



TOPIC: Update - Outdoor Skating Rinks

DATE: Jan. 5, 2021

The City of Vaughan's five outdoor skating rinks remain open with the following health and safety measures in effect:

- In response to COVID-19 directives, the number of skaters on the ice at one time is limited to 25 (includes non-skaters within the enclosed area).
- Skating time is limited to 45 minutes. A horn will be blown to let skaters know when it's time for the next group to enter the ice. Of note, flooding and rink maintenance may take place up to every 1½ hours – people must stay off the ice during that time.
- Practise physical distancing by keeping a safe distance of at least two metres (approximately six feet) from anyone who does not live in your home.
- Wash and sanitize hands properly before and after use.
- Do not speed or figure skate, backward skate, participate in horseplay and skating games, carry children or body-check on the ice.
- Playing hockey and shinny is not permitted.
- Note that changerooms and washrooms remain closed – it is recommended that participants arrive dressed in skating attire, apart from wearing skates. Benches and picnic tables are available for you to sit down to put on and remove skates; however, they are not sanitized.
- Skate in the same direction.
- Wear CSA-approved helmets and protective equipment (e.g. gloves) – while this is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended.
- Wear skates at all times while on the ice, and wear skate guards when off the ice.
- Do not share equipment, including skates, gloves and personal water bottles.
- Gather all your belongings before exiting the rink. There is no “lost and found” on-site.
- Do not litter, and place disposable personal protective equipment, such as gloves or masks, into the garbage bin when done with them.
- Sneeze and cough into your sleeve or a tissue to prevent further transmission of germs, and avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Do not visit parks and skating rinks if you are not feeling well.
- Do not use the ice when signs indicate the ice surface is unsafe.
- Follow the [City of Vaughan Safe Community Centres Policy](#).

Outdoor rinks are located at the following community centres:

- Chancellor Community Centre (350 Ansley Grove Rd.)
- Dufferin Clark Community Centre (1441 Clark Ave. W.)
- Father E. Bulfon Community Centre (8141 Martin Grove Rd.)
- Garnet A. Williams Community Centre (501 Clark Ave. W.)
- Vellore Village Community Centre (1 Villa Royale Ave.)

The five outdoor rinks are expected to remain open daily until March, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., except the rink at Father E. Bulfon Community Centre, which closes at 10:30 p.m. Full details are available at vaughan.ca/skate.

Boots, shoes, food, drinks, cellphones, electronic devices, animals, balls, chairs and strollers are not permitted on the ice – exceptions apply for sledges required to assist those with physical disabilities (the caregiver must wear skates). To ensure all skaters are safe, speed and figure skating, backward skating, horseplay and skating games, carrying children while on the ice, body contact and checking are all not allowed. Read the [Skating Rink Guidelines](#) for more safety information.

At this time, online pre-registration is not required to use Vaughan’s outdoor rinks. The City’s existing processes allow for flexibility with inclement weather and ensure fair access for the public to enjoy the outdoor rinks. City staff remain on-site to manage safety measures.

Of course, another option is creating a rink in your own backyard. Here are some tips from the [Ontario Recreation Facilities Association](#) to make your do-it-yourself rink a success:

- Ensure there is enough space to suit the needs of the rink, including width and depth.
- Create a frame and lay a tarp within the frame on the ground – while a tarp is not required, it speeds up the freezing process.
- Ensure the ground is relatively level.
- Build in layers – spray water and let it freeze, then repeat. The water should level out the surface.

A few consecutive days below -8 °C, overcast skies and no rain or snow are ideal for building an ice rink. To maintain your rink, keep it free from snow. Freezing rain and slush freeze differently and will result in an unpleasant skating surface. If this occurs, the rink can be smoothed out by scraping or flooding it with more water to level it out. Consider adding a layer of water each evening after use to smooth and level out the surface.

Recognizing that we are in a declared state of emergency due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, City staff continue to explore different options to provide the public with safe winter activities where physical distancing is in place. Other winter activities currently include the toboggan hill located at North Maple Regional Park (11085 Keele St.) and the City’s many trails, including: William Granger Greenway nature walk, Mackenzie Glen neighbourhood walk, Sonoma Heights neighbourhood walk, Peter Rupert neighbourhood walk, Rainbow Creek neighbourhood walk, Marita Payne neighbourhood walk, Riverwalk neighbourhood walk, Maple Nature Reserve nature walk, Jersey Creek neighbourhood walk, Sugarbush nature walk, Vellore neighbourhood walk and North Maple Regional Park nature walk.

Those who feel unwell, and believe they have symptoms related to COVID-19, should contact York Region Public Health at 1-800-361-5653 or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000. For additional information and resources on COVID-19, including physical distancing tips and advice from Public Health officials, visit York Region's website at york.ca/COVID19.

To receive the City's latest updates on COVID-19, check vaughan.ca/COVID19, sign up for the City Update eNewsletter at vaughan.ca/CityUpdate and follow the City's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) channels.