



Recreation Guide Summer 2026



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Summer Session

The Summer session will run from June 1st- August 30th 2026

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, May 1st, 2026 at 5pm

Click Here to Register



Or Visit
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Message from Council

Dear Residents of Essa,

On behalf of your Essa Council, we welcome you to the sunny days of summer. We invite you to explore our parks and trails and to check out the many new and returning Parks & Rec programs for all ages. Our Parks and Rec Staff have been working hard to clean and maintain parks, playground equipment for your safety and enjoyment. Watch for the new additions in some of our parks in Thornton, Baxter, and Angus. Please obey the posted speed limits and drive carefully, our public spaces are busier now with families, pedestrians, and cyclists. Our Public Works Dept will be carrying out road projects throughout the summer; watch for detours and signage. Please pull over when you see green flashing light our Firefighters are responding to an emergency call, where every second counts. We have several milestones to celebrate this summer:

Royal Canadian Legion celebrates its 100th Anniversary July 18, 2026, at the Angus Legion Branch 499.

Utopia Hall celebrates its 70th Anniversary July 11th , 2026, watch for more details.

Canada Day July 1st celebrations hosted by the Angus Lions Club at the Al Breau Community Park in Angus.

Essa Township Swing for Health Tournament June 02, 2026, at Bear Creek Golf Club to register Call Abbey at 705-424-9917ext 108 the proceeds go to RVH, SMHF Hospitals and Matthews Hospice.

Congratulations to all our Essa Graduates, we are proud of your accomplishments and wish you a safe and adventurous summer. Be sure to visit our Libraries for their summer fun activities for all ages. Come out and support our local youth at baseball and soccer games. We have amazing talent to cheer on.

Thank you to our Staff and Volunteers for your support and dedication to make Essa the best place to call home. We hope you will join us in participating in all the fun and historical events Essa has to offer. Have a wonderful and safe summer.

Warm Regards,

Mayor Sandie Macdonald, Deputy Mayor Mike Smith
Councillors Pieter Kiezebrink, Henry Sander, Liana Maltby

Summer Camps

Sports Camp Jr

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: 6-8

Times: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop Off: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Pick Up: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Price: \$195 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Morning Care

Need a little extra time before drop-off at the Angus Recreation Centre? Our Extended Care Program provides a safe, supervised environment for campers outside of regular camp hours.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Age: 6-12

Times: 8:00 am - 9:00 am

Price: \$25 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Sports Camp Sr

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: 9-12

Times: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Drop Off: 9:00 am - 9:30 am

Pick Up: 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Price: \$195 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Afternoon Care

Need a little extra time after pick-up at the Angus Recreation Centre? Our Extended Care Program provides a safe, supervised environment for campers outside of regular camp hours.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Arena Floor

Age: 6-12

Times: 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Price: \$25 (unless on a week with a stat holiday)

Capacity: 10 Campers

Spaces are still available!
 Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

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

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

July 20th - July 24th

\$240.00

August 17th - August 21st

\$240.00



Limited spaces available! Register Today!

Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

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	Jun 1 st - Aug 31 st	Ongoing
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No Class: Aug 3

Zumba

Each Zumba class is a welcoming, energetic space where you can let go of stress, move freely, and reconnect with yourself through the power of dance. Once the music starts and the rhythms take over, you'll understand why our classes are often called exercise in disguise. Come for the workout, stay for the joy!

Location: Angus Community Park Pavilion (6 Huron Street)

Price: \$60 + HST

Age: 18+

TUES	7 PM	1 HR	Jun 2 nd - July 7 th	6 WKS
TUES	7 PM	1 HR	Jul 14 th - Aug 18 th	6 WKS

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: \$80 + HST

Age: 55+

MON	1 PM	1 HR	Jun 8 th - Aug 31 st	10 WKS
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No Class: Jul 6th and 13th, Aug 3rd

Sunset Stretch Outdoor Yoga

This 60 minute summertime outdoor 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). Parking is available at the library.

Location: Angus Community Park Pavilion (6 Huron Street)

Price: \$78+ HST

Age: 18+

MON	7 PM	1 HR	Jun 1st - Jul 6th	6 WKS
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No Class: N/A

MON	7 PM	1 HR	Jul 13 th - Aug 24 th	6 WKS
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No Class: August 3

Location: Thornton Gazebo (across from the Library)

Price: \$78 + HST for 6 weeks \$65 + HST for 5 weeks

Age: 18+

WED	7 PM	1 HR	Jun 3 rd - July 8th	5 WKS
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No Class: July 1st

WED	7 PM	1 HR	Jul 15 th - Aug 19 th	6 WKS
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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: \$78 + HST

Age: 18+

THURS	7 PM	1 HR	Jun 2 nd - July 7 th	6 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre- Banquet Hall

Price: \$78 + HST

Age: 18+

MON	7 PM	1 HR	Jul 14 th - Aug 18 th	6 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Monkeynastix (1-4)

This fun 8 week 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	Jun 3 rd - Jul 15 th	6 WKS
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No Class July 1st

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Jul 22 nd - Aug 26 th	6 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$108

Age: 2-3 years

WED	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Jun 3 rd - Jul 15 th	6 WKS
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No class July 1st

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Jul 22 nd - Aug 26 th	6 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$108

Age: 3-4 years

WED	6:30 PM	30 MIN	Jun 3 rd - Jul 15 th	6 WKS
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No class July 1st

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Jul 22 nd - Aug 26 th	6 WKS
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**Program registration begins
Friday, May 1st 2026 at 5 PM.
Register online at
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com**

Registered Programs

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

MON	5 PM	30 MIN	Jul 6th- Aug 31st	8 WKS
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No Class: Aug 3rd

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

MON	5:45 PM	30 MIN	Jul 6th- Aug 31st	8 WKS
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No Class: Aug 3rd

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

MON	6:30 PM	1 HR	Jul 6th- Aug 31st	8 WKS
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No Class: Aug 3rd

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

MON	7:30 PM	1 HR	Jul 6th- Aug 31st	8 WKS
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No Class: Aug 3rd



**Program registration begins
Friday, May 1st 2026 at 5 PM.
Register online at
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com**

Drop-in Programs

Summer

Angus

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)

Exclusion Dates: Last Day June 22nd

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: Last day June 19th

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 - 11:30 AM)

Exclusion Dates: Last day June 19th

Thornton

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: Thornton Community Centre

Times: Wednesdays (5:00 pm - 7 pm)

Exclusion Dates: July 1st

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 and youth. Paddles and balls are available.

Location: Thornton Community Centre

Times: Mondays (10:30 am - 12:30 pm)

Exclusion Dates: July 13th & 20th

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Ages 0-4: \$2

Ages 5-17: \$3

Ages 18-64: \$5

Ages 65+: \$4

**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.

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 Resurfacers - \$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.



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!



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.



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](#)

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

Splash Pads

The Township of Essa currently has three splash pads, which are open from Victoria Day to Labour Day each calendar year. The hours of operation for the Splash Pads are 10:00 am to 8:00 pm, however Post-Labour Day hours are on a "weather permitting" basis.

Splash Pads are located at the following locations:

- Angus Community Park, 6 Huron Street, Angus
- Thornton Arena Ball Park, 246 Barrie Street, Thornton
- Maplewood Park, 191 Maplewood Drive, Angus



Fishing

The Township of Essa is home to four designated fishing parks, which are scattered throughout the Township. These designated fishing parks are enjoyed by many fishing enthusiasts year-round. The designated fishing parks are located at the following locations:



Essa Centennial Park
Angus Community Park
Nottawasaga Fishing Park
Don Ross Drive Park

Did you know you need a Fishing Access Pass to fish on Essa Township property?

The money collected from the fishing access passes goes back into maintaining our parks for all anglers to enjoy. Seasonal or Day Fish Passes can be purchased at the township office or online [HERE](#).



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 2021-16 All-Terrain and Off-Road Vehicles are approved to travel on ALL municipal roads under the jurisdiction of the Township of Essa.

Off-road vehicles are allowed on permitted roadways between the hours of 7:00am and 11:00pm and are prohibited between 11:00pm and 7:00am

20KM per hour on roadways with a posted speed limit of 50KM per hour or less. 50KM per hour on roadways with a posted speed limit of greater than 50KM per hour.

For more information on By-Law 2021-16 visit the Township of Essa website by clicking [HERE](#).



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.

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.

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.



Bicycle Safety

Every bike ride begins with putting on a helmet. It's important to wear a helmet that fits correctly. Wearing a helmet while riding your bike is the law in Ontario for cyclists under 18. It's important to be safe while riding your bike. We have compiled a list of bike safety tips that should be followed to have a safe enjoyable ride.

- Always wear a helmet
- Wear bright clothing
- Make sure your bike has reflectors mounted on the front and back
- Ride a bike that fits
- If riding on the road, ride in a straight line on the right side of the road in the same direction as traffic
- Know the rules of the road
- If riding on the sidewalk, be mindful of pedestrians
- Walk your bike across streets and make sure you look all ways for traffic
- Ride in a straight line
- Use hand signals

Left Turn



Right Turn



Stop



Operation Brain Freeze

In 2021, the Township of Essa initiated its Operation Brain Freeze campaign to promote safe cycling etiquette, with a focus on the importance of wearing properly-fitted helmets.

Operation Brain Freeze is a well loved program that allows Municipal Law Enforcement Officers to interact with youth in our communities that practice safe cycling and wear properly fitted helmets. Youth that are "caught" by Officers are awarded a certificate, a voucher for a frozen treat, in addition to a bike safety booklet from the Ministry of Transportation.

In 2022, Essa expanded Operation Brain Freeze to include a monthly draw to award a prize. When youth are "caught" by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers, their name will also go into a monthly draw for the chance to win bicycle safety equipment!



Operation Brain Freeze runs from May 1 to September 31 each calendar year. We would like to wish all youth the best of luck in getting "caught", and remember - CYCLE SAFELY!!

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 Crescent
Earl Cunningham Park: 3 Henry Street
Thornton Arena Park: 246 Barrie Street

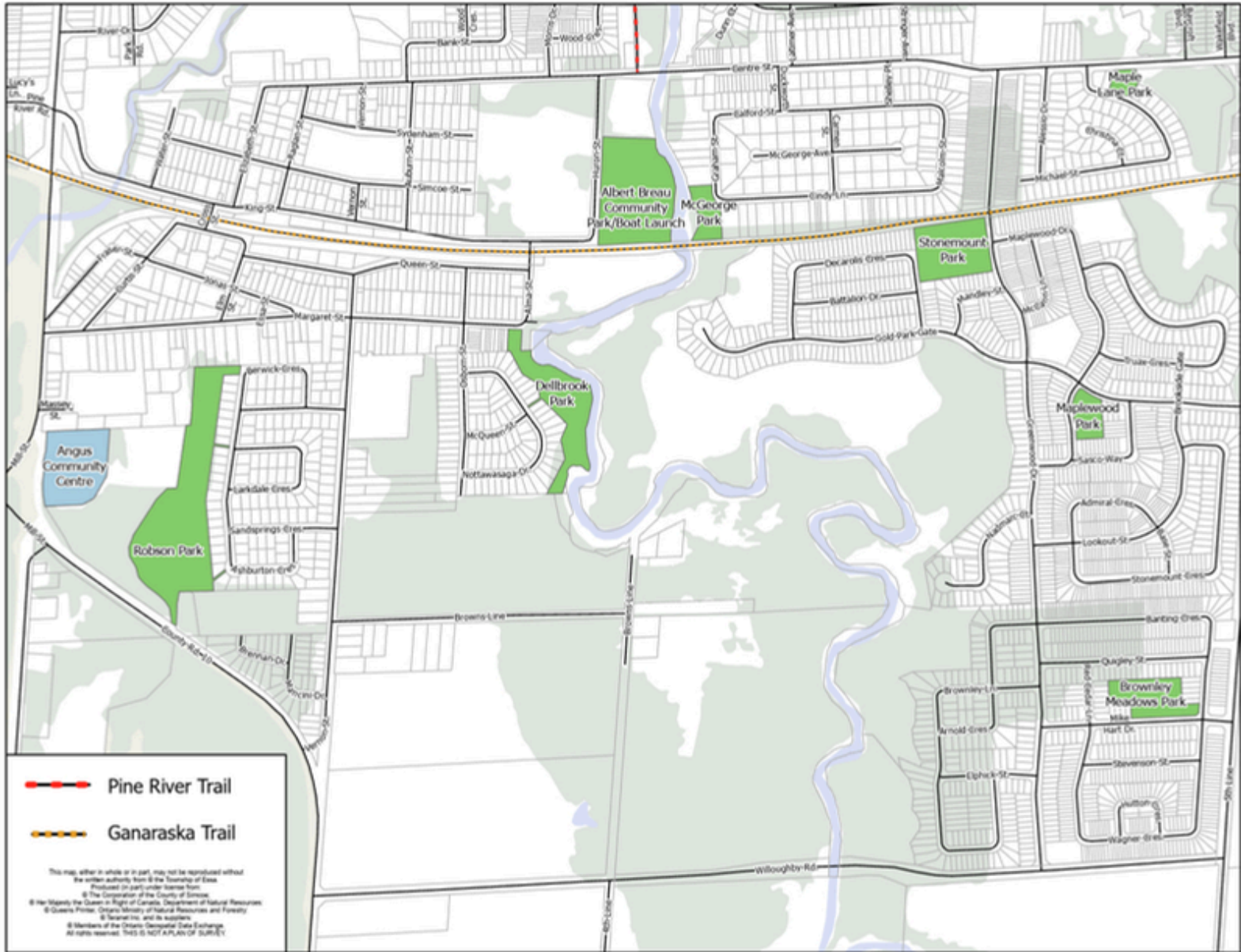
Thornton Arena: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Arena Ball Park: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Soccer Pitches/Dog Park: 4256 7th Line

North Angus



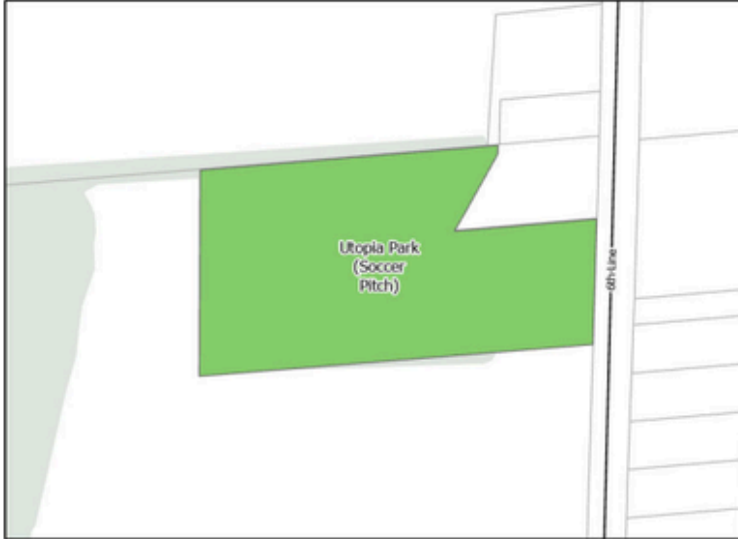
- Bob Geddes Park: 147 Centre Street
- Glen Eton/Wildflower Park/Dog Park: 42 McCarthy Crescent
- Lions Ball Park: 4 Park Road
- LeClair Park: 54 Roth Street
- Peacekeepers Park: 12 Commerce Drive

South Angus

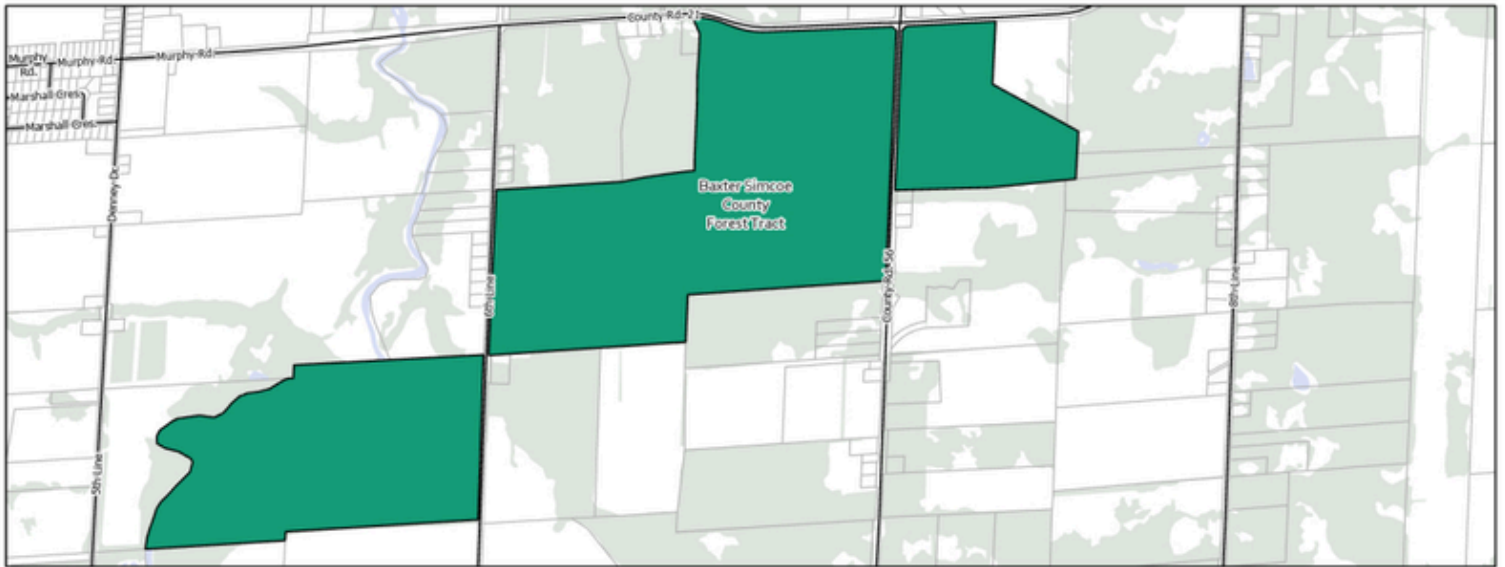


- Albert Breau Community Park/Boat Launch: 6 Huron Street
- Angus Community Centre: 8529 CR 10
- Brownley Meadows Park: 60 Mike Hart Drive
- Dellbrook Park: 240 Margaret Street
- McGeorge Park: 107 Graham Street
- Maplewood Park: 191 Maplewood Drive
- Maple Lane Park: 8 Michael Street
- Robson Park: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


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 led 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**





2026 SWING FOR HEALTH GOLF TOURNAMENT

IN SUPPORT OF

Matthew's House Hospice
Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation
Stevenson Memorial Hospital

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2026 at Bear Creek Golf and Country Club
\$160 per golfer
\$600 per foursome

Registration includes a 1pm shotgun start for an 18-hole round with a cart, lunch, dinner, silent auction and on-course competitions!

Contact the Parks and Recreation Department to Register!

amccclinton@essatownship.on.ca

705-424-9917 ext 108 or visit

<https://townshipofessa.perfectmind.com/>

Thank You to Our Partners!

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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 ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca to learn more



Check out our Community Gardens

For those who don't have time or space for a garden at home—borrow ours.

Veggie and herbs are growing at both Angus and Thornton branches. Jump in any time to give our plants a drink, pull weeds, and help yourself to anything ripe. No library card needed.

Volunteer this summer

Teens can earn community service hours volunteering in our Community Gardens. Sign up online or email info@essalibrary.ca.



Summer Happenings

Don't miss our summer lineup, including Family Fun Night and Summer Reading Club. Stay up-to-date on upcoming programs for all ages by signing up for e-newsletters at essalibrary.ca, or follow us on social media [@essalibrary](https://www.facebook.com/essalibrary).

A place to imagine, discover, and connect.



essalibrary.ca

DIVE INTO SUMMER

- Motivate your reader with games & rewards
- Read what you want where you want
- Join weekly activities and community events

COMING TO ANGUS & THORNTON BRANCH

TD
Summer
Reading
Club

JULY & AUGUST 2026





ASC UNITED Summer Soccer

Join the fun this Summer!

BE A
PART OF
TEAM



**LAST!
CHANGE!**

**REGISTER
NOW!**

Register Online Now
Before It's Too Late!

Season will begin end of May, beginning of June



ascunited.ca

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 !



**ESSA
TOWNSHIP
ADMINISTRATION CENTRE**

Contact Us

Contact Us

Parks and Facilities Booking Coordinator

Abbey McClinton

(705) 424-9917 ext. 108

amclinton@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](https://www.facebook.com/Township_of_Essa)



X (Formerly Twitter)

[@essatownship](https://twitter.com/essatownship)



Youtube

[@townshipofessa2377](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtownshipofessa2377)



Instagram

[@townshipofessa](https://www.instagram.com/townshipofessa)