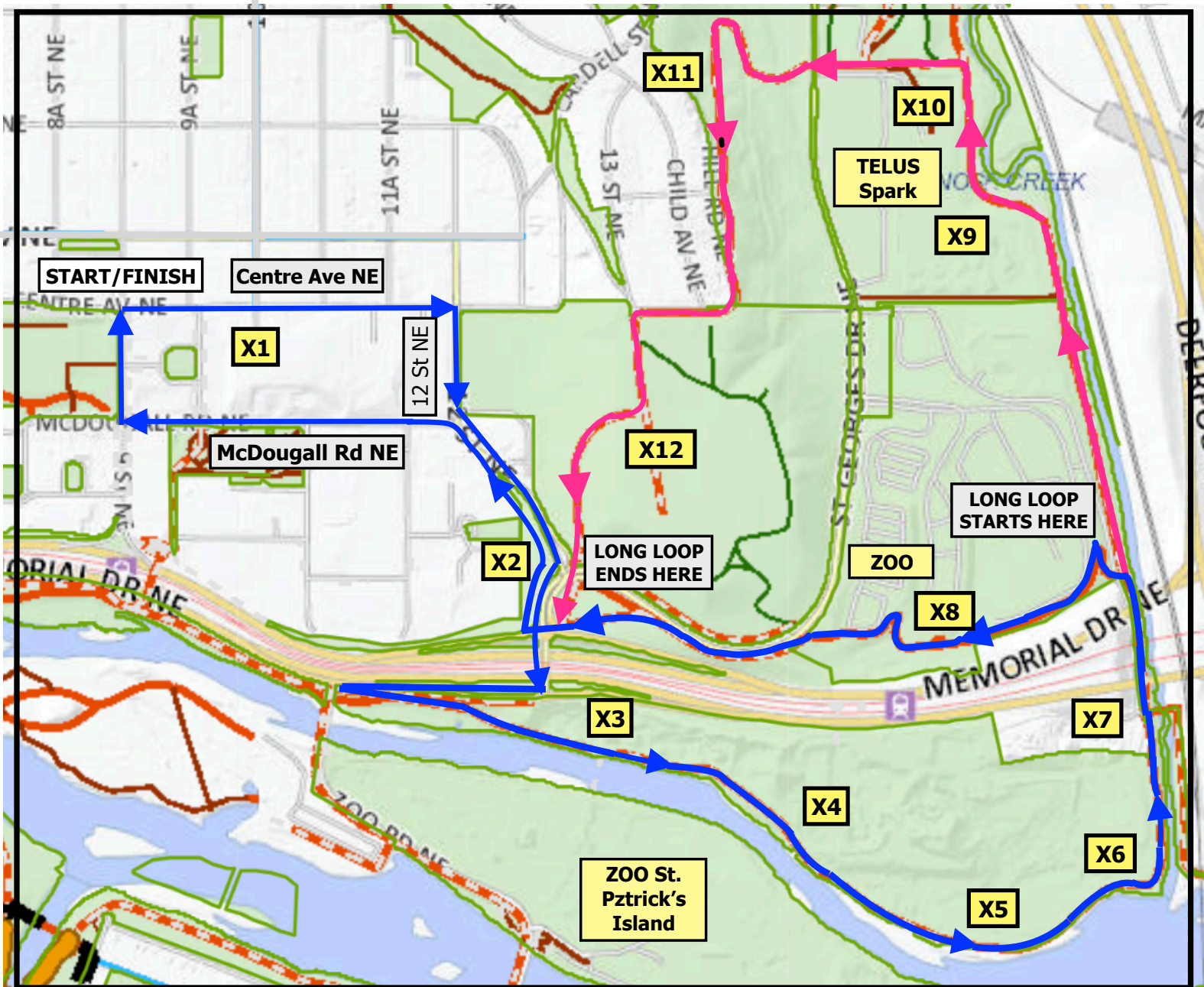


Bridgeland Walks 2020 Self Guided #2 - "A Walk on the Wild Side"



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This is a walk (or cycle) on smooth surfaces that has two options: The SHORT LOOP is 5 kilometers, and the LONG LOOP which includes a significant uphill and downhill stretch is 6 kilometers. The SHORT LOOP is the **BLUE** route on the map and the LONG LOOP is the **PINK** route.

- Both options start and finish at the Community Centre 917 Centre Ave NE.
- The route follows multi-use paved pathways and in places you will need to watch for bicycles and scooters. Despite the title “Walk on the Wild Side”, most of the wildlife is behind a fence or in the creek or the woods so no hazards there. Walk with a friend and bring your binoculars if you are a bird watcher. There are a couple of benches along the way to stop and rest and enjoy the view.
- Suggested **Stopping Points** are indicated by X on the map.

1. Walk East from the Community Centre along Centre Avenue....

About 10th Street you’ll notice a flat gravelled area to the right. (**Stopping Point X1**). Until last year the 50 bed Crossbow Care Centre was here. Originally located next to the Calgary General Hospital, it provided long term care for seniors for over 50 years until closed in the early 2000’s. A community garden was in operation on the East side. Then the building was used as a movie set for such films and TV programs as Wynona Earp, Heartland and Fargo. It was demolished in 2019.... construction on a new 200 bed AHS Complex Care Centre will soon begin.

2. Walk further East along Centre Ave to 12 St and turn right and walk South, past the construction site until you go up a slight incline ...

Look to the right (**Stopping Point X2**). There is an open grassy area with some trees. This is the former location of the Residence for the Blind. It was removed many years ago when it was realized that people who were blind could live on their own with the right kind of community supports. The CNIB then built a new administration building to provide rehabilitation and services to those with visual impairments.

3. Continue South and cross the Zoo Bridge, then turn right, go till you come to a hairpin turn, then head east along the Bow River pathway....

- Before long you'll be surrounded by trees. Soon behind the fence to the left you will see the hoodoo formations from the zoo's prehistoric park. ([Stopping Point X3](#)). Keep your eyes open and you'll see dinosaurs. What kinds of dinosaurs can you see?
- You'll come to the fence around the Zoo's "Canadian Wilds" ([Stopping Point X4](#)) and if you look closely you may see cougars, black and grizzly bears, elk and even muskox. Take your time.
- Further along on the river side there is a newly constructed cable across ([Stopping Point X5](#)) the Bow to warn watercraft about the upcoming Harvey Channel rapids. Then look up and you can see the tall platform with the Osprey nest. The webcam records all of the bird's activities.
- On the Bow River you can catch a glimpse of ducks, sea gulls and Canada Geese... and maybe even some babies.

4. The pathway soon takes a sharp turn to the left. Stop first at the corner where there's a little park that looks out over the Bow River train bridge.....

The parklet ([Stopping Point X6](#)) features a picnic table, bench, garbage can and info panel which was part of a Devonian series that was developed in the 1970's. It is a little worse for wear but describes the nearby Nose Creek settlement and Pearce Estates across the river. The C&E railway bridge, as it was originally know was built in 1925 and still functions as a CPR link to Edmonton. For more details check out....

<https://www.calgary.ca/PDA/pd/Pages/Heritage-planning/Discover-Historic-Calgary-resources.aspx?dhcResourceId=741>

5. Proceed North, parallel to the mighty Nose Creek.....

There are chokecherry bushes along the path and if you watch carefully you may see a beaver dam and possibly swimming beavers or muskrats. A variety of birds hang out here.

6. The Bow River pathway makes a right turn over the bridge but keep going North and you are officially on the Nose Creek pathway which is part of the "Great Trail" (Trans Canada Trail).....

This area ([Stopping Point X7](#)) was formerly the city garbage dump and incinerator. It was reclaimed in the 1980's

7. *Continue under the Memorial Drive overpasses and then you'll have to make a decision between the shorter and longer route.....*

SHORT LOOP.... *turn left/West along a paved path up to the Zoo Entrance*

LONG LOOP.... *continue North along the Nose Creek pathway*

8. **SHORT LOOP** *continues West on a sidewalk beside the zoo parking lot- aim for the large Easter Egg sculpture at the Zoo Entrance*

If the zoo is still closed you will have the Egg and Animal Sculpture Pavilion ([Stopping Point X8](#)) to yourself. It's a great place for dancing or running around or sitting on a bench, whatever is your preference.

9. *From there, take the pathway up toward the parking lots, then follow the black metal fence toward St George's Drive. Carefully cross the road and join the bike path that curves around the foot of Tom Campbell Hill....*

Tom Campbell Hill is less elongated than in the past. It originally extended right to the edge of the Bow River. In order to build the new 6 lane Memorial Drive in the '70's, much of the escarpment was cut back and the earth was dumped along the western edge of TCH to make a less steep embankment.

10. *Turn right at 12 St. and go north as far as McDougall Rd, then cross west at the crosswalk and proceed along McDougall Rd to 9 St and then right North back to the hall*

11. **LONG LOOP** *proceeds North along the Nose Creek pathway, beside the very winding Nose Creek and passes Telus Spark.*

There's a bench ([Stopping Point X9](#)) and a little further on, near the Telus Spark playground, notice the metal sculpture of a dinosaur

12. *On the North side of Telus Spark at the pathway junction, turn left/West..*

You'll see Bottomlands Park – where there is a parking lot, playground and picnic tables ([Stopping Point X10](#)).

13. Proceed West and across St. George's Drive and follow the paved path that switchbacks, gradually ascending the escarpment (Stopping Point X11)...

Great views of Deerfoot Trail and Mayland Heights community to the East

14. At the top turn West/right onto Centre Avenue and then at 13 St turn left, entering Tom Campbell Hill natural park and dog off leash area. Then take the first pathway to the right and descend the hill.....

There are some rocks beside the pathway where you can admire the great views of our community below and the downtown and possibly the Rocky Mountains in the distance (Stopping Point X12).

15. At the bottom you join up with 12 St. and go right / north as far as McDougall Rd, then cross at the crosswalk and proceed along McDougall Rd to 9 St and then right/North back to the hall.

Hope you've enjoyed this walk on the "Wild Side of Bridgeland Riverside"!