

Emphasize Natural Beauty

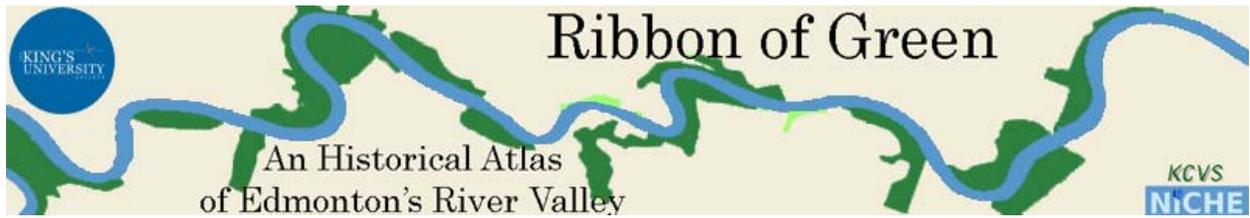
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Talented make-up artists know any aesthetic project must serve to enhance the natural beauty of its subject. The same is true of landscape architecture. When Edmonton hired Frederick G. Todd in 1905, he suggested that the city should create parks and boulevards to accent the natural beauty of the river valley. The report states: “in evolving a comprehensive scheme for parks and boulevards for Strathcona every advantage should be taken of the great natural beauty of the situation.”¹ Todd recognized the benefits of Strathcona being located along the banks of a natural river and saw the steep ravines as perfect locations for parks. As he writes, “the land most unsuitable for building is the best for Park purposes, such as the sides of steep ravines and hill sides.”² He suggested that the City purchase land for park purposes early and made specific suggestions as to which lands the city should consider purchasing. Todd also suggested that the City create a boulevard system to connect the parks. This would allow people to move between parks and would also provide more scenic beauty to the city itself. Not only were vehicles and movement between parks considered in Todd’s parks report but also the walking trails and paths within the parks. He writes, “if in the future they are laid out with walks and otherwise embellished they will be very attractive.”³ Todd’s report emphasized the enhancement of the natural beauty of the river valley and encouraged the city to purchase land for parks before prices became such that the city could only afford small parcels of land. Through Todd’s suggestions,

¹ Letter to W.D. Mills, mayor of Strathcona, from Frederick G. Todd, May 6, 1907, 2.

² Ibid., 3.

³ Ibid., 5.



the cities of Edmonton and Strathcona began to develop the parks system which the city is able

to boast about today.