



Recreation Guide Spring 2025



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Spring Session

The Spring session will run from March 3rd, 2025 to June 1st, 2025

Registration

Program registration begins Friday, February 14th, 2025 at 5pm

Click Here to Register



Or Visit
townshipofessa.perfectmind.com



Message from Council

Happy Spring Essa Residents,

I bet everyone is excited for the longer days and warmer weather to get out on our trails or enjoy time at our Essa Parks. We have new parks and some parks have been updated with new equipment. We have great Staff that works hard to keep our arena's indoor and outdoor, parks and trails along with programs up and running for all our residents to enjoy. Be sure to look at all the programs Essa Parks and Rec has to offer. Pickleball seems to be a fan favourite. If you have any classes you would like to see added to our great roster of programs, please let our programmer Alex know, he is always looking for new ideas and classes for all ages to deliver to our residents.

Essa Minor Hockey is wrapping up their stellar Hockey Season. I hope you had a chance to watch a few of the games it was great to see all the local hockey talent Essa has. Thank you to all the Volunteers who make this possible for our youth.

Essa Minor Baseball is looking forward to a home run baseball season. We hope you come out to cheer and support our local players. Volunteers are always welcome to help.

Essa Access Fishing Passes are available online, at the Essa Administration Building, and at Wolf's Den on the 8th line of Essa.

Angus Seniors walking and exercise group meets Monday & Thursday mornings 8:45am - 10:00am at the Angus Arena. We do chair, resistance, standing, and wall exercises followed by walking. This is FREE just bring your indoor running shoes and water. It is done to 60's music. Sandie Macdonald will be celebrating her 25th year facilitating the group & helping to get all participants stronger and fit.

Hosted in the Thornton Community Centre. The VON SMART (Seniors Maintaining Active Roles Together) offers classes by fitness instructors for adults 55 years and older and adults with disabilities. This is a great opportunity to improve your balance get stronger and better mobility. Participants must pre-register with VON by calling 705-737-5044 ext 225. This is FREE just bring indoor shoes, and water.

Our Essa Public Library delivers classes on so many great topics for all ages. Most classes are FREE and a few have a cost associated with them. They are all listed on their website.

Essa Council and Staff continue to work to bring Essa Residents healthy programs to keep moving and improving your physical and mental health while enjoying meeting new people in your communities. Stay tuned to keep up with the newest initiatives that Alex and the Parks and Recreation Department has in store for you. Enjoy the April showers knowing that it will bring May flowers.

Kindest Regards,
Mayor Sandie, Deputy Mayor Mike
Councillors, Pieter, Henry & Liana

Message from the Parks & Recreation Team

Welcome Essa Township residents, to a fresh season of fun, fitness, and connection! Spring is here, and we're thrilled to share all the amazing things happening in our parks, trails, dog parks, and playgrounds. Whether you're looking to get active, explore nature, or spend quality time with loved ones, we have something for everyone.

Have a great spring season,

Chris Rankin - Manager of Parks and Recreation

Registered Programs

Older Adults (55+)

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.

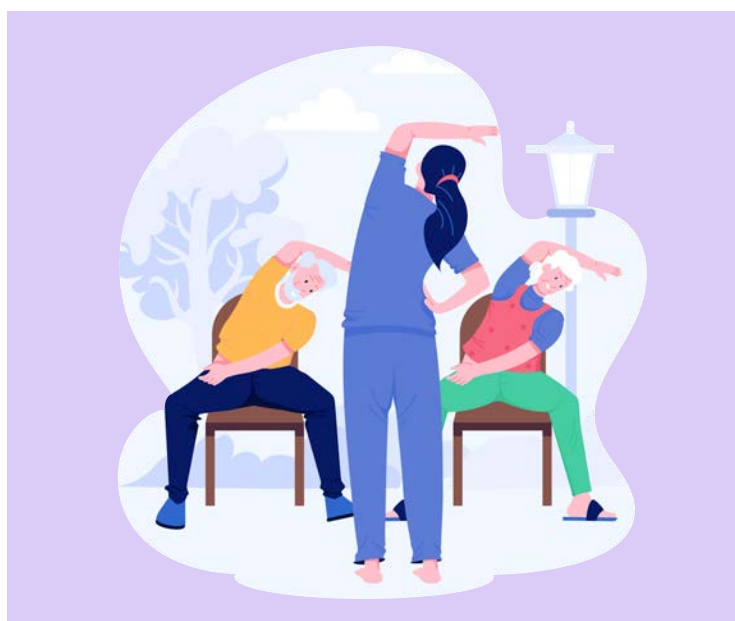
Location: Thornton Community Centre - Meeting Room

Price: Free

Age: 55+

MON	10:30 AM	1 HR	Mar 3rd - May 26th	Ongoing
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No Class: Apr 21st & May 19th, 2025



Adults (18+)

Hatha 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: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

THUR	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 6th - May 29th	10 WKS
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No Class: Mar 13th, Apr 10th & 24th, 2025

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

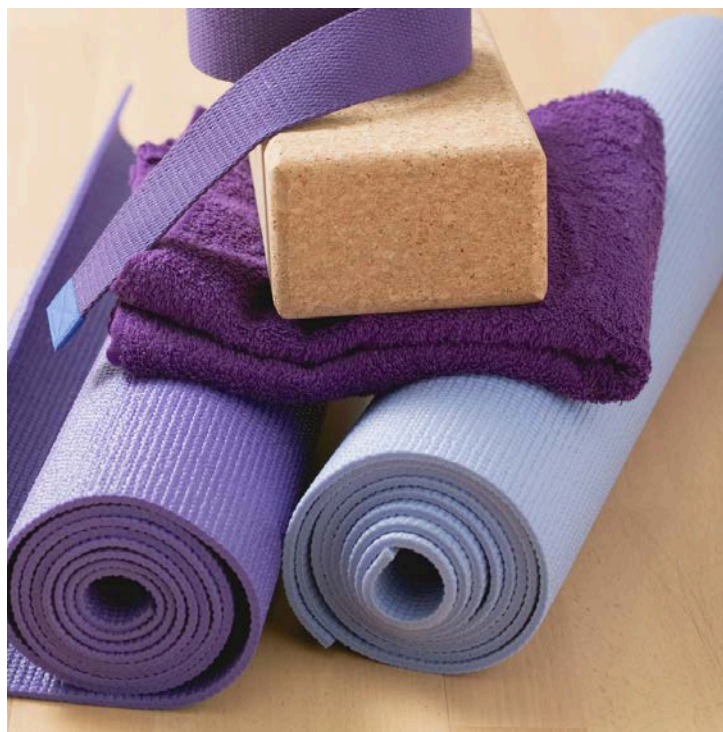
Age: 18+

MON	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 3rd - May 12th	10 WKS
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No Class: April 21st, 2025

THUR	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 6th - May 8th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A



Strength and Conditioning

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: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

WED	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 5th - May 14th	10 WKS
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No Class: April 23rd, 2025

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

WED	7:30 PM	1 HR	Mar 5th - May 7th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Zumba

Perfect for everybody and every body! Each Zumba class is designed to bring people together to sweat it out.

How It Works:

We take the "work" out of workout, by mixing low-intensity and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. Once the Latin and World rhythms take over, you'll see why Zumba Fitness classes are often called exercise in disguise. Super effective? Check. Super fun? Check and check.

Zumba is a total workout combining all elements of fitness – cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility, boosted energy and a serious dose of awesome each time you leave class.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

TUES	5:30 PM	1 HR	Mar 4th - May 6th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Adults (18+)

Learn to Play Pickleball - Beginners 1

Our “Learn To Play” program is perfect for those stepping onto the court for the first time. This introduction to pickleball covers the very basics: rules, etiquette, serving, and essential drills and skills to get participants playing quickly. This program is ideal for players at the 0.0 – 2.0 level.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$124 + HST

Age: 18+

TUES	5 PM	1 HR	Mar 18th - May 6th	8 WKS
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No Class: N/A

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: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$130 + HST

Age: 18+

TUES	7 PM	1 HR	Mar 4th - May 6th	10 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Beginner Pickleball League

The Beginner Pickleball League is designed for those with limited experience in the sport. In the first weeks, players will be divided based on skill level, with very basic instructions provided for those unfamiliar with the game, while others dive straight into gameplay.

This program is a doubles league where our coaches assign teams each week. League facilitator tallies the points and ranks everyone in the league standing at the end of each week. This program is ideal for players at the 2.0-2.5 level.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$100 + HST

Age: 18+

TUES	6:15 PM	2 HR	Mar 18th - May 6th	8 WKS
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No Class: N/A



Registration

Program registration begins Friday, February 14th, 2025 at 5pm.
Register online Register online at townshipofessa.perfectmind.com

Children (0-10)

Art Exploration

Attention young artists of Essa Township! Join us in an 8 week program designed to foster creativity and self-expression, while learning key art techniques. Children will explore various art mediums including acrylics, watercolour, ink, pastels, and pencil. Lessons focused on developing colour mixing skills and incorporating elements such as line, value and texture will enable children to create a diverse range of artworks. Suitable for all skill levels, from beginners to intermediate artists. This program requires no prior experience, and all materials will be provided. Just bring your creativity and love of art!

Location: Thornton Community Centre - Meeting Room

Price: \$140

Age: 5-10 years

WED	5 PM	1 HR	Mar 5th - Apr 30th	8 WKS
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No Class: March 12th, 2025

Art Exploration II

Attention young artists of Essa Township! Join us in an 8 week continuation of our Art Exploration for Kids program designed to extend creativity and self-expression, while expanding on knowledge of key art techniques. Children will explore various art mediums including watercolour, ink, collage, and mixed media. Lessons delve deeper into elements such as colour, value and texture, leading up to the creation of a final art project. Suitable for all skill levels, from beginners to intermediate artists. All materials will be provided. If you are a former participant of Art Exploration for Kids, feel free to bring your sketchbook. Get ready to expand your creativity and love of art!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Banquet Hall

Price: \$140

Age: 5-10 years

THUR	5 PM	1 HR	Mar 6th - May 8th	8 WKS
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No Class: March 13th & April 24th, 2025

Monkeynastix

This fun 5 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: \$90

Age: 1-2 years

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Mar 5th - Apr 16th	5 WKS
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No Class: April 2nd & 9th, 2025

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Apr 30th - May 28th	5 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$90

Age: 3-4 years

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Mar 5th - Apr 16th	5 WKS
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No Class: April 2nd & 9th, 2025

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Apr 30th - May 28th	5 WKS
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No Class: N/A

Location: Angus Recreation Centre - Gymnasium

Price: \$90

Age: 2-3 years

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Mar 5th - Apr 16th	5 WKS
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No Class: April 2nd & 9th, 2025

WED	5 PM	30 MIN	Apr 30th - May 28th	5 WKS
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No Class: N/A



The Township of Essa is committed to the delivery of quality child recreation programming and is a proud HIGH FIVE® Registered Organization! HIGH FIVE is a quality assurance standard for children's recreation and sport. To learn more about HIGH FIVE® visit the website by clicking [HERE](#)

HIGH FIVE® A quality standard for recreation and sport programs. Founded by Parks and Recreation Ontario.

Skate Drop-in Programs

The last day of skating programs is
March 30th, 2025

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: Saturdays (3:30-5:30 pm) & Sundays (12-1:20 pm)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 8th & 9th

Thornton Community Centre:

Fridays (5-5:50 pm) & Saturdays (1-1:50 pm)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 7th & 8th

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: Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (11-12:20 pm)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 5th, 7th, 10th & 12th

Thornton Community Centre:

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays (11:30-12:50 pm)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 7th

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.

Angus Recreation Centre:

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

Exclusion Dates: Mar 4th, 11th & 13th

Thornton Community Centre:

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

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

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

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: Fridays (5-5:50 pm)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 7th

Thornton Community Centre:

Times: Mondays (4-4:50 pm)



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: Mondays (5-5:50 pm)

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 (7-8:20 pm)

Exclusion Dates: Mar 8th

Thornton Community Centre:

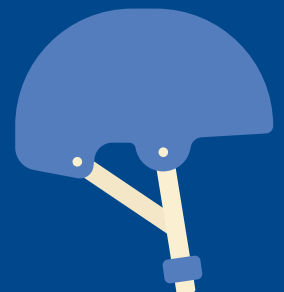
Times: Mondays (5-5:50 pm)

***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.



MARCH BREAK SKATE SCHEDULE 2025

DROP-IN PRICES (CASH ONLY)

Skating
5 and under: Free
Ages 5+: \$3
Shinny
All Ages: \$5
Goalies are free!

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.

Monday March 10th	Tuesday March 11th	Wednesday March 12th	Thursday March 13th	Friday March 14th
Angus Public Skate (All Ages) 11:30 AM-12:50 PM Children Shinny (5-10) 4-4:50 PM Youth Shinny (11-17) 5-5:50 PM	Angus Public Skate (All Ages) 11:30 AM-12:50 PM Children Shinny (5-10) 3-3:50 PM Youth Shinny (11-17) 4-4:50 PM	Angus Public Skate (All Ages) 11:30 AM-12:50 PM	Angus Public Skate (All Ages) 11:30 AM-12:50 PM	Angus Leisure Skate (18+) 11 AM-12:20 PM Youth Shinny (11-17) 1-1:50 PM Public Skate (All Ages) 2-3:50 PM Children Shinny (5-10) 5-5:50 PM
Thornton Leisure Skate (18+) 11:30 AM-12:50 PM Adult Shinny (18+) 4-4:50 PM Youth Shinny (11-17) 3-3:50 PM Children Shinny (5-10) 5-5:50 PM Public Skate (All Ages) 7-8:50 PM	Thornton Parent & Tot Skate (5 & under) 11 AM-12:20 PM Youth Shinny (11-17) 4-4:50 PM Children Shinny (5-10) 6-6:50 PM Public Skate (All Ages) 7-8:50 PM	Thornton Public Skate (All Ages) 9-10:20 AM Leisure Skate (18+) 11:30 AM-12:50 PM Adult Shinny (18+) 1-1:50 PM	Thornton Parent & Tot Skate (5 & under) 11 AM-12:20 PM Youth Shinny (11-17) 4-4:50 PM Children Shinny (5-10) 6-6:50 PM Adult Shinny (18+) 7-7:50 PM Public Skate (All Ages) 8-9:50 PM	Thornton Leisure Skate (18+) 11:30 AM-12:50 PM Children Shinny (5-10) 3-3:50 PM Youth Shinny (11-17) 4-4:50 PM Public Skate (All Ages) 5-5:50 PM

Schedule



Scan and view the skate schedule here

Contact Us



Recreation Programmer



(705) 424-9917 ext. 107



ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca

Calendar



Scan and view the online calendar here

Gym Drop-in Programs

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

Times: Monday to Friday (10:30-12:30 pm)

Exclusion Dates: March 11th, April 21st, 23rd, 24th & May 19th

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

Times: Tuesdays (8:30-10 pm) & Saturdays (8-10 am)

Exclusion Dates: March 4th, 15th, April 12th, 26th, May 3rd, 10th, 24th & 31st

Badminton Drop-in (Ages 11+)

A thrilling racquet sport played on a court divided by a net, where players use lightweight racquets to hit a shuttlecock back and forth, aiming to score points by landing it in the opponent's court.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre

Times: Fridays (5-7 pm)

Exclusion Dates: March 28th, April 11th, 25th, May 2nd and 9th

After School Gym (Ages 11+)

Join us for our after-school sports drop-in, a place where you can unwind, connect with friends, and enjoy playing a variety of sports.

Times: Thursdays (2:30-4:30 pm)

Exclusion Dates: April 24th

Drop-in Prices (Cash Only)

Ages 0-4: \$2

Ages 5-17: \$3

Ages 18-64: \$5

Ages 65+: \$4

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.

Location: Angus Recreation Centre

Times: Wednesdays & Fridays (8-10 am)

Exclusion Dates: April 23rd & 25th

Recreation Calendar

Check out our new Recreation Calendar located on the Township of Essa website! To view the calendar click [HERE](#)

Community Calendar						
October 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		Drop-in Gym Programs Drop-in Skate Programs Recreation Events	Drop-in Gym Programs Drop-in Skate Programs Recreation Events	Drop-in Gym Programs Drop-in Skate Programs Recreation Events	Drop-in Gym Programs Drop-in Skate Programs Recreation Events	Drop-in Gym Programs Drop-in Skate Programs Recreation Events

Senior Walking & Exercise Group (55+)

Do you want to have fun and get a workout? 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. It is a great way to start your day. Sandie Macdonald has facilitated the exercise group for 23 years. We encourage everyone to join us to keep healthy and moving. This is a free program, just bring your water and indoor shoes!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre

Times: Mondays & Thursdays (8:45-9:45 am)

Exclusion Dates: No classes if school busses are cancelled



Inclusive Recreation Drop-in (18+)

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

Times: Fridays (1-3 pm)

Exclusion Dates: April 25th

Walking Drop-in (18+)

Enjoy a walk and socialize with your community members in a warm and dry area!

Location: Angus Recreation Centre

Times: Tuesdays (9-10am) & Fridays (3:30-4:30pm)

Exclusion Dates: March 11th, April 11th, 25th & May 9th

***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

For Rental 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



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 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](#).



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

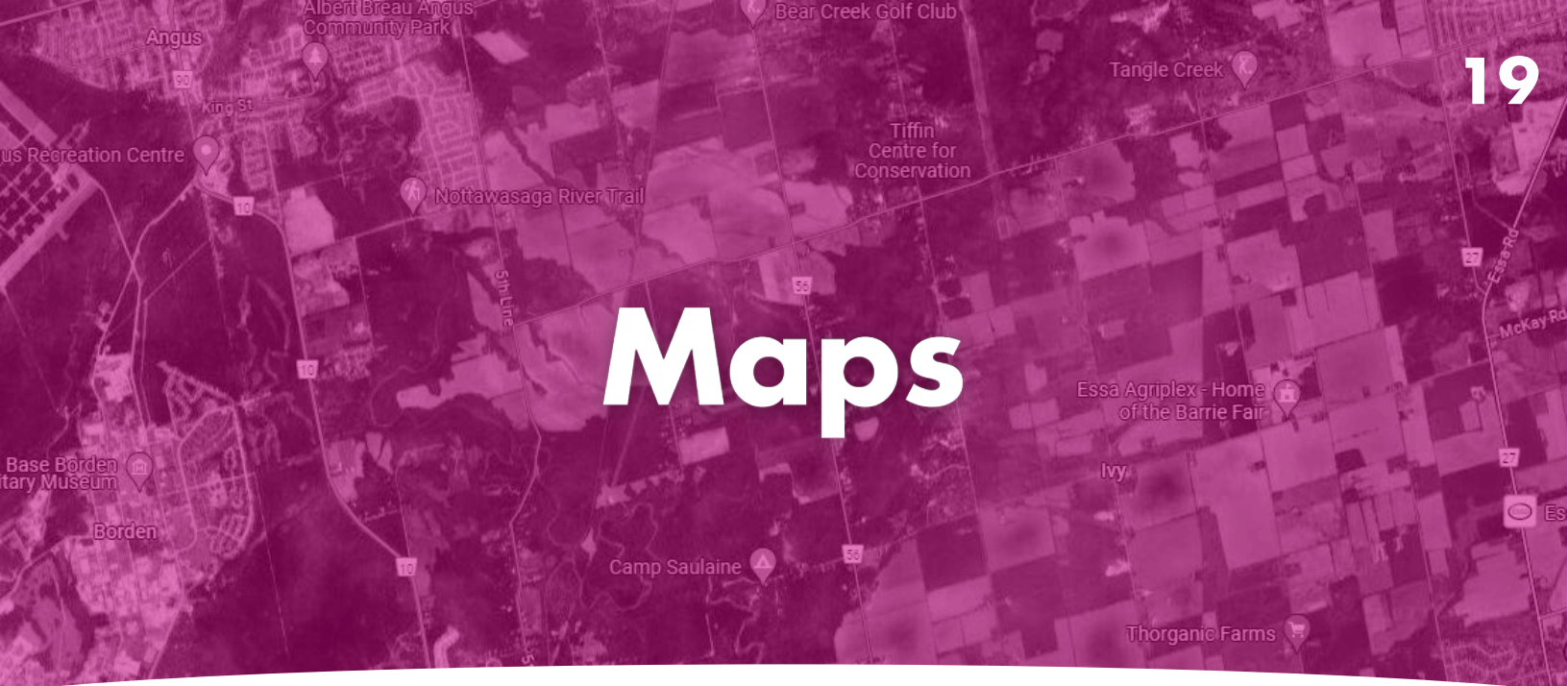
In 2021, the Township of Essa initiated its Operation Brain Freeze campaign to promote safe cycling etiquette, with a focus on the importance of wearing properly-fitted helmets.

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

Essex 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

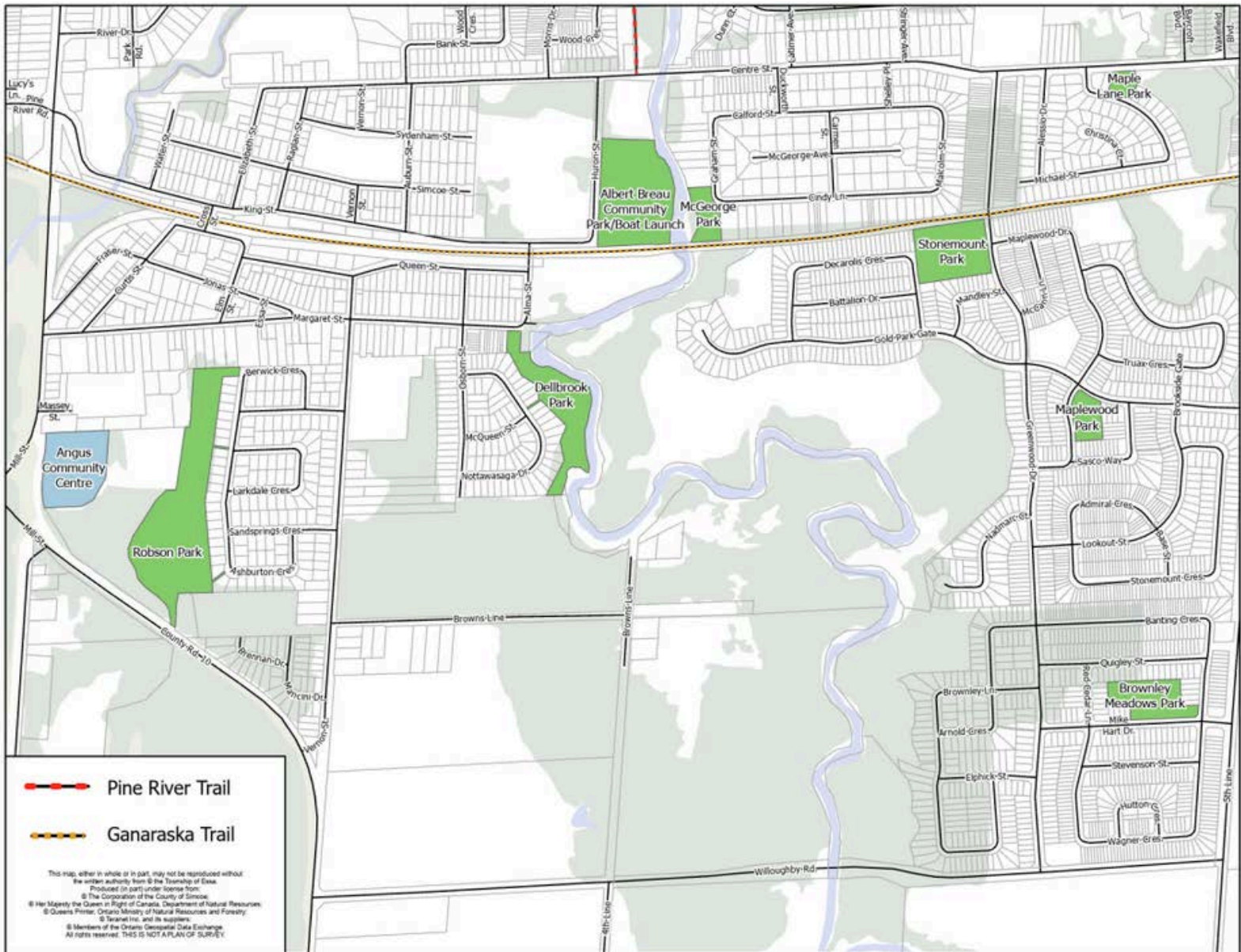
Thornton Arena: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Arena Ball Park: 246 Barrie Street
Thornton Soccer Pitches/Dog Park: 4256 7th Line

North Angus



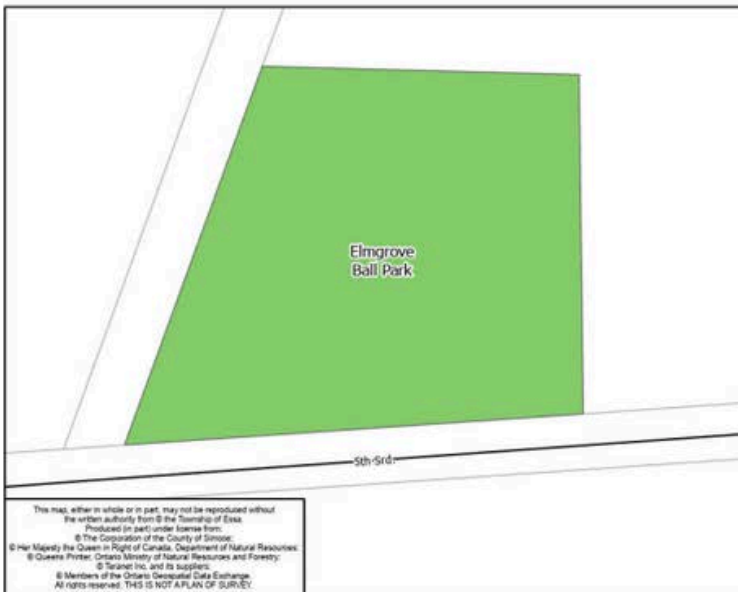
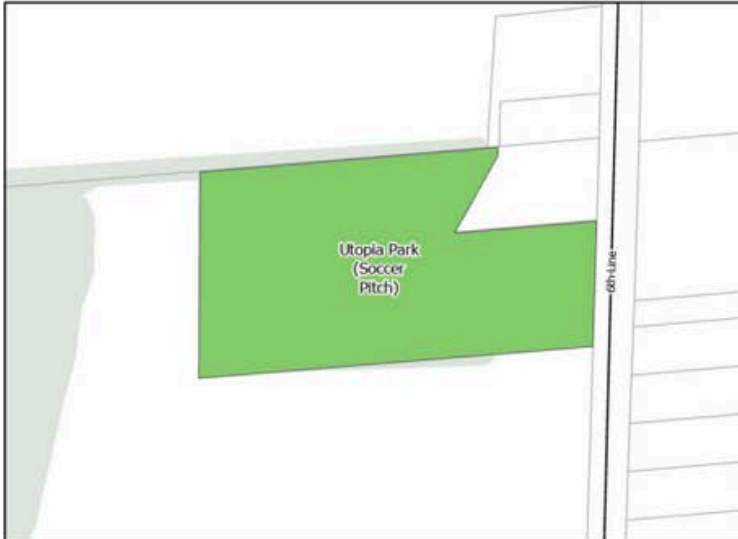
- Bob Geddes Park:** 147 Centre Street
- Glen Eton/Wildflower Park/Dog Park:** 42 McCarthy Crescent
- Lions Ball Park:** 4 Park Road
- LeClair Park:** 54 Roth Street
- Peacekeepers Park:** 12 Commerce Drive

South Angus

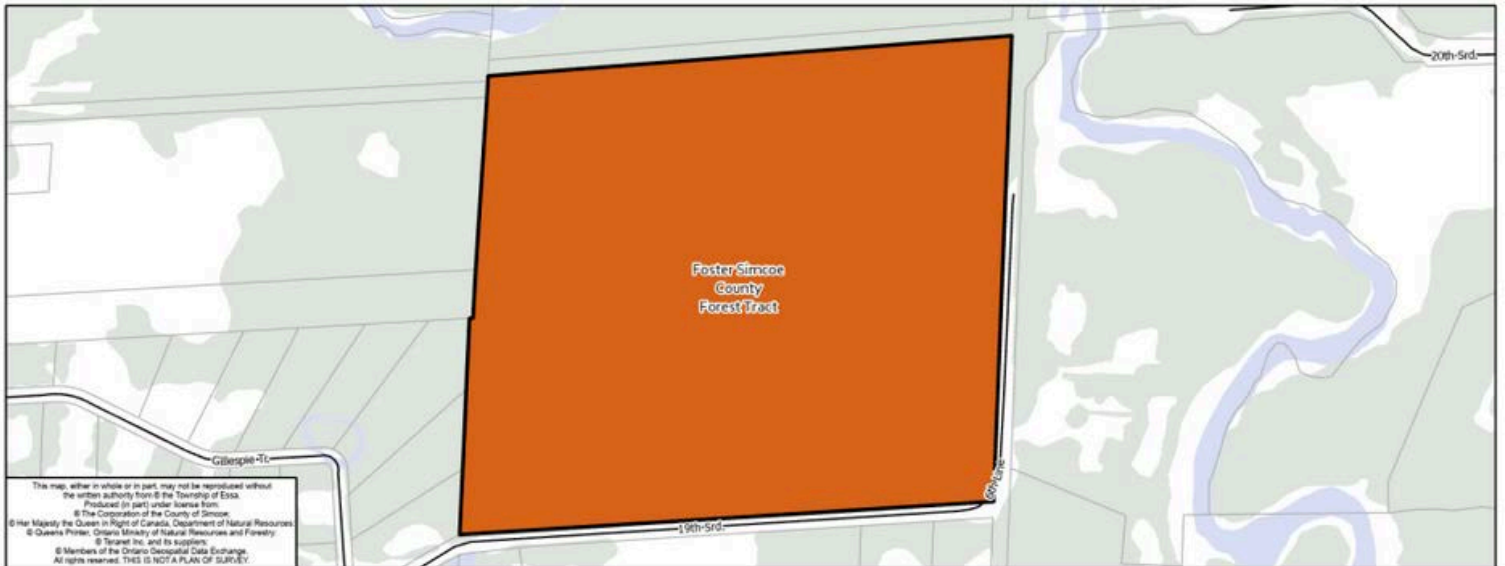
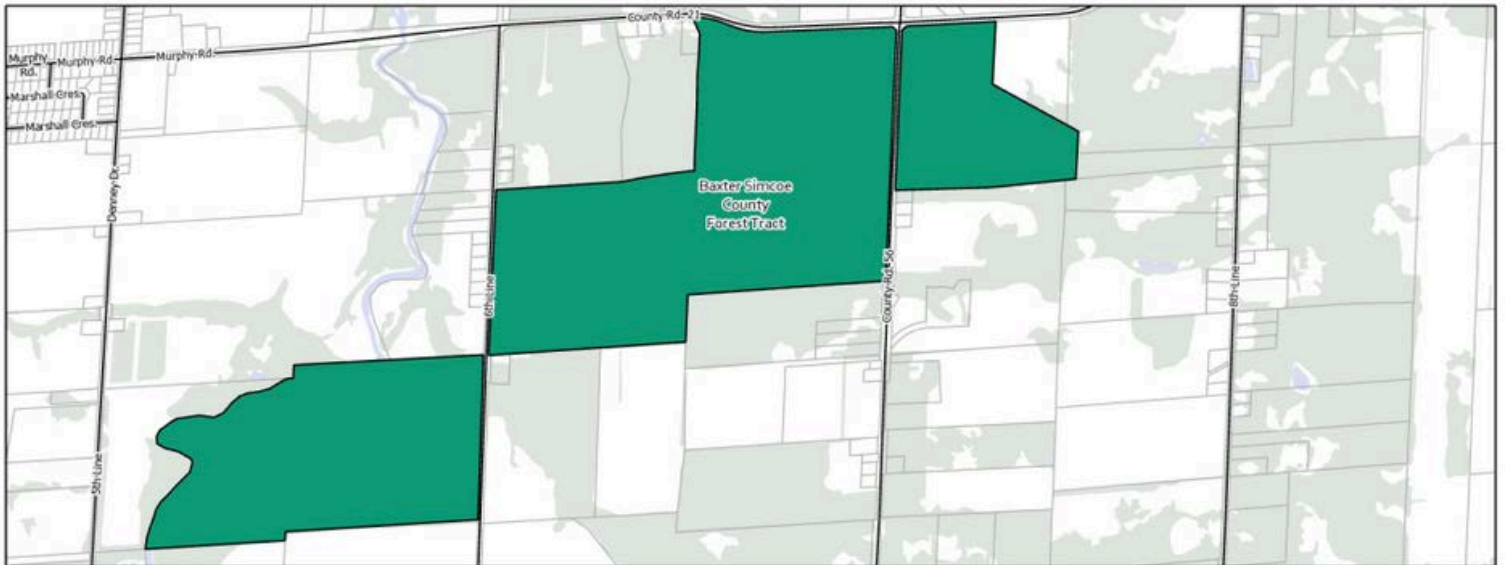


- Albert Breau Community Park/Boat Launch: 6 Huron Street
- Angus Community Centre: 8529 CR 10
- Brownley Meadows Park: 60 Mike Hart Drive
- Dellbrook Park: 240 Margaret Street
- McGeorge Park: 107 Graham Street
- Maplewood Park: 191 Maplewood Drive
- Maple Lane Park: 8 Michael Street
- Robson Park: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

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 this Summer?
Contact ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca to learn more





JOIN US FOR OUR

ANNUAL THORNTON CLEAN UP DAY

Join us for Clean-Up Day! Help make our community a cleaner, greener place by volunteering to pick up litter and beautify our neighborhood. Garbage bags and gloves will be provided, and it is a great opportunity for student volunteer hours!



Saturday April 26th, 2025

FROM 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Essa Library Parking Lot

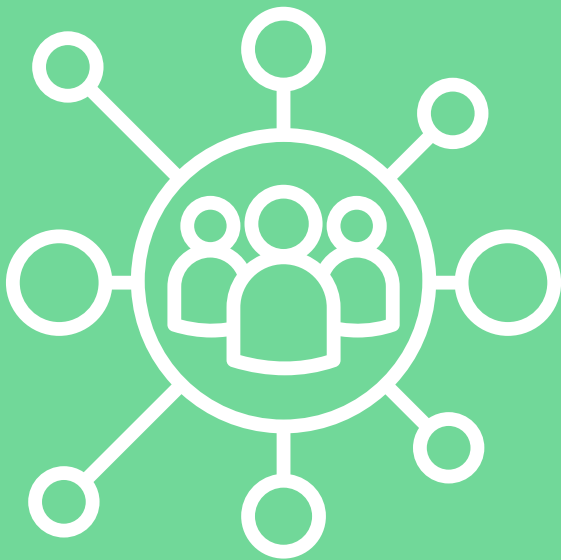
(THORNTON BRANCH)

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 Summer? Contact ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca to learn more



SUMMER SOCCER
Registration

Are you ready to play?

ASC UNITED
Boys & Girls
Ages 3 to 15

REFEREES WANTED

Register online @
ascunited.ca

The advertisement features three soccer balls at the top. Below them is a cartoon referee character holding a soccer ball. The background is dark with starburst effects.

Libraries are just books and

coding robots

craft workshops

pizza oven

video games

yoto players

happy lamps

chair yoga

ukuleles

iPads

DVDs

crochet hooks

chromebooks

projectors

puzzles

seeds

Explore it all at essalibrary.ca



BELONGING, WELL-BEING, EXPRESSION AND ENGAGEMENT.

Early ON

Child and Family Centre

ANGUS

SATELLITE LOCATION

PROGRAMS

STAY, PLAY & LEARN

Ages 0-6 years old

Parents, caregivers and their children utilize our open space to engage with each other through play, exploration and imagination.



BABY & ME

Ages 0-12 months old

Come with your little one to enjoy sing-a-longs, storytime and baby play while connecting with other parents and caregivers.



PARENT CHILD MOTHER GOOSE (infant)

Ages 0-18 months old

Enjoy this 5 or 10 week program with no toys, or materials as we focus on the intimate connection with you and your baby and building attachment through rhymes, stories and songs.



Do you have questions or concerns about your **child's development**? Ask us how we can support you through our developmental screenings and to connect you with our community partners.

VISIT WWW.E3.CA TO REGISTER FOR OUR PROGRAMS AND TO SEE OUR SCHEDULE

8527 County Rd 10, Angus, ON L0M 1B0
(Behind the Angus Recreation Center Arena)



www.e3.ca



(705) 435-4308



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

Recreation Programmer

Alex Jacobs

(705) 424-9917 ext. 107

ajacobs@essatownship.on.ca

Bookings Administrator

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/UCt2377)



Instagram

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