



An Interesting Way of Procuring Land

Written by Katie Wallbaum

In 1910, the City of Edmonton's approach to gaining parkland came in all shapes and forms. This was evident when the city's aldermen found a loop hole in regards to city policy regarding land purchases and bought land themselves to hold until a plebiscite was passed. However, this was not the only interesting way in which the City procured park land. In August 1910, the City of Edmonton was offered a plot of land in Glenora to use for park purposes in exchange for their support for increasing the size of the future Groat Bridge. As the *Edmonton Journal* reported, "this morning the city council accepted some 15 to 20 acres of Glenora property for park purposes from Messrs Carruthers and Round in lieu of an increased subsidy towards the cost of the Groat ravine bridge."¹ Land was not cheap or easy to come by, so the City of Edmonton often accepted offers such as this one. For the council members, the expense of raising the extra money to widen the bridge was a price worth paying in order to secure more of the City's parkland. As the article states, "as by the expenditure of civic money on beautification of the miscellaneous lots, the value of the surrounding land will be vastly enhanced."² The foresight of the city planners and councillors is impressive. They not only saw that the land would soon be out of their price range, but also realized that spending a little extra money on parks for the city would be of great value in the future. It was this type of foresight which allowed Edmonton to develop the extensive River Valley Parks System that we enjoy today.

¹ "Carruthers & Round Offer Park Site As Extra Bonus For Groat Ravine Bridge," in the *Edmonton Journal*, August 20, 1910.

² Ibid.