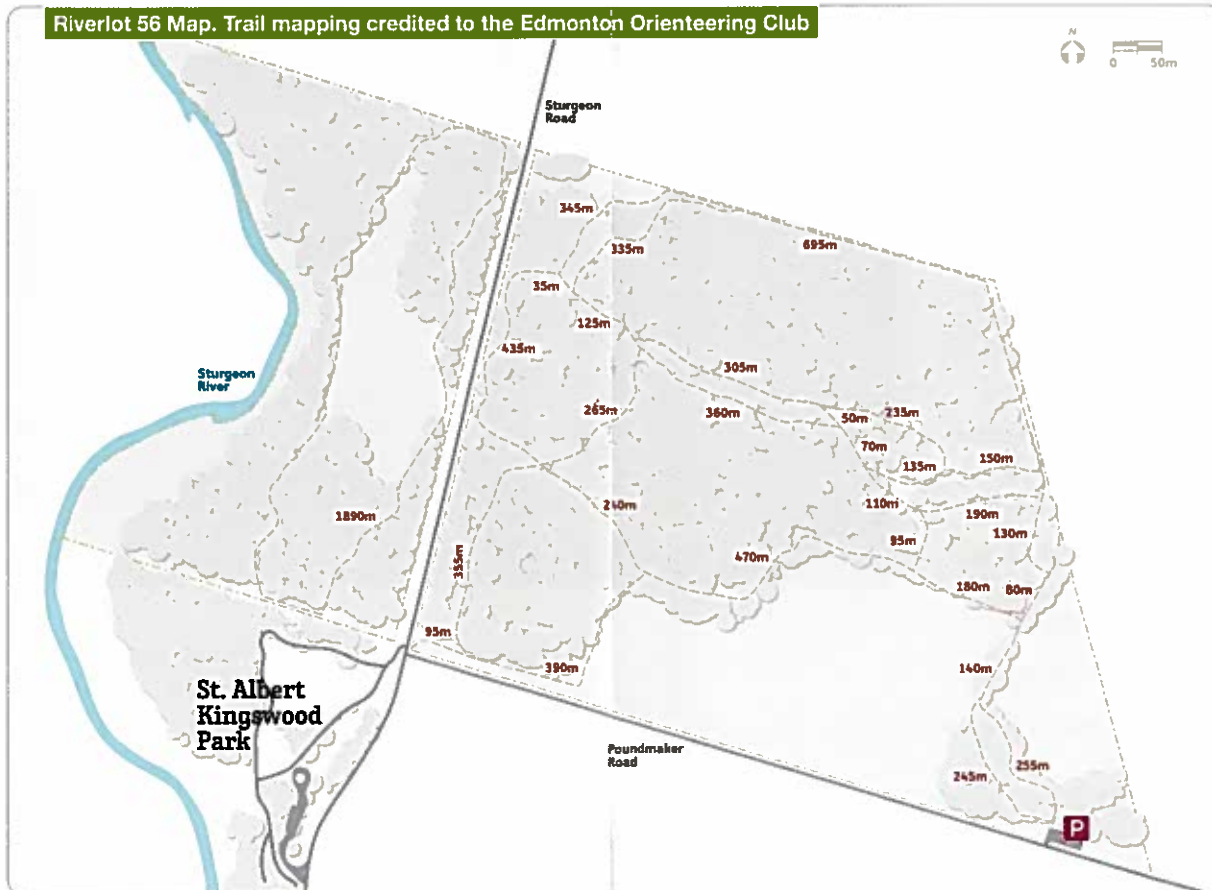


Riverlot 56 Map. Trail mapping credited to the Edmonton Orienteering Club



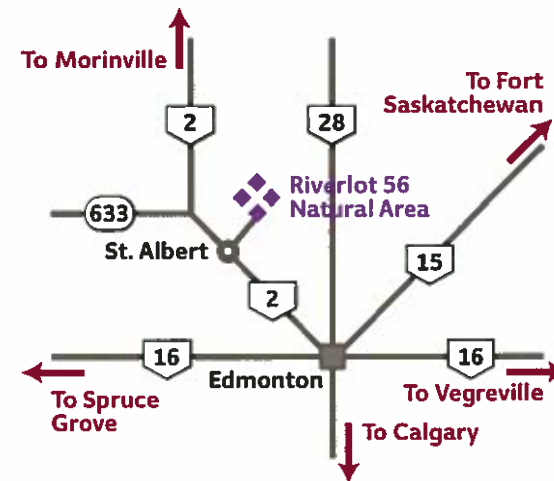
## Contact

**Riverlot 56 Natural Area Society**  
 Website: [www.riverlot56.ca](http://www.riverlot56.ca)

**City of St. Albert**  
 Recreation Services  
 Phone: 780-459-1600

**Sustainable Resource Development**  
 Lands Division  
 Phone: 780-464-7955  
 182 Chippewa Road  
 Sherwood Park, AB T8A 4H5

**Tourism, Parks and Recreation**  
 Parks Division  
 9820-106 Street  
 Edmonton, AB T5K 2J6  
 Web: [albertaparks.ca](http://albertaparks.ca)  
 Toll Free: 1-866-427-3582  
 Phone: (780) 427-3582



ISBN: 978-0-7785-9576-2  
 Printed August 2011

**Government of Alberta**

## Riverlot 56 Natural Area

### SITE GUIDE



**Government of Alberta**

## Location

Riverlot 56 Natural Area is located in Sturgeon County along the banks of the Sturgeon River, just outside the City of St. Albert, Alberta. It is a 108 hectare (267 acre) oasis of public land surrounded by privately owned farmland and housing developments.

## History

Riverlot 56 is one of the original parcels of land divided during the settlement of the region during the early 1900's. The federal government owned and used the site for one of the first Indian residential schools before educational services spread to the northern districts.

In 1965 the land was transferred to the provincial government. Five years later it was designated as the location for the new campus of Athabasca University. However, the proposal for the location of the university was altered in 1971 and people began to use Riverlot 56 informally for outdoor education and recreational activities.

Since 1973 local groups have recognized the value of the site and have worked to ensure



that Riverlot 56 is maintained as a natural setting for outdoor education and recreation.

## Riverlot 56 Natural Area Society

People living in the vicinity have long valued Riverlot 56 for its natural qualities. Wishing to ensure the protection of those natural values, individuals from different organizations met in 1980 to form the Riverlot 56 Natural Area Society. Its goal is to preserve the physical and ecological diversity of the area while promoting nature-oriented educational and recreational activities. In 1985 the Society was granted a recreational lease that has helped the members in their efforts to preserve this valuable land.



## Site Features

Diverse habitat types are found within the Natural Area, from upland aspen forests to open and large meadows to stream bed aquatic plant communities. Patches of willow and cattails grow along the banks of the Sturgeon River. Riverlot 56 is populated with many bird species as well as mammals such as muskrat, beaver, deer and moose.

Recreational trail systems exist on either side of the Sturgeon Road, which cuts across the area. These trails are used extensively for hiking, cross-country skiing and nature observation. Access for recreational activities is excellent year round.

## Riverlot 56 Natural Area and You

The Riverlot 56 Natural Area Society works in cooperation with the Government of Alberta to preserve the site's natural features, while providing opportunities for outdoor recreation and education. You too play a role in keeping Riverlot 56 Natural Area viable for all to enjoy, now and in the future. Here's what you can do to keep it healthy, protect the wildlife living there and assure the safety of all users!

- Stay on the trails to protect the plant and animal life.
- Keep the trails clean and help us by picking up litter.
- Mountain bikes and motorized vehicles are prohibited.
- Fires are illegal.
- ~~Leave your pet at home.~~ Dogs on leash.

Organized groups wishing to use the area must contact the Riverlot 56 Natural Area Society for group use application. The

website and address is on the back of this brochure.

## What are Natural Areas?

Alberta's Natural Areas are special parcels of public land, containing natural features representing one or more aspects of the province's biological and physical diversity. They fall in the middle range of conservation lands in Alberta, between strictly protected lands (such as ecological reserves) and those lands intensively developed for recreation (such as provincial



recreation areas). Natural Areas offer present and future generations the opportunity to appreciate, study and enjoy nature.