development of west Lethbridge occurred in 1973. The first park was located in Varsity Village, the first subdivision on the other side of the river. The park occupies 106 acres and was developed in 1974 and named for Nicholas Sheran who discovered coal deposits in the river valley and opened up the first mine. Nicholas Sheran was born in New York City 1841. He was discharged from serving in the Civil War in 1865 and first went to Montana and fought in the Indian troubles there. He came to Coal banks in 1874 and opened the first commercial coal mine. He drowned in

1882 while crossing the Oldman River. Before the idea for a park came into being the area was fields of farm land. There were early settlements on the west side mostly farmers tilling the land, growing crops, harvesting and selling to earn a living.

PHYSICAL LAYOUT

The man-made lake is at centre of the park with pathways both asphalt and red shale circling it, leading to and from the lake and throughout the park and up the hill at the south end.



Nicholas Sheran Lake

1983

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The playground is to the south of the lake and has been redeveloped using recycled tires from all over Alberta. This replaces the gravel area. There is a picnic shelter to the west of the playground and washrooms to the south. Throughout the park there are benches and picnic tables.

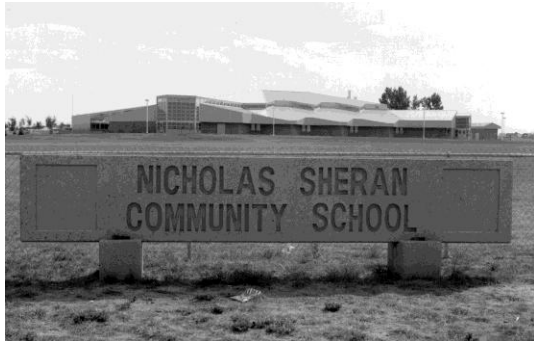
In 1981 crews installed a concrete boat ramp at the southwest end of the lake for small boat use of the park.

BUILDINGS/STRUCTURES

A maintenance shed and yard allows city workers to conveniently care for the park in mowing, trimming trees etc. There are two parking lots – one on the south west corner from McMaster Boulevard and a smaller one entrance from Columbia Boulevard opposite Layette Boulevard.

The Nicholas Sheran School is located at the northeast corner with a playground stretching along Columbia Boulevard. There are two baseball diamonds, and a soccer

pitch. There is an open space on the school grounds for an impromptu game of touch football or Frisbee.



A view of the school

1983

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Activities both Summer and winter

Fishing, ice fishing, boating, kayaking, walking, picnicking, skating and disc golf. At the entrance of the Westside parking lot there is a sign regarding the disc golf addition. There is a course map and the course was designed by Craig Burrows-Johnson PDGA Grandmaster. The huge rock at the south end of the lake has a plaque which reads "The disc gold course is a legacy from the 2001 Alberta Seniors Games. Construction for the facility was made possible by a major donation from the Lethbridge Community Foundation, and support grants from Community Facility Enhancement Project and Alberta Sports, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundations."