

community parkland, RIM Park has something for everyone.

RIM PARK COMMUNITY TRAILS

Trail length: 11 kilometres

(including the Walter Bean Grand River Trail)

RIM Park is a 500-acre, 233 hectares, multi-use park located in northeast Waterloo along the Grand River and accessed from University Avenue. Facilities include twelve sports fields, six ball diamonds, four Olympic-sized ice rinks, two double gymnasiums, an indoor field house, 18-hole golf course, heritage farmstead, nature sanctuary and community parkland. The trails wind through the park and along the river for walking, jogging, cycling, roller blading and cross-country skiing.

WALTER BEAN GRAND RIVER TRAIL

Trail length: 4 kilometres

When finished, this trail will be seventy-six kilometres long and will run close to the Grand River from Cambridge, through Kitchener and Waterloo and into Woolwich Township. Running through some of the City's most spectacular scenery, the trail honours former local businessman Walter Bean; a man who was committed to helping our Region develop into a strong and healthy community. Eventually, the trail will connect to Kiwanis Park in Kitchener.

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO THE CITY'S TRAILS AND BIKEWAYS IS HERE!

Look for the new "Official Guide to the City's Trails and Bikeways" available at City facilities. In it, you will find not only the trails at RIM Park that include the Walter Bean Grand River Trail, but an overview of our growing network of trails that take you through Uptown Waterloo, parkland, natural areas, woodlands and creek corridors natural areas, woodlands and creek corridors.



TRAILS FOR ALL SEASONS!

Don't forget that cross-country skiing is available along the Grand River on the Walter Bean Grand River Trail.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

RIM Park: (519) 884-5363

Trails Info: (519) 886-2310

E-mail: rmpark@city.waterloo.on.ca

Website: www.city.waterloo.on.ca/rmpark



LEGEND

- Community Trails
- Bikeways
- RIM Park
- Wetlands & Woodlands
- Parking
- Public Washrooms
- Interpretive Locations (see reverse for details)



* The Elam Martin farmstead is located on the farm. For more information, please refer to the map.

cyclists on over 11 kilometres of trails that wind and loop through the park and along the edge of the Grand River. From the trail you will see the best of informal outdoor recreation that the park offers including a heritage farmstead, playgrounds, and a 13-acre nature sanctuary. Remember to pause and enjoy the amazing views of the Grand River and the Grey Silo Golf Course! Use the trails to travel to the countless sports fields! Parking is available near the Walter Bean Kiosk...and stop after your tour at the Park House for food and refreshments.



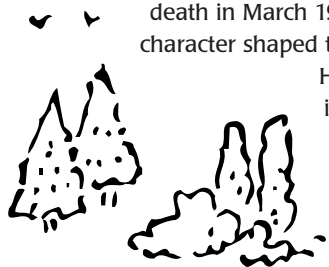
THE WALTER BEAN GRAND RIVER TRAIL

When it is complete, the trail will extend some 76 kilometres and will run close to the Grand River beginning in Cambridge, and running through Kitchener, Waterloo and into Woolwich Township. There will be as many as 18 access points located along the total length of the trail. Many of these points will provide parking, picnic areas, and canoe landings. RIM Park also creates opportunities for fishing, swimming, and observing the flora and fauna native to the Region of Waterloo. Winding its way through the park and along the Grand River are trails to accommodate walkers, joggers, bikers and cross-country skiers. Parking is available throughout the park with access points to all trails. The Walter Bean Grand River Trail is an important part of the RIM Park trail network and will eventually connect to Kiwanis Park in Kitchener. Signage and washroom facilities are available to trail users throughout the park.

WALTER BEAN (1908 – 1998) – A LEADER OF VISION

One of Kitchener-Waterloo's most distinguished citizens, Walter Bean, was born in Kitchener when it was still a small town named Berlin. Walter had many accomplishments as an athlete, K-W businessman, a Captain and then Colonel in the Second World War. Walter Bean made countless contributions to his community during his lifetime. In 1973 Walter Bean was named K-W Citizen of the Year for his deep commitment to the community. Perhaps most significant for Waterloo Region residents is that Walter was, in 1984, the creator and founding chairman of the Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation, a permanently endowed fund dedicated to improving the quality of life in our community. He remained actively involved with Foundation's growth and was its Honorary Chairman at the time of his death in March 1998. Walter's inspiration, ability and character shaped the Foundation. He was a leader of vision.

His modest and unassuming manner inspired and motivated others to continue his good works. It was Walter who first suggested that the Community Foundation become involved in the



A Mennonite Farmstead
The Elam Martin Farmstead is a sixth generation Mennonite family farm located on 11.8 acres of land within the heart of RIM Park. The Martin family history traces to Pennsylvania, where their ancestors purchased the land and set out for Canada in 1820. Elam grew up on this farm and gained ownership in 1959. He conducted a general farming operation during this time as the previous generations had done. The entire farmhouse area has been designated under the Ontario Heritage Act as being architecturally and historically significant. Architecturally, the Farmhouse is Mennonite Georgian in style and entirely suited to the Mennonite Old Order way of life, with a kitchen garden, orchards, smoke house, drying house and wood shed. The Mennonite agrarian way of life, particularly the relationship between remaining land use and building features, has been preserved on this site.



PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Part of the land at RIM Park has environmental significance. Formerly overused agricultural lands, construction of the park has been carefully planned and assessed to preserve the significance of the land as well as to ensure environmental responsibility. Several environmental initiatives at the park have been achieved through the preservation of the wetlands, creeks and native plant material in a 13-acre nature sanctuary.



1 Eastbridge Woodlot *

This woodland is very unusual for the area, because it actually contains relatively few invasive species. These are plant species that are not native to the area, but have been introduced here and often take over and do not allow native vegetation to grow. As you walk through the woods, enjoy the fall colours, and listen to the forest sounds.

2 The Old Oak Tree *

This Bur Oak tree was protected through the construction work. It is estimated to be between 50 and 80 years old. It was preserved in agricultural times because it grew right on the edge of two fields. The area around it is planted to become a tallgrass prairie, which was once a common habitat type to this area of Ontario.

3 Esker *

The small hill is made up of gravel and sand that was deposited here by a glacier. During the ice age, a river running through the ice carried such sediment, and as the glacier melted, deposited the sand, rocks and gravel it carried in long, winding "hills", known as

The Nature Sanctuary has been left free of interference. Please stay out of this area as animals that live here will not be disturbed. What you may see in the field are for birdhouses throughout the spring. Also, watch for the natural changes in this area over the years to come.

5 Herpetofauna *

This term refers to both amphibians (frogs and toads) and reptiles (snakes and turtles). Many different species are found in the park, including the chorus frog, which is a common sight. The many pools on the floodplain provide habitat for many species, and the bridges and culverts under the Grand River provide safe passage for herptiles to cross safely.

6 The Wetland *

This wetland has been designated as a Provincial Wetland because of the unique plant and animal life that make their home here. Wetlands are vital to water quality, as they are efficient in filtering out pollutants from the water.

THE GRAND RIVER VALLEY

The Grand River was the starting point for Ontario when it was granted to Chief Joseph Brant and the Six Nations in 1784 as grateful recognition of the assistance of the Six Nations in aid of the British cause during the American Revolution. The Grand River stretches some 290 kilometres from Lake Huron to the Grand River Trail would provide easy access to the river along its meandering courseway. The Grand River (the 'Ouse') represents a surprisingly abundant natural habitat. There are over 200 bird species that have visited Ontario since the Grand River was declared a Canadian Heritage site. In the 1970's the river has greatly improved in health and provides many fish, recreational opportunities, and provides a scenic view to municipalities throughout its entire length.

7 Deer *

The Walter Bean Grand River Trail goes through a section of forest that is like to travel through the Grand River. RIM Park makes a great habitat for the deer, as the Grand River flows south. Deer are common and get used to people

