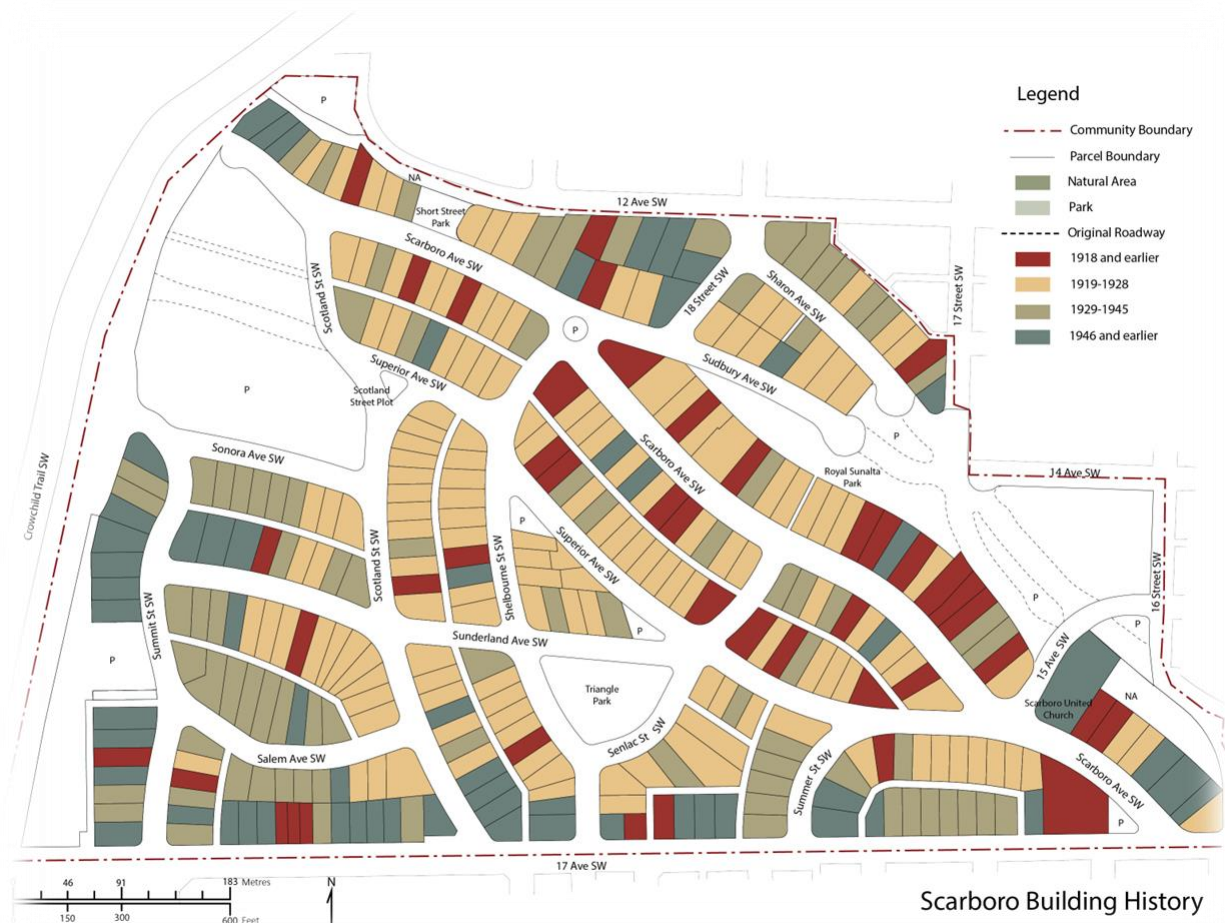


Scarboro Self-Guided Walking Tour



Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) was a prominent landscape architect and city planner known for his influential designs of public parks and green spaces. His son John Charles Olmsted designed Scarboro’s 113 acres under contract to CP Rail in 1910.

The landscapes crafted often showcased curves and irregular shapes that mimicked the natural contours of the land. These soft and flowing designs aimed to create a sense of escape from the rigid and structured urban environments, offering a respite in nature for city dwellers.

While triangles were not always a central element in Olmsted's park designs, Scarboro has eight parks, all triangular in shape. It is the strength of his design principals that creates a unique experience in Calgary’s downtown core. His approach to landscape architecture and city planning sought to bring nature into the heart of cities, enhancing the quality of life for urban residents and visitors. Some of the key strengths of his design principles included:

- **Integration of Nature:** the Olmsted firm believed in the power of nature to improve the well-being of city dwellers by integrating natural elements such as trees and open

spaces. These green spaces offered a respite from the hustle and bustle, providing places for relaxation, recreation, and connection with nature.

- **Accessibility and Equity:** Olmsted was an advocate of creating public parks that were accessible to people from all walks of life. His designs promoted inclusivity and equality, ensuring that everyone, regardless of social or economic status, could enjoy the benefits of green spaces in the heart of the city.
- **Aesthetic Beauty:** The beauty of Olmsted's designs is one of the hallmarks of his work. He skillfully combined natural and man-made elements to create stunning landscapes that were both visually appealing and functional.
- **Sustainable Design:** Although the concept of sustainability as we know it today was not as prevalent during Olmsted's time, his designs inherently embraced sustainable practices. By incorporating natural elements and respecting the existing landscape, he minimized the need for excessive artificial interventions.
- **Circulation and Movement:** Olmsted's designs emphasized the importance of circulation and movement within the park spaces. He carefully planned pathways and routes to encourage exploration and discovery, enabling visitors to experience different aspects of the area.
- **Sense of Place:** Each of Olmsted's parks had a distinct sense of place, reflecting the unique characteristics and cultural identity of the surrounding area. He sought to create parks that were not just generic green spaces but destinations with their own identity and purpose.
- **Social Interaction:** Olmsted's designs fostered opportunities for social interaction and engagement. Parks became places where people could come together, fostering a sense of community and shared experiences.

The application of Olmsted's design principles in downtown cores has transformed urban environments, enhancing the overall quality of life for residents and visitors alike. By bringing nature and green spaces to the heart of cities, these designs provide a balance between urban development and the preservation of natural beauty, making downtown cores more livable and enjoyable places to be.



Follow the map to visit the six parks currently on the walk. Two more parks will be added in the future.

1. **Royal Sunalta Park** - on 1700 14th Ave SW beside the Scarborough Community Centre
2. **Triangle Park** - on 308 Sunderland Ave SW
3. **Superior Plot #2** - on 310 Sunderland Ave SW (across the street from the Triangle Park sign)
4. **Sunalta Ravine** - across from 1512 Summit Street
5. **Scotland Street Plot** - across from 424 Superior
6. **Short Street Park** - beside 440 Scarborough Ave.