

Recreation Guide

Winter

2026/27



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Winter Session

The Winter session will run from November 30th to February 28th

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, November 27th

Click Here to Register

Or Visit
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Visit the Township of Essa Administration Centre at 5786 County Road 21, Utopia, Ontario for a printed version of this guide. To request an accessible format, please email parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca.



Message from Council

Dear Essa Residents:

As winter settles across our Community, Essa Council wants to extend warm, healthy, and safe wishes to every household. This season brings the beauty of snow-covered landscapes, and some challenges, icy roads, inclement weather conditions, and a need to check on our shut ins.

Our Parks and Recreation Department has worked hard to bring you programs for all ages to enjoy. There are lots to choose from. Be sure to check them out and join in the fun with a family member or friend.

To keep you moving we also have 2 free Seniors Fitness and exercise groups in Angus and Thornton. There are also Senior events held at the Thornton Library, Ivy Hall, Angus Legion where you can play cards. Our Essa Public library has new programs or events featured every month check out their calendar.

Reminders:
Safety first: drive cautiously, give extra time for travel, and please do the posted speed limits. Follow the no parking winter bylaws.
Stay informed: sign up for free to the emergency alerts, follow Essa's website, and Facebook for notices of road closures, community services.

Our Public Works Department works hard throughout the winter season to keep roads and sidewalks clear and services running. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as they respond to the Winter conditions. Please move over when you see a green flashing light, our Firefighters are responding to an emergency call where every second counts.

Your Essa Council for 2026-2030 looks forward to working with our Essa Residents.

Thank you to our Essa Staff who work diligently to ensure Essa Township delivers our great services to our Residents. Thank you to our volunteers who make such a difference on what can be provided to our Residents. A big heartfelt thank you to our Residents for making Essa the best place to call home.

Warm Regards,
Your Essa Council
Mayor Sandie, Deputy Mayor Mike,
Councillors, Pieter, Henry, Liana



Welcome to the Township of Essa

Where Town and Country Meet

Your Township at a Glance

Property Taxes & Water Bills

- Pay bills, register for eBilling and manage accounts through Virtual City Hall
- Pre- authorized payment plans are available
- Water and sewer services are operated by Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA)

Garbage and Recycling

- Recyling collection is managed by Simcoe County and Emterra Environmental
- Download the County of Simcoe app for personalized schedules, reminders and service alerts

Parking & By-law Information

- Overnight parking restricitions apply November 1 to May 1 between 2am-8am
- Burn permits are required for recreational and outdoor dires
- Dogs must be licensed within the Township

Building & Development

- Building permits may be required before starting construction projects
- Contact Ontario One Call before digging to arrange underground utility locates

Eplore Your Community

Parks and Recreation

Enjoy year-round recreation programs, camps, drop-in activites, ice rinks, parks, playgrounds, sports fields, courts and trails.

Essa Public Library

Visit the Angus or Thornton branches for books, eBooks, family programming, literacy support and a variety of other resources

Community Resources

The Angus Food Bank provides support to individuals and families in need. Donations of non-perishable food and essentail household items are welcome.

Stay Connected and Informed

Stay up to date with Township news, notices and newsletters, Council meetings, community events, employment opportunities and municipal services

Visit Our Website

Scan for the New Resident Guide

TOWNSHIP of ESSA

Registered Programs

VON SMART

Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together

The VON SMART (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together)® program offers group exercise classes to community members 55 years and older or any adult living with a disability who wants to improve their strength, balance and mobility through low-impact exercise. The exercise classes are facilitated by fitness instructors and/or volunteers who receive specialized training and ongoing education to deliver safe exercise programs for all levels of ability. Participants are encouraged to work at their own pace, wear comfortable clothing and supportive shoes. The exercises can be completed seated or standing. Participants can sign themselves up for group classes or be referred by a healthcare provider, family or friend. The program is fully funded, so there is no cost to participate.

Pre-Registration with the VON Office is required prior to participating in the VON SMART Exercise Program. Please call 705-737-5044 ext 225 and leave a brief message with your name, number and class location you would like to register for (i.e. Thornton Community Centre). We will get back to you as soon as possible to complete the registration over the phone.

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Meeting Room
Price: Free
Age: 55+

MON	10:30 AM	1 HR	Nov 30th - Feb 22nd	Ongoing

No Class: Dec 21, 28, Feb 15

WED	9:30 AM	1 HR	Dec 2nd - Feb 24th	Ongoing

No Class: Dec 23, 30

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga is a modified form of yoga where we use a chair for support during seated and standing yoga postures. It offers the same physical and mental health benefits as traditional yoga - strengthening, stretching, flexibility and balance. It is gentle and accessible for anyone, even those with mobility concerns or anyone new to yoga. Chairs are provided. Bring some water if needed.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $64.00 + HST
Age: 55+

WED	1 PM	1 HR	Jan 6th - Feb 24	8 WKS

No Class: N/A



Hatha Yoga

Brought to you by Side Door Yoga, this 60 minute yoga class is designed to be accessible and beneficial for all students of all levels. We focus on movement, breath awareness, stretching and relaxation. Bring your own yoga mat, water and any yoga equipment you may use (ie, blocks, straps)

Location: Angus Recreation Centre- Banquet Hall
Price: $105.00+ HST
Age: 18+

MON	7: 30 PM	1 HR	Jan 4th - Feb 22nd	7 WKS

No Class: Feb 15

Location: Thornton Community Centre- Banquet Hall
Price: $105.00 + HST
Age: 18+

MON	7 PM	1 HR	Jan 4th - Feb 22nd	7 WKS

No Class: Feb 15

Pilates

Gain strength, mobility and mind-body connection. Because of the progressive sequencing, this class is for all levels. Classes will focus on abdominal, hip and spine strengthening and increasing the overall total body range of motion.

Location: Thornton Community Centre- Banquet Hall
Price: $120.00 + HST
Age: 18+

TUES	7 PM	1 HR	Jan 5th - Feb 23rd	8 WKS

No Class: N/A

Side Door Yoga Program Discount

Register for more than one program provided by Side Door Yoga and receive 15% off the second class

Strength and Conditioning

Brought to you by Side Door Yoga, this structured high intensity interval style of workout is designed to improve overall physical fitness through a combination of cardiovascular, strength and flexibility exercises. All equipment is supplied. A yoga mat is encouraged for floor work and a water bottle is highly recommended.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $120.00 + HST
Age: 18+

WED	7:30 PM	1 HR	Jan 6th - Feb 24th	8 WKS

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $120.00 + HST
Age: 18+

WED	7 PM	1 HR	Jan 6th - Feb 24th	8 WKS

Understanding Health through Nutrition

New Program

A 6-week interactive nutrition workshop exploring eating patterns, nutrition information and influences on food choices. Gain practical strategies and confidence to make informed sustainable choices.

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $60.00 + HST
Age: 18+

THURS	6:30 PM	1 HR	Jan 7th - Feb 11th	6 WKS

No Class:

Program registration begins Friday November 27th at 5 PM. Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Basketball Skills (5-12)

Junior Basketball participants learn the fundamental skills of basketball through fun, engaging games and drills, building essential qualities including: leadership, sportsmanship, teamwork and respect.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Price: $120
Age: 5-8 years

THUR	6 PM	50 MIN	Jan 7th Feb 25th	8 WKS

No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Price: $120
Age: 9-12 years

THUR	7 PM	50 MIN	Jan 7th Feb 25th	8 WKS

No Class: N/A



Monkeynastix (1-4)

This fun fitness movement education program designed for children ages 1-4 focuses on gross and fine motor skills, balance, coordination, spatial and body awareness utilizing a variety of safe activities with specialized equipment and music.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Price: $108
Age: 1-2 years

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Jan 6th Feb 10th	6 WKS

No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Price: $108
Age: 2-3 years

WED	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Jan 6th - Feb 10th	6 WKS

No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Price: $108
Age: 3-4 years

WED	6:30 PM	30 MIN	Jan 6th - Feb 10th	6 WKS

No Class: N/A



Program registration begins
Friday November 27th at 5 PM.
Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Learn to Dance (3-4)

For toddlers ages 3-4 who love to move, they will learn introductory dance moves through creative expression and dance play. With upbeat and age appropriate moves and music. Styles to be introduced: Ballet, Jazz and Hip-Hop.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $60.00
Age: 3-4 years

FRI	5 PM	30 MIN	Jan 8th - Feb 26th	8 WKS

No Class: N/A

Learn to Dance (5-6)

An introduction to Ballet, Jazz and Hip-Hop. Kids ages 5-6 will learn basic dance skills, movement, balance, rhythm and coordination in a fun and upbeat environment.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $60.00
Age: 5-6 years

FRI	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Jan 8th - Feb 26th	8 WKS

No Class: N/A

Learn to Dance (7-9)

Kids ages 7-9 will learn beginner dance steps in Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Musical Theatre. Kids will learn to find their own style and expression in a fun and supportive class while improving coordination and flexibility.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $80.00
Age: 7-9 years

FRI	6:30 PM	1 HR	Jan 8th - Feb 26th	8 WKS

No Class: N/A



Learn to Dance (10-12)

Kids ages 10-12 will get to explore different genres of dance such as Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Musical Theatre. They will learn beginner dance moves, dance combinations and team work. They will also work to build confidence, coordination, flexibility and friendship.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall
Price: $80.00
Age: 10-12 years

FRI	7:30 PM	1 HR	Jan 8th - Feb 26th	8 WKS

No Class: N/A

Program registration begins Friday, November 27th 2026 at 5 PM. Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



March Break Camp

Sports Camp

In partnership with Elevation Athletics. Campers will learn the fundamentals of multiple sports including basketball, soccer, badminton and pickleball over the week. Campers will participate in skills and drills that focus on developing hand eye coordination, foot work, technique and team building skills. There will also be exciting and stimulating games, activities and crafts to make for an action packed and fun filled day!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Age: 6-11 years
Dates: March 15th - 19th, 2027
Price: $200
Times: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Drop Off: 9:00 am - 9:30 am
Pick Up: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Capacity: 15 Campers



Yoga & Arts Camp

In partnership with Side Door Yoga studio. A week of movement, mindfulness, and creativity at our Kids Yoga Camp! Perfect for children ages 6-11 years. This camp combines yoga, games, crafts, and storytelling to help kids build strength, focus, confidence, and calm. Each day includes gentle yoga poses, breathing exercises, teamwork activities, and time to play. Whether your child is new to yoga or already loves it, they'll enjoy exploring and playing in a supportive environment.

Highlights:

- Weekly themed yoga and activities
- Mindful games & movement activities
- Arts, crafts & nature time
- Relaxation and breathing tools
- Fun, safe, and inclusive space for all

Location: Albert Breau Community Park - Community Park Hall
Age: 6-11
Dates: March 15th -19th, 2027
Times: 7:30 am - 5:00 pm
Drop Off: 7:30 am - 9:00 am
Pick Up: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Capacity: 20 Campers

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, November 27th, 2026 at 5pm.
Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Drop-in Programs

November 30th-February 28th

Pickleball Drop-in (Ages 18+)

A dynamic paddle sport blending elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, played on a compact court with a unique perforated ball, offering fast-paced fun for all adults. Paddles and balls are available.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Times: Mondays & Thursdays (10:30 AM - 12:30 PM), Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Fridays (8 - 10 AM)
Exclusion Dates: Dec 24, 25, 31, Jan 1, Feb 15

Pickleball Drop-in (Ages 11+)

A dynamic paddle sport blending elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong, played on a compact court with a unique perforated ball, offering fast-paced fun for all adults and youth. Paddles and balls are available.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Times: Mondays & Wednesdays (7:30 PM - 9:30 PM)
Exclusion Dates: Dec 16, Feb 15

Inclusive Recreation Drop-in (11+)

Join our drop-in sport sessions, where residents of all abilities can connect, build community, and enjoy playing various sports together. Sports equipment is provided. Free entry for support workers.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Times: Fridays (1 - 3 PM)
Exclusion Dates: Dec 25, Jan 1

Family Basketball Drop-in (Ages 5+)

A drop-in program providing families with an opportunity to come and play a variety basketball

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Times: Mondays (5:30-7 PM)
Exclusion Dates: Feb 15

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Ages 4 and under- Free
Ages 5-17: $3
Ages 18-64: $5
Ages 65+: $4
Family (up to 4)- $9



All drop-in times are subject to change.
Please refer to the schedule online for the most up-to-date schedule. Click HERE for the online schedule.



Drop-in Programs

Senior Walking & Exercise Group (55+)

The Angus & Area Seniors walking and exercise group meets every Monday and Thursday. This is a fun group that exercises to 60s music with lots of stretching, balancing, dance moves, tapping, and wall exercises, finishing up with an inside walk with fellow members. This is a free program, just bring your water and indoor shoes!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Times: Mondays & Thursdays (8:45-9:45 am)
Exclusion Dates: No classes if school busses are cancelled

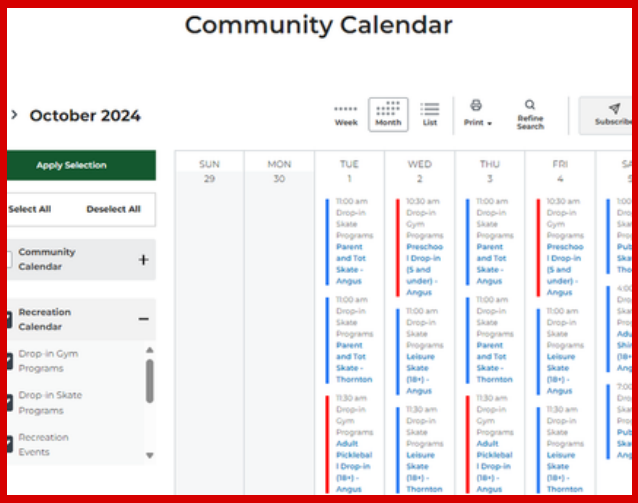
Preschool Drop-in (5 and under)

Explore our preschool drop-in program, where little ones can engage in fun activities, socialize, and learn through play in a supportive environment. Free entry for parents/guardians.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium
Times: Wednesdays & Fridays (10:30 AM - 12 PM)
Exclusion Dates: Jan 1

Recreation Calendar

Check out our Recreation Calendar located on the Township of Essa website!
To view the calendar click HERE



***All drop-in times are subject to change.**
Please refer to the schedule online for the most up-to-date schedule. Click HERE for the online schedule.

Skating Drop-in Programs

Skating programs will run from September 27th, 2026 to March 28th, 2027

Public Skate (All Ages)

Enjoy public skating sessions at our rink, where individuals and families can glide around the ice, have fun, and stay active together.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Fridays (5 - 5:50 PM), Saturdays (4:30-5:30 PM) & Sundays (12 - 1:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 18, 19, 20, Dec 25, Dec 26, Jan 1, Jan 2, Jan 23, 24, Mar 5, 6 ,7, 26

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays (5 - 5:50 PM), Fridays (5 - 5:50 PM), & Saturdays (1 - 1:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 25, Dec 26, Jan 1 Mar 5, 6, 7, 26

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Skating:	Shinny:
5 & Under: Free	All Ages: $5
Ages 5+: $3	Goalies are free!

Leisure Skate (18+)

Experience leisure skating at our rink, a relaxed and enjoyable activity suitable for individuals looking to go for a leisurely skate.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays (11 - 12:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 24, Dec 31

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays & Thursdays (11:30 - 12:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 24, Dec 31

Parent & Tot Skate (5 & under)

Parent and tot skate sessions provide a fun and supportive environment for young children and their caregivers to enjoy skating together. Caregivers must be 18+.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Wednesdays (11 - 12:20 PM)

Exclusion Dates:

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Wednesdays (9:30- 10:20 AM)

Exclusion Dates:



Children Shinny (5-10)

Shinny hockey for children ages 5-10 offers a friendly and active introduction to the sport. Full equipment is required. Parents/Guardians (18+) are welcome to support and receive free entry.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Saturdays (3:30 - 4:20 PM) & Sundays (7:30 - 8:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 18, 19, Jan 2, Jan 23, 24 Mar 6, 7

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Mondays (4-4:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Feb 15



Youth Shinny (11-17)

Youth shinny hockey for ages 11-17 provides a dynamic and inclusive environment for players to hone their skills and enjoy friendly competition. Full equipment is required.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Sundays (7:30-8:20 PM) Mondays (4 - 4:50 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Feb 15, Mar 7

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Tuesdays (4 - 4:50 PM)

Adult Shinny (18+)

Adult shinny hockey for ages 18 and up offers a recreational and competitive opportunity for players to enjoy the sport in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Full equipment is required.

Angus Recreation Centre:

Times: Saturdays (7-8:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates: Dec 19, Jan 2, Jan 23, 24, Mar 6

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Thursdays (3 - 4:30 PM)

Exclusion Dates Dec 24, Dec 31

***All drop-in times are subject to change.**
Please refer to the schedule online for the most up-to-date schedule.
Click HERE for the online schedule.

Equipment Rules

Helmets are mandatory for all public skate participants ages 10 and under and are highly recommended for all users.

Full equipment is mandatory for all Shinny programs.



HOLIDAY SKATE SCHEDULE

ANGUS RECREATION CENTRE

MON DEC 21ST	TUES DEC 22ND	WED DEC 23RD	THURS DEC 24TH	FRI DEC 25TH	SAT DEC 26TH	SUN DEC 27TH
Public Skate 11-12:20PM	Leisure Skate 11AM-12:20PM	Parent & Tot 11AM-12:20PM	Public Skate 9-10:20AM			Public Skate 12- 1:20PM
Youth Shinny 4-4:50PM	Public Skate 1-2:20PM	Public Skate 1-2:20PM				Children Shinny/ Youth Shinny 7:30-8:20PM
Public Skate 5-5:50PM	Youth Shinny 3-3:50PM	Children Shinny 3-3:50PM				

MON DEC 28TH	TUES DEC 29TH	WED DEC 30TH	THURS DEC 31ST	FRI JAN 1ST	SAT JAN 2ND	SUN JAN 3RD
Public Skate 11-12:20PM	Leisure Skate 11AM-12:20PM	Parent & Tot 11AM-12:20PM	Public Skate 9-10:20AM			Public Skate 12- 1:20PM
Youth Shinny 4-4:50PM	Public Skate 1-2:20PM	Public Skate 1-2:20PM				Children Shinny/ Youth Shinny 7:30-8:20PM
Public Skate 5-5:50PM	Youth Shinny 3-3:50PM	Children Shinny 3-3:50PM				

HOLIDAY SKATE SCHEDULE

THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

MON DEC 21ST	TUES DEC 22ND	WED DEC 23RD	THURS DEC 24TH	FRI DEC 25TH	SAT DEC 26TH	SUN DEC 27TH
Parent & Tot 10:30-11:20AM	Children Shinny 2-320PM	Parent & Tot 9:30-10:20AM	Public Skate 9-10:20AM			
Public Skate 2-3:20PM	Youth Shinny 4-4:50PM	Public Skate 2-3:20PM				
Children Shinny 4-4:50PM	Public Skate 5-5:50PM	Adult Shinny 6-6:50PM				

MON DEC 28TH	TUES DEC 29TH	WED DEC 30TH	THURS DEC 31ST	FRI JAN 1ST	SAT JAN 2ND	SUN JAN 3RD
Parent & Tot 10:30-11:20AM	Children Shinny 2-320PM	Parent & Tot 9:30-10:20AM	Public Skate 9-10:20AM		TAAC Sponsored Public Skate 1-1:50PM	
Public Skate 2-3:20PM	Youth Shinny 4-4:50PM	Public Skate 2-3:20PM				
Children Shinny 4-4:50PM	Public Skate 5-5:50PM	Adult Shinny 6-6:50PM				

Skate Punch Passes

Are you someone who frequently comes to our public skates, or are you looking for a great gift for the holidays? Enjoy 10 flexible visits to public skating at any Township of Essa facility for $27! This means you will receive 10 skates for the price of 9!

- **Step One: Go to townshipofessa.perfectmind.com and create an account**
- **Step Two: Hover over the "Purchase" button on the top of your page and click "Products"**
- **Step Three: Pay for your pass and pick it up at one of our facilities**
- **Step Four: Skate!**



Passes can be picked up within 7 days of purchasing, at the Thornton Community Centre, Angus Recreation Centre, or the Township of Essa Administration Centre. Please find a Township of Essa staff member and bring proof of purchase (email confirmation or physical receipt) when picking up your pass.

Passes are not valid for shinny programs and are non-refundable. Skating is at your own risk – helmets are strongly recommended. Schedules may change based on facility needs or weather. Check online for the up-to-date schedule at https://www.essatownship.on.ca/play-explore/recreation-programs-events/drop-in-programs/ and follow our Facebook page for the latest updates or cancellations at https://www.facebook.com/essatownship.

RZone Policy in Place

Township of Essa Parks, Facilities, Programs & Trails

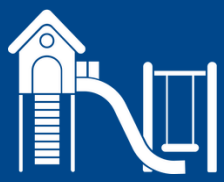
Respect for yourself
Respect for others
Responsibility for your actions



Be nice. Violence, assault, abusive language and bullying are not tolerated.



Keep parks and facilities clean. Do not litter.
Put garbage and dog waste in receptacles or take home.



Respect all municipal property, including equipment, buildings and natural areas.



Report suspicious activity or property damage.

Report criminal behaviour, property damage, and violence immediately to:
OPP Emergency - 911
OPP non-emergency - (705) - 434 -1939

To report an RZone incident (litter, graffiti, broken equipment or glass, etc.), please contact Township of Essa at 705-424-9917

TOWNSHIP of ESSA
Where Town and Country Meet



Facility Rentals

Facilities

The Township of Essa offers a diverse array of facility rental options within Angus, Thornton, Baxter and Utopia. Whether you are planning a private event, family gathering, birthday party or tournament, we have the perfect venue to make your occasion unforgettable!

Hall Rentals

All rentals with alcohol are subject to the Municipal Alcohol Risk Management Policy and Agreement.
Please click **HERE** to complete and submit a rental request form.
Visit the Facility Rentals webpage by clicking **HERE** to view the Fees Schedule and to find out more information about facility rentals.

Rental opportunities include:

Gymnasium
Ice & Floor Pads
Halls & Meeting Rooms
Pavilions & Park Spaces
Sports Fields & Diamonds
Outdoor Pads

Want to Get Your Business Noticed? Advertise with us!

- Arena Rink Wall (4' x 8') - $250.00
- Arena Rink Board (2.5' x 5') - $400.00
- Changeroom Door (3" x 12") - $200.00
- Ice Resurfacer - $2,500.00
- Advertisement on Rink Surface - $850.00
- Letter-sized, framed wall ad for Community Centres - $100.00
- Banner for Dog Park/Sports Field (4'x10') - $100.00

For Rental and Advertising Inquiries Contact:

(705) 424-9917 ext. 108

parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca

Angus Recreation Centre

8529 County Road 10

This multi-purpose facility features a full-sized rink, gymnasium, fully equipped hall and skatepark. From hockey, indoor soccer and fitness classes, to dances and birthday parties, the Centre can accommodate a wide variety of functions all year round.



Thornton Community Centre

246 Barrie Street

This multi-purpose facility features a full-sized rink, fully equipped hall, outdoor splash pad, ball diamond and park. This facility is perfect for all your event needs.



Outdoor Pads

Various Locations

The Township of Essa is equipped with 3 Outdoor Pads for Community use and rentals. Perfect for a game of ball hockey!



Baseball Diamonds

Various Locations

The Township of Essa has many baseball diamonds in its inventory. Diamonds are located in Angus, Baxter, Thornton, Ivy and Elmgrove. Available for Community use and rentals.



To view more information about facilities and rentals click HERE



Ice Rentals

The Township of Essa has two ice skating rinks available to rent from Mid September-March each year.

Angus Recreation Centre	Thornton Community Centre
8529 County Road 10	246 Barrie Street

View availability here: Xplor Recreation

Contact the Parks and Recreation Department to book:
parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca
Prime Time $220.00/50 minutes (plus HST & insurance):
5 pm - 12 am Monday to Friday, 6 am - 12 am Saturday/Sunday

Non-Prime Time $138/50 minutes (plus HST & insurance):
6 am - 5 pm Monday to Friday

Last-minute ice rentals can be booked within 1-48 hours of your desired time and pay $99/50 minutes (plus HST & insurance) Excludes Saturdays and Sundays



Ice Birthday Parties

NEW

Angus Recreation Centre

8529 County Road 10

Days and Times Offered:
Saturdays from 4pm-6:30pm
Sundays from 12pm- 2pm

Thornton Community Centre

246 Barrie Street

Days and Times Offered:
Saturdays from 12:30pm-2pm

From beginner to experts, this activity is great for both small and large groups. Available September through March. Participants must follow all public skating rules while participating in a scheduled skate. Helmets strongly recommended.

1.5 hours in a multi-purpose room (Plus 15 minutes set-up)
Participation in a Public Skate pending room availability
Private ice birthday parties are also offered pending ice and room availablity
Outside food, snacks, and cake permitted

For every 10 children, 1 adult is required (with a minimum of 2 adults).

Public Skate Party Fees:
$200.00 plus HST

Private Skate Party Fees:
$300.00 plus HST

Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department for more information!
parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca



Outdoor Activities

Parks

The Township of Essa offers a diverse array of parks and open spaces for residents and visitors to utilize. With all our offerings, there's something for everyone in our parks and facilities to enjoy!

Communities within the Township of Essa have access to many enjoyable spaces and parks, including ball diamonds, soccer fields, dog parks, playgrounds, splash pads, skate parks, fishing parks, multi-sport courts used for basketball and pickleball, as well as outdoor pads. Baseball diamonds, soccer fields, playgrounds, splash pads, skate parks, and multi-sport facilities will be closed during the winter season. The park spaces, trails, and dog parks remain open, and we encourage residents to take advantage of the spaces for winter recreation activities such as playing in the snow, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, etc.



Dog Parks

The Township of Essa is home to two dog parks located in Thornton and Angus. When visiting a dog park, please remember...

- Owners will be held liable for all actions of their dog
- Owners must be present at all times
- No other animals allowed
- All owners are responsible to **"Stoop and Scoop"** and to dispose of excrement in the appropriate waste receptacles

Motorized Snow Vehicles

The Township of Essa is fortunate to have many beautiful natural spaces, please respect the natural environment while enjoying the recreation it offers. Under By-Law 2005-23, motorized snow vehicles are permitted to operate on designated trails and spaces.

To find local trails and keep up to date with trail conditions, visit the OFSC website by clicking HERE.

For more information on By-Law 2005-23 visit the Township of Essa website by clicking HERE or see the next page.



Trails

Township of Essa

The following trails are maintained by the Township of Essa:

Pine River Trail

The Pine River Trail is a 1.5 km trail that meanders through the Nottawasaga Fishing Park and LeClair Park. Enjoy the picturesque Nottawasaga River while hiking this trail.

Rippon Trail

The Rippon Trail is a 1 km trail that connects Peacekeepers Park at the north end of Mill Street to the Nottawasaga Fishing Park, and the Pine River Trail.

Thornton Cookstown Trail

The Thornton Cookstown Trans-Canada Trail is a 15.6 km shared use trail between the villages of Thornton and Cookstown. This trail is a part of nearly 24,000 km of trail that goes through 13 provinces and territories. It travels through green pasture land and forest, and crosses the Cookstown Creek.



County of Simcoe

The following trails are located in the Township of Essa but maintained by the County of Simcoe:

- **Baxter Tract of Simcoe County Forest**
- **Foster Tract of Simcoe County Forest**

The County of Simcoe provides nature and hiking enthusiasts with a plethora of trails scattered throughout Simcoe County forests.

For information on these tracts, please contact the County of Simcoe at 705-726-9300.

Conservation Area Trails

The following trails are located in Essa and are maintained by local conservation authorities

Utopia Conservation Area Trails

The Utopia Conservation trails encompass an area of 100 acres which is used as passive green space. The conservation area is open to the public for passive recreation and features the historic Utopia Grist Mill.

Tiffin Conservation Area (Tiffin Centre Loop Trail)

The Tiffin Centre is a spectacular place for a walk or to bring your gear and bike, cross-country ski or snowshoe on 5 km of looped trails that meander through a mixture of wetlands, forests, open meadows and ancient lake beds. It is home to the Tiffin Centre Loop Trail, which is situated in the Township of Essa.

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Ganaraska Hiking Trail

The Mad River section of the Ganaraska Hiking Trail encompasses a 50.5 km section of trail that runs through Angus and Glencairn. The trail follows the Mad River in the direction of Creemore and Glen Huron, where the Ganaraska Trail meets the Bruce Trail.

This trail is maintained by the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association. For more information about this trail, please contact the Ganaraska Hiking Trail Association Inc.

Click **HERE** for more information on trails in the Township of Essa.



Maps

Essa Township is home to a variety of trails, parks, facilities, and conservation areas. Explore where they are located below!

Thornton



Burke Family Park: 35 Kevin Cresent
Earl Cunningham Park: 3 Henry Street
Len Vanderpost Park: 246 Barrie Street

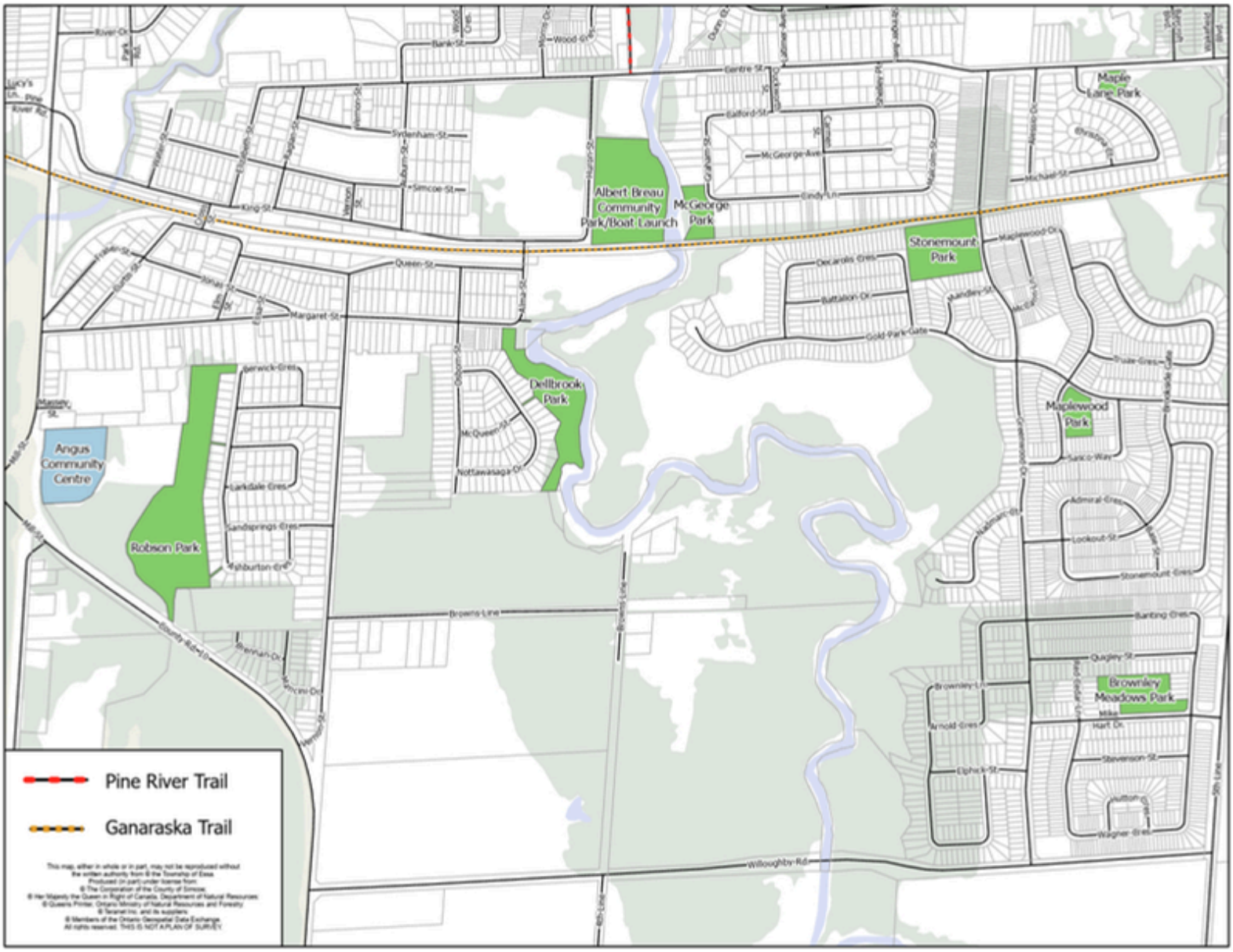
Thornton Arena: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Arena Ball Park: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Soccer Pitches/Dog Park: 4256 7th Line

North Angus



Bob Geddes Park: 147 Centre Street
Glen Eton/Wildflower Park/Dog Park: 42 McCarthy Cresent
Lions Ball Park: 4 Park Road
LeClair Park: 54 Roth Street
Peacekeepers Park: 12 Commerce Drive

South Angus



Albert Breau Community Park/Boat Launch: 6 Huron Street
Angus Community Centre: 8529 CR 10
Brownley Meadows Park: 60 Mike Hart Drive
Dellbrook Park: 240 Margaret Street
McGeorge Park: 107 Graham Street
Maplewood Park: 191 Maplewood Drive
Maple Lane Park: 8 Michael Street
Robson Park: 23 Berwick Cresent

Rural Parks

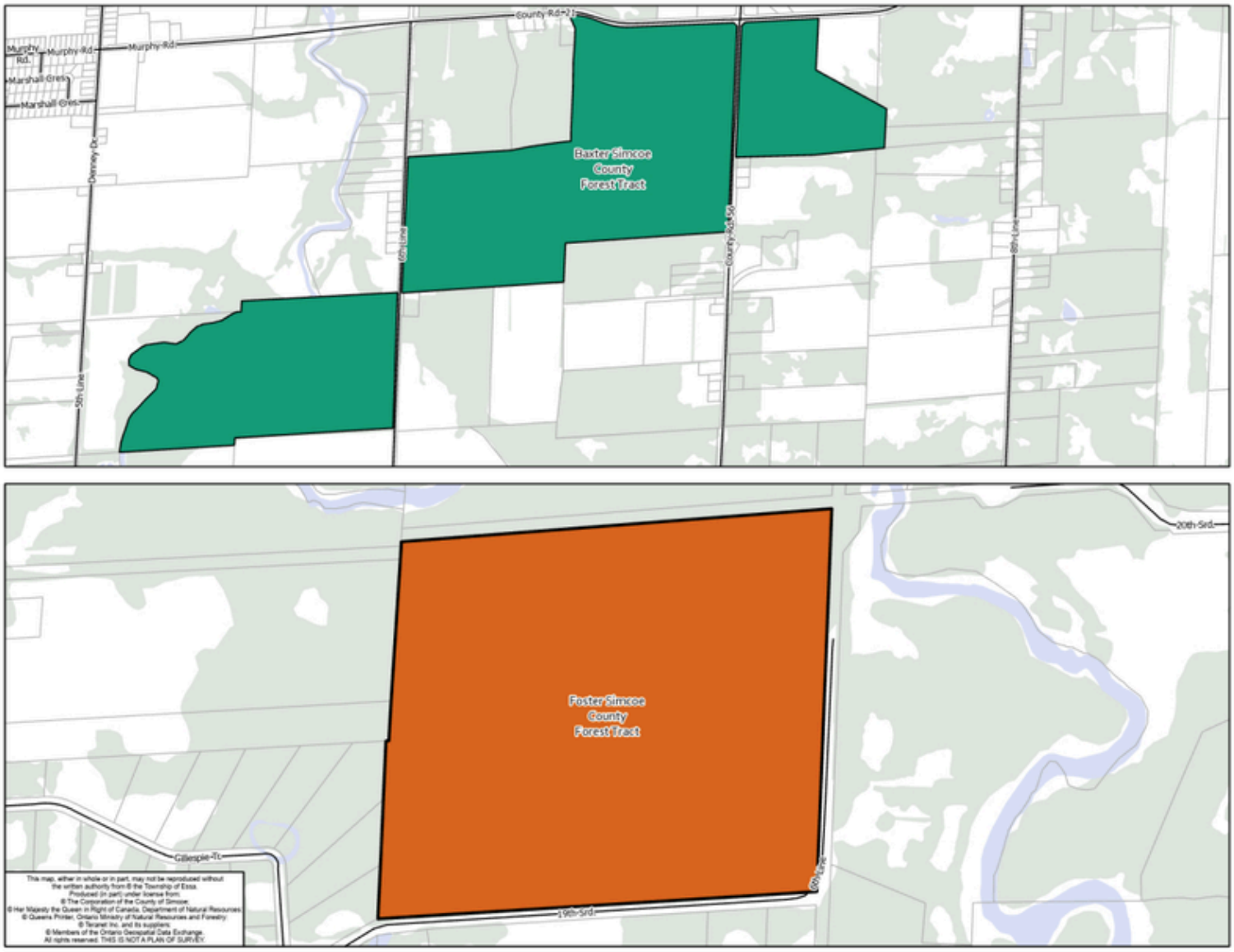




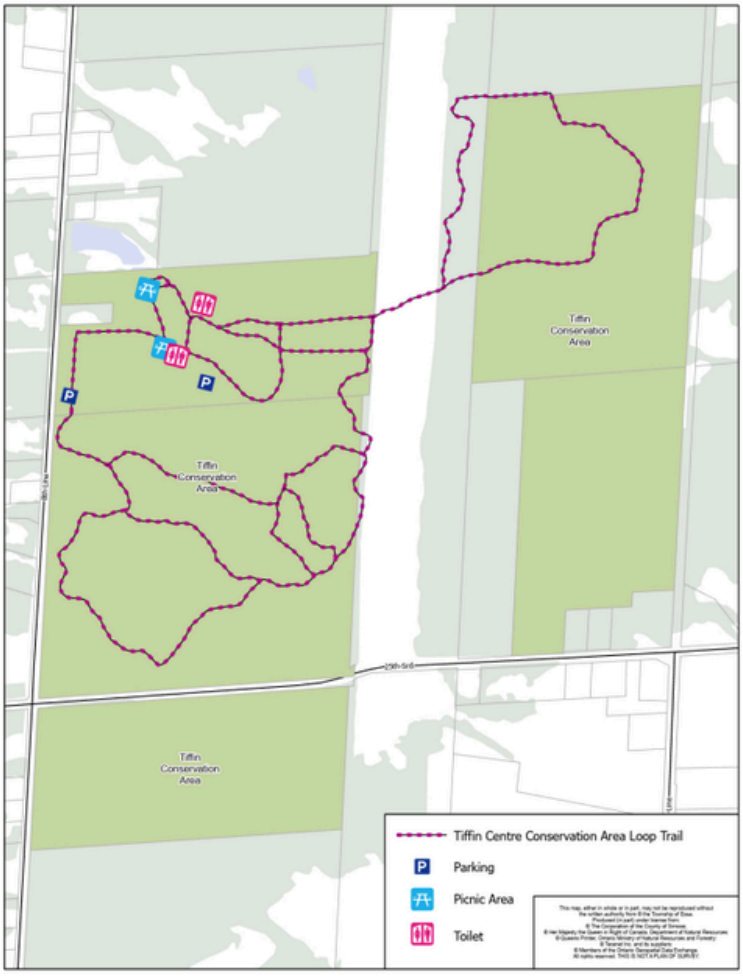




Egbert Park: 5200 10th Sideroad
Elmgrove Ball Park: 6580 5th Sideroad
Utopia Park (Soccer Pitch): 8378 6th Line
Victoria Ball Park: 5079 20th Sideroad



Baxter Simcoe County Forest Tract: Located across from the Township of Essa Administration Building (5786 CR 21)
Foster Simcoe County Forest Tract: Located off of the 19th Sideroad and 6th Line

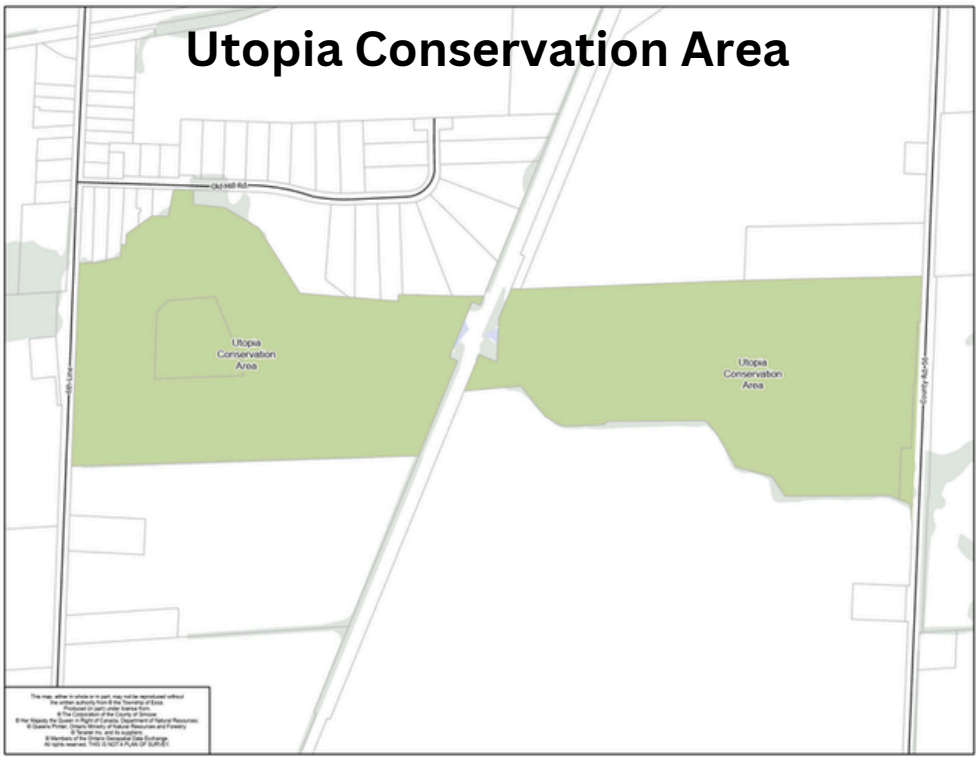


Tiffin Conservation Area: 8195 8th Line

For more information, click HERE

Utopia Conservation Area: 8609 6th Line

For more information, click HERE





Arts, Culture & Heritage

Building Origins

Thornton Community Centre

The Thornton Arena was built on land donated by the Stewart Family and the first artificial ice was installed in 1969. A fire in September 1973 lead to a rebuild and reopening of a new Arena in the same spot in the fall of 1975.

Angus Recreation Centre

In 1972 Angus residents came together to fund raise for an Arena. With the clearing of trees and debris, hard work, holding dances, raffles and soliciting for funds, the doors to the Arena finally opened in September 1977.

Thornton Library

For many years, the Thornton Library operated out of the back of a local store. The current location of the Thornton Library opened in November 1997.

Angus Library

The current Angus branch building opened in 2011. The previous space was in use from 1967 to 2011.

Historical Books

Are you interested in the history surrounding the Township of Essa?
The following books are available for purchase at the Essa Public Library or the Administration Centre:

- "Footsteps Into the Past: A History of Angus"
- "Essa: The Garden of Simcoe County"
- "History of Utopia: Utopia Grist Mill"
- "History of Thornton"
- "History of Ivy"
- "History of Egbert"
- "History of Elmgrove"



Organizations

Community Arts and Cultural Organizations

- Maclaren Art Centre: Hub for contemporary art and cultural programming.
- South Simcoe Arts Council: Promotes arts in the South Simcoe region.

Cultural Enterprises and Museums

- Borden Museum: Showcases military history and the heritage of CFB Borden.
- Museum on the Boyne: Preserves the history of the Alliston area.
- Simcoe County Museum: Features exhibits on Simcoe County's history and culture.

Cultural Heritage

- Utopia Grist Mill: Preserves milling heritage.

Cultural Spaces and Facilities

- Essa and District Agriplex: Hosts various agricultural and community events.

Festivals and Events

- Barrie Fair: Held at the Essa and District Agriplex.
- Essa Salmon Derby: Fishing competition held in Angus

Natural Heritage

- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority: Conserves natural resources of the Nottawasaga Valley.
- Peacekeepers Park: Honors peacekeepers.
- Pine River Trail & Thornton Cookstown Trail: Scenic trails for outdoor activities.



Community Events

Community Events

Our community events bring people of all ages with exciting activities, entertainment, and opportunities to meet neighbours and make memories. Stay active, get involved, and experience the best of what our community has to offer. Check out our upcoming events and mark your calendar!

Do you have a community event you want to promote in the Fall? Contact parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca to learn more

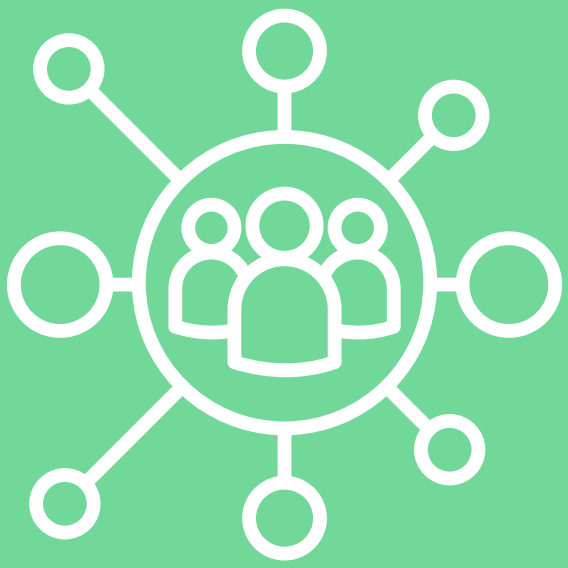




Community Organizations

Community Organizations

Our community is home to a variety of organizations that bring people together, support local initiatives, and enhance the quality of life for residents of all ages. Explore some of the offerings in our community in the following pages.



Are you involved with an organization that supports the community and want to promote your services this Winter? Contact parksandrec@essatownship.on.ca to learn more

Borden Family Resource Centre

The Borden Family Resource Centre provides community based family services which support and enhance the quality of life of the CFB Borden community.

The Centre provides support to...

- CAF Members, Veterans, DND civilian employees and their immediate families
- Families and other individuals of significance to CAF members who have died while serving
- Others who provide direct support to the CAF

Le Centre de ressources à la famille de Borden

Le Centre de ressources à la famille de Borden offre des services communautaires axés sur les familles qui soutiennent et qui améliorent la qualité de vie de la communauté de la BFC Borden.

Le Centre offre du soutien aux suivants...

- Membres des FAC, les vétérans, employés civils du MDN ainsi que les membres de leur famille immédiate
- Familles et autres personnes importantes pour les membres des FAC qui sont morts en service
- Autres personnes qui appuient les FAC



Information

Building E-182
56 Gibraltar Road
Borden, ON
L0M 1C0
705-424-1200 Ext. 3994
bordenfamilyresourcecentre@gmail.com
cfmws.ca

Follow Us! Suivez-nous !

Canada

Borden Family Resource Centre
Le Centre de ressources à la famille de Borden

MFSP PSFM



Contact Us

Contact Us

Parks and Facilities Booking Coordinator
Abbey McClinton
(705) 424-9917 ext. 108
amcclinton@essatownship.on.ca

Parks and Recreation Manager
Chris Rankin
(705) 424-9917 ext. 141
crankin@essatownship.on.ca

Visit Us

Township of Essa Administration Centre
5786 County Road 21, Utopia, ON

Administration Centre Hours of Operation:
Monday to Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Social Media

Facebook
@Township of Essa

X (Formerly Twitter)
@essatownship

Youtube
@townshipofessa2377

Instagram
@townshipofessa