

Explore Outdoor Recreation Options in Ponoka

Looking for options to get outside and enjoy some fresh air and exercise? There are a growing number of outdoor recreation opportunities in Ponoka for you and your family to explore this winter!

Outdoor Skating

With the brand new Downtown Skating Plaza and the Ice Skating Trail in Lions Centennial Park now open for public use, the options for outdoor skating have never been better in Ponoka! The Town extends a big thank you to the Ponoka East District Fire Department and Town staff for their work in building and maintaining these facilities all winter.

The Centennial Park ice skating trail loops through the park and includes an expanded Christmas light display for skaters to enjoy. The Downtown Skating Plaza features picnic tables and decorative fencing with lighting around the ice surface. The Town Christmas tree was removed from the skating plaza this week along with the removal of other Town Christmas decorations around the community now that the season has ended. The lights in Centennial Park will remain lit until the skating trail is removed in early spring. The Downtown Skating Plaza is open from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. daily. It is located beside the old library at 48 Avenue and 51 Street. Both the ice trail and Downtown Skating Plaza are for public skating only. Hockey is not permitted.

Nets Set Up at Outdoor Rink

Hockey is permitted on the Outdoor Rink (ODR) at the Ponoka Arena Complex. With provincial health restrictions now permitting outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people, Town staff have set up hockey nets to allow citizens to play shinny. A maximum of 10 people is allowed on the ice at one time. Players must physically distance from those outside their own household and wear masks whenever possible.

The ODR is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The change room at the northeast corner of the Arena remains closed to public use until further notice.

Covid-19 Measures

A maximum of 10 people is also permitted on the ice at the new Downtown Skating Plaza. Due to COVID-19, there is only one entrance and one exit at the Downtown Skating Plaza.

At the Centennial Park skating trail, skaters are also asked to keep a two-metre distance from those outside their household. When that is not possible, skaters are asked to refrain from skating until the ice surface becomes less crowded.

Skaters and hockey players at all ice surfaces are asked to limit their time on the ice to allow others who may be waiting for the opportunity to skate as well. Ice users are required to follow all provincial health orders, including physically distancing from those outside of their household, and are encouraged to wear a mask wherever possible.

Other Outdoor Recreation

Additional options for outdoor recreation include the trail system in the Battle River Valley, walking paths throughout the Town's park system and tobogganing at the Tom Hamilton Memorial Hill, located in the southwest corner of Froman Industrial Park behind Siding 14 Brewery on 36 Avenue. Town crews are working hard to keep the trails and walking paths clear during the winter months so citizens can use them to stay active year round.

Cross country skiing will also be available at the Ponoka Golf course when there is enough snow to set the trails. The cross country skiing trails have not been made yet, as a minimum 15 centimeters of snow is needed to protect the grass from damage.



Photo credit: Ponoka News

~ TOWN NEWS ~

- **Brief Power Outages Possible** – The Town of Ponoka Electrical Services Department will be doing routine electrical maintenance beginning this week in all residential areas of Ponoka where there are overhead lines. There may be a need for a brief 30-minute power outage in areas where the maintenance is being completed. The work is expected to continue until the end of February.
- **Hardship Grant for Ponoka Businesses Deadline Jan. 31** – Ponoka businesses whose bottom lines are being hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for financial assistance under the Town's \$50,000 Hardship Grant. The deadline to apply is Jan. 31, 2021. Eligible businesses must physically reside and operate in the Town of Ponoka, hold a 2020 Town business licence and plan to have a 2021 business licence unless they are exempt from requiring a licence. For full details, please visit www.ponoka.ca under 'Recent News'. Questions? Phone 403-783-0127.
- **Town 2021 Business Licence Renewals Due** – Town of Ponoka business licences expire on Dec. 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. Any business licence not fully paid for by Jan. 31, 2021 will be considered expired, upon which, a new application will be required. Please contact the Town to renew your business licence as soon as possible. All businesses conducting business within the Town are required to provide in writing any changes of business information to the Town Office as soon as possible. Changes that must be reported include any change of business location, phone numbers, ownership, etc. Questions? Please contact 403-783-0119 or permits@ponoka.ca
- **Recyclable Materials** bundled in clear or blue transparent plastic bags should be placed at the curb for pick up Jan. 20, 21 and 22 – depending on which Zone you live in.
- **Grey Carts and Green Carts** should be placed at the curb for pick up on Jan. 27, 28 and 29 – depending on your Zone.

~ UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS ~

- **Next TOWN COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 @ 6 p.m.**
- **Next COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 @ 6 p.m.**
- **The public is welcome to observe all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings electronically due to COVID-19. Please register first** by no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting by phoning 403-783-4431 during office hours Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You will be provided with details on how to observe the meeting by telephone or an online audio link.
- **Public Forum:** If you would like to address Council via telephone during the Public Forum portion of the meeting, please register by no later than 12 noon on the day of the meeting by phoning 403-783-4431.



Hometown Weekly
Town of Ponoka News & Events

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