

Additional Historic Information by Community

Greater Forest Lawn is located almost entirely within Township 24, Range 29, West of the 4th Meridian (24-24-W4M). A small portion of the area is located to the west in Township 24-1-W5M. Unless otherwise noted, all references below are to Township 24-28-W4M.

Albert Park / Radisson Heights

David D. Oughton (1862–1956) was one of the original homesteaders in this area, and he remained for the rest of his life as one of Alberta Park's most significant residents. He and his family lived in a farmhouse that they built here. Oughton served as a trustee for the local Bow Valley School Board when its school opened in 1906, and he later became a Forest Lawn town councillor. He donated the land for the neighbourhood's David D. Oughton School (1151–34 Street SE), which opened in 1953. The school was declared surplus and closed in 2006. The City purchased the site in 2008 and demolished the school in 2015.

During the pre-First World War boom, Oughton subdivided part of his land as Oughton Estate, a speculative real estate venture. Businessman Albert J. Smyth subdivided and promoted Albert Park on land adjacent to Oughton's. Smyth's subdivision plan includes a lake that was a slough, one of many in the district. After the boom waned, Albert Park remained an unincorporated hamlet and dormitory community for Calgary. Like Forest Lawn to the east, Albert Park was incorporated as a village in 1934. The following year, both villages were dissolved and were re-incorporated as the Village of Forest Lawn, with a strip of land annexed to connect the two communities. Forest Lawn became a town in 1951. At least three times, residents petitioned to dismantle the village and return Albert Park to the municipality. Finally, in 1946, residents tried to have Albert Park removed from the village of Forest lawn so it could join Calgary.

Albert Park became a Calgary neighbourhood following the 1961 annexation, and its eastern edge, from 28 Street east to 34 Street SE, was developed in 1964 as Radisson Heights. Premier Land Developments Ltd. boasted that Radisson Heights "will display the first completely contoured and fully landscaped and treed area in the history of land developments in Calgary." Mayor Grant MacEwan cut the ribbon at the neighbourhood's official opening ceremony on October 30, 1964.

Albert Park/Radisson Heights has become a diverse neighbourhood (35 percent immigrants, 47 percent visible minorities, and six percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures).

Barlow Trail is the western limit of the neighbourhood's residential and commercial area. The Bow River Pathway (a walking and cycling path) and the Albert Park-Radisson Heights Off-Leash Area occupy the zone between the Bow River and Deerfoot Trail.

The Western Irrigation District Canal, a CPR irrigation project begun in 1906, parallels Deerfoot and the start of its route eastward to Chestermere Lake. Max Bell Centre, a sports arena and concert facility built in the 1970s, is set in an undeveloped area crisscrossed by walking paths.

Applewood Park

Most of present-day Applewood Park is situated on land that was granted to the CPR in 1904. Beginning in 1911, a firm known as Alberta Financial Brokers promoted the development of this section—which straddles present-day Stoney Trail—as Victoria Square, an industrial centre with a residential component.

At its peak, Victoria Square boasted dozens of homes, a hotel, daily mail service to Calgary (via horse and buggy), a gas-driven electric power plant, and factories producing bricks, jam, tools, and tractors, as well as a pump factory that never became operational. During the First World War, the tool and tractor factories were converted to produce shells. Victoria Square declined by the end of the war and was depopulated. Its buildings were moved, demolished or repurposed, and some burned down.

Daon Development Corporation subdivided Applewood Park in 1980, and it developed as a low-density residential neighbourhood beginning in 1982. As a result, it has become a diverse neighbourhood (50 percent immigrants, 71 percent visible minorities, and two percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures).

Dover

Scottish-born James Cossar homesteaded in the southern part of today's Dover, and his brother Henry farmed immediately to the south, across the present-day Peigan Trail. During the pre-First World War boom, Henry's brother-in-law, Forest Lawn farmer-turned-Calgary real estate developer Thomas Beveridge, subdivided part of the future Dover as the Hazeldean subdivision. The venture was evidently unsuccessful.

The present neighbourhood was proposed and named in 1968, and the development of the residential district began in 1971. Dover is separated from Erin Woods by the CNR tracks. It has become a diverse neighbourhood (22 percent immigrants, 26 percent visible minorities, and seven percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures).

Erin Woods

Homesteader John Campbell and the CPR received the original land grants in the area that became Erin Woods. Thomas Richard Copp (1864–1944) later ranched on the part of this property before retiring to Calgary with his wife, Harriet, in 1913. They eventually moved into the Hyde Residence (1402 Prospect Avenue SW) in Upper Mount Royal, which is on The City's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources.

Following its annexation in 1961, this area became part of Eastfield's broader planning district. Nu-West proposed the Erin Woods residential subdivision in 1979 and named it for a suburb of Mississauga, Ontario. It has become a diverse neighbourhood (30 percent immigrants, 43 percent visible minorities, and seven percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures). Erin Woods is separated from Dover by the CNR tracks.

Forest Heights

James Wright received the original land grant to this half-section. In 1909, businessman C.T. Gilbert subdivided this property into a nameless development of large or estate lots punctuated by Isabel, Lily, and Griffiths streets, edged to the north by Centre Avenue (corresponding to Memorial Drive) and Davis Avenue (8 Avenue SE). This subdivision was unsuccessful. Sifton Development (Calgary) Ltd. developed Forest Heights in 1959–60 as a suburb of the Town of Forest Lawn, and it became part of Calgary in 1961. Ernest Morrow Junior High School (1212–47 Street SE) opened in 1964, and it is located on land once farmed by the family of its namesake, Forest Lawn mayor Ernest Morrow. Forest Heights is also the location of the Bob Bahan Pool & Fitness Centre, Ernie Starr Arena, and Forest Lawn Athletic Park.

Forest Heights has become a diverse neighbourhood (39 percent immigrants, 49 percent visible minorities, and five percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures).

Forest Lawn

Forest Lawn's original farmer was Thomas Beveridge (1856–1928), who came west from Collingwood, Ontario, in 1885 and farmed here for over two decades before joining his brother F.D. Beveridge in Calgary's real estate business in 1907. The brothers built the Beveridge Building, a Calgary landmark, from 1911 until 1986. During Calgary's pre-First World War real estate boom, Thomas subdivided several farms in Forest Lawn and Dover as speculative ventures.

Several subdivisions were promoted in this area during the pre-First World War boom, but most were unsuccessful, and Forest Lawn remained an unincorporated hamlet. It became a village in 1934, and it was re-incorporated the following year as a larger

village that included Albert Park. In 1952, Forest Lawn became a town, and it developed a complete set of departments, including police and fire departments. By the early 1960s, the town council attempted to secure city status, but the Town lost a bid to annex adjacent land with industrial potential, and Forest Lawn itself, along with most of the planning area, was annexed at the end of 1961.

Appropriately in a community now known for its immigrant population, half of Forest Lawn's six mayors were immigrants. Ralph Moody (ca. 1876–1961), mayor in 1946–47, was originally from Maine in the United States. Cyriel DeNeve (1895–1959), the mayor from 1955 to 1957, came from Belgium. Forest Lawn's final mayor in 1958–61, Chris Akkerman (1900–1978), was from the Netherlands. The other mayors were Ernest Morrow (1913–1986), mayor from 1947–51; John A. Maveety (1909–1981), mayor from 1951–55; and Elliott L. Dale, mayor from 1957–58. Morrow was born in the Forest Lawn area.

Forest Lawn has become a diverse neighbourhood (27 percent immigrants, 34 percent visible minorities, and ten percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures).

Forest Lawn Industrial

Forest Lawn Industrial is the historic location of Hubalta, a railway settlement and station that expressed the optimism of the pre-First World War boom. Its early farmers included the Morrow family, and son Ernest later became mayor of Forest Lawn. Hubalta had a post office, a store, and a railway station. Calgary businessman Malcolm D. Geddes subdivided Prospect Park in 1907 and Prospect Park Addition in 1909, but these were unsuccessful. After the boom faded, some residents moved away to Albert Park and Forest Lawn, and Hubalta remained as an unincorporated hamlet east of the Forest Lawn municipality.

The area ultimately developed as an industrial district. Early in the 1930s, it was briefly the site of a milling operation. In 1937–38, the Monarch Refinery (5805–17 Avenue SE) was built using bricks recovered from the demolition of an old powerhouse at Bowness. The new plant refined oil from Turner Valley to produce tractor fuel distributed by trucks and rail via the CNR, but it remained in business only until 1941. In 1958, a new owner converted it into Hub Oil, an oil recycling facility. A catastrophic explosion in 1999 killed two employees and resulted in a fire that burned for ten hours and caused \$6.5-million in property damage. All residents of Pembroke Meadows and two mobile home parks in the area had to be evacuated.

Canadian Odeon Theatres opened the Corral 4 Drive-In south of 17 Avenue on 60 Street SE in 1980, and it operated for several years. In the early 1980s, the Fire Department Training Centre—Outdoor Facilities (6015–23 Avenue SE) opened south of the drive-in. In 2004, the facility became home to the Multi-Agency Training (MAT)

Centre, whose function included training for search and rescue missions for catastrophic events such as natural disasters.

Penbrooke Meadows

The original land grants in this section were issued to Asa Landers Hillman (1862–1943), who farmed on the east half, and Florence Pitman (née Chandler, 1864–1941) and her son George H. Pitman (1884–1974), who received the southwest and northwest quarters respectively. William M. Pitman (1861–1916), an early merchant on Stephen Avenue, was Florence's husband and George's father. Quebec-born Hillman worked as a liveryman in Calgary. George Kidd operated a blacksmith shop on what is now 17 Avenue SE in Penbrooke Meadows between 1923 and 1963.

Penbrooke Meadows was subdivided in 1969 and developed as a residential neighbourhood. It has become a diverse neighbourhood (35 percent immigrants, 47 percent visible minorities, and six percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures). The CNR tracks separate Penbrooke Meadows from Red Carpet.

Red Carpet

Red Carpet is a triangle-shaped neighbourhood framed by 17 Avenue SE to the south, 68 Street SE to the east, and the CNR tracks to the north and west. Asa Hillman homesteaded this property, and it remained agricultural land after its annexation in 1961 and its inclusion in a broader planning area called Eastfield. It is named for the Red Carpet Mobile Village (6220–17 Avenue SE), a mobile home park developed around 1970 that was later renamed Penbrooke (or Penbrooke Estates) Mobile Home Park and was again renamed as Calgary Village. The separate Mountview Mobile Home Park was developed to the east in the mid-1970s.

Red Carpet has become a diverse neighbourhood (21 percent immigrants, 22 percent visible minorities, and seven percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures).

Southview

The western portion of Southview was once part of Major James Walker's farm, which has since been subdivided into part of eastern Inglewood, Inglewood Wildlands Park, and the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary. This portion became divided between the Militia Department's rifle range and the nine-hole Colonel Walker Golf Club, which was established in 1927. When the department evacuated the rifle range in 1930, the golf course leased the site and became an 18-hole course. It was renamed the Inglewood Golf Course in 1932.

East of the golf course site, the Southview residential neighbourhood was subdivided in 1950, and its curvilinear streets reflect the era in which it was developed. Some of the houses were moved from Wayne, a former mining community that now lies within the Town of Drumheller, and they predate the neighbourhood itself. As a result, Southview includes lots that are 120 feet deep, a rarity in Calgary. It also forms part of the 17 Avenue SE business district known as International Avenue. The city's first mosque opened in Southview in 1960 in the repurposed St. Luke's Anglican Church (3027–17 Avenue SE).

Southview has become a diverse neighbourhood (18 percent immigrants, 20 percent visible minorities, and seven percent Indigenous, according to 2016 census figures).

Notable structures include the building at 3603–17 Avenue SE with its pleated thin-shell concrete roof and 4 Seas Restaurant sign above, and the Paradise Lanes sign above the strip mall at 3411–17 Avenue SE. Jack Chan (1936–2016), who immigrated from China in 1951, opened the 4 Seas Restaurant in 1966 and operated it until 2009. Tropicana Lanes, Forest Lawn's first bowling centre, opened in the basement in 1960, and it was renamed Paradise Lanes in 1969.

The Cushing Bridge links east and west Calgary across the Elbow River along Southview's northern edge. The 1956 structure replaced an earlier 1906 version of the Cushing Bridge. The present bridge is on The City's Inventory of Evaluated Resources.

09E

Ontario brothers Frank Moorhouse (1866–1948) and Oscar Moorhouse (1870–1953) were among the homesteaders who settled in this area in the 1880s. Family connections link Oscar to the Ellis family for whom Elliston Park in this area was later named. Oscar's wife, Nettie (née McElroy, 1872–1952), was a sister-in-law of Ontario-born Samuel Shepherd Ellis (1865–1936), who settled in 1912 near this site, east of the planning area, with his wife, Lida (née McElroy, 1868–1947), who was Nettie's sister. The sisters' brother George McElroy (1870–1935) also homesteaded nearby, north of Chestermere Lake, in 1890. George was a councillor for the Municipal District of Shepard and was involved in the effort to remove Albert Park and Forest Lawn and have them established as separate villages.

This area was also the location of the "Government well quarter" where an unknown government authority developed a water well for public use. The name remained long after the well was abandoned. A private firm, the Alliance Trust Company, acquired a quarter-section in this that had initially been granted to the CPR. The company's motto, "We Know"—accompanied by a cartoon image of an owl—was reportedly the source of the name for the Weno post office, which operated east of the planning district between 1914 and 1926. Shepard Ellis was its postmaster in 1920–21.

This area remained undeveloped after its annexation in 1961. The East Calgary Landfills (3801–68 Street SE) opened in 1968, and a capped-off area was developed as Elliston Park—named for Ellis’ family—and opened in 1995. The Friends of Elliston Park Society, which helped guide the park’s development, was founded in 1994 by Audrey Miklos, a granddaughter of Shepard and Lida Ellis, and her son Ken Miklos. Many others joined their work. Interpretive signage at the park’s entrance, which is marked by a windmill symbolizing agricultural history, tells the story of settlement, agriculture, and community life in the surrounding area, including the role of the Ellis family. The Ellises farmed and ranched in the area with their five sons and three daughters. Descendants of the Ellis and McElroy families remained involved in community life and continue to live in the area.