

Hermitage Park, City of Edmonton

Location: Edmonton, Alberta

Project: Kennedale Wetland trail signage renewal project

Industries: Interpretive trails, Municipality parks, Environmental & Natural Sciences

Installation Date: 2022

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Edmonton began work on the Hermitage Park Renewal Project in 2021, updating many components of a prominent river valley park. As part of the project, Fuse Consulting Ltd. was brought onboard to assist with the development of educational panels for the Kennedale Constructed Wetland Interpretive Trail Loop.

The Kennedale Constructed Wetland has a unique history and role in the community, and our work required a deep understanding of the unique features of this particular wetland. The completed wetland trail encompassed 8 new interpretive panels, with Fuse completing the design and overseeing fabrication and installation.





Marshes as community protectors
The marsh in front of you may look idyllic and peaceful, but make no mistake — it is a community hero!

A defender of the river
A last defense, Kennedale Wetland acts as a guard to the health of the North Saskatchewan River. Run-off from homes and city streets is often full of sediments, chemicals (such as fertilizers and pesticides), excess nutrients and metals. Marshes, like Kennedale, work to purify run-off water and remove pollutants before the water reaches the river.

The Kennedale water basin is one of four major storm basins in Edmonton.

10% of the City
The Kennedale Water Basin covers over 7200 hectares of land.

A preventer of floods
Marshes have an amazing ability to absorb large influges of water, just like a sponge! When a storm rolls through, excess water not absorbed by greenspaces will runoff roads and other concrete surfaces into stormwater pipes. From here, it will flow into a wetland, such as a marsh, before gradually being released — protecting communities from flash floods.

An urban sanctuary
Marshes and other types of wetlands protect more than just human communities—they are a safe haven and home to numerous species of mammals, birds, and insects that live in our cities. They provide a place to rest and find food, and can act as stepping stones to allow movement of wildlife through our cities.

Female Red-winged Blackbird
The red-winged blackbird relies on marshes as a place to raise their young. The female builds intricate nests within the cattails and grasses surrounding the wetlands, using camouflage to stay safe.

Male Red-winged Blackbird

Sandbar Willow (Salix lasiolepis)
This mighty willow is one of the best defenders against soil erosion. Their dense roots grow quickly and hold the soil surrounding a wetland in place.

PROJECT PARTNERS



Burke Group
Element Fabrication
Based in Edmonton, AB



iZone Imaging
Print and Fabrication
Based in Temple, TX, USA