

Guelph features more than 1,000 hectares of parks and open space to enjoy. We invite you to take some time to explore all of these areas throughout the city. Your co-operation is requested to ensure that our parks and open spaces are maintained and safe for the enjoyment of everyone.

Many of our parks offer additional amenities including play structures, picnic shelters or gazebos, washroom facilities, tennis courts, water hook-ups for community ice rinks, full or half basketball courts, or beach volleyball courts.

**Get out there and discover what our parks have to offer!**

## Trails

Did you know Guelph has more than 70 kilometres of trails and paths? Walking, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing are all great ways to stay fit during the fall and winter months.

### CNR Spurline Trail – 1.6 km

Dufferin Street to London Road via Exhibition Park

### Downtown Trail/ Trans Canada Trail – 4.3 km

Covered bridge to Speedvale Avenue via parkland along the Speed River and an active rail corridor. For safety please obey all signs and signals. Eramosa Road to Speedvale Avenue East section is the Trans Canada Trail / Gus Stahlman Trail. Macdonell Street to Eramosa Road section is the Alf Hales Trail.

### Eramosa River Trail – 4.1 km

Covered bridge to Stone Road via Victoria Road South

### Guelph Humane Society Trailhead – 13 km

Speed River Trail to the outskirts of Cambridge. The Guelph trailhead is adjacent to the parking area of the Guelph Humane Society off Wellington Road. Note, parking is limited to five cars, please consider cycling or carpooling. The footpath is informal and is maintained by the Guelph Hiking Trail Club, [guelphhiking.com](http://guelphhiking.com) Please note: Use of this trailhead could be interrupted during 2013 due to construction in the area. For further information contact the Guelph Hiking Trail Club

### Guelph Lake Trail – 2.8 km

Access the trail at Victoria Road North at Speed River towards east to the Guelph Lake dam and beyond. This trail is maintained by Guelph Off Road Bicycling Association (GORBA). Visit their website at [gorba.ca](http://gorba.ca) > GORBA > Trail map

### Hanlon Creek Conservation Area – 12.5 km

Kortright Road between Edinburgh Road and Scottsdale Drive  
Trails are not owned or maintained by the City of Guelph

### Hanlon Creek Trail – 2 km

University Village Park to Hanlon Creek Park.

### Laura Baily Memorial Trail – 1.5 km

Grange Road Park through Hadati Creek Wetlands to Buckthorn Crescent via Grange Road, Eastview Road, Trimble Crescent, Ireland Place and Starwood Drive

### Radial Line Trail Access – 2.3 km

From Stone Road East, turn south onto the roadway at the sign to the Barber Scout Camp and drive to the parking area at the bottom of the grade. Follow the orange blazes 2.3 km to Victoria Road. The footpath is maintained by Guelph Hiking Trail Club. For more information on hiking opportunities visit the Guelph Hiking Trail Club at [guelphhiking.com](http://guelphhiking.com)

### Silvercreek Trail – 4.9 km

Royal City Park to Janefield Avenue via Silvercreek Park, Centennial Park and W.E. Hamilton Park

### Speed River Trail – 3.4 km

Speedvale Avenue East to Victoria Road North via Riverside Park. Speedvale Avenue to Marilyn Drive section is the Trans Canada Trail / Gus Stahlman Trail.

### University of Guelph Arboretum Trails – 11.5 km

Trails, tree collections, gardens and wooded areas at the University of Guelph Arboretum  
Trails are not owned or maintained by the City of Guelph

**Trail maps are available at**

**[guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca) > living > recreation > parks and trails > trails.**



## Neighbourhood Parks

For detailed information on parks in your neighbourhood and their features, visit the City's website at [guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca) > living > parks & trails > parks.

## Playgrounds

All City playground areas are unsupervised. Parents and guardians assume all risks for children using the playground equipment. To report vandalism or maintenance concerns, please call 519-837-5628 or email [operations@guelph.ca](mailto:operations@guelph.ca).

## Safety Equipment

The City of Guelph strongly recommends C.S.A. approved Safety Equipment including head, eye and facial protection be worn by those participating in sport activities.

## Park Regulations

- All dog owners must pick up their dog's waste, as per Stoop and Scoop By-law (2004)-17568
- Dogs must be on a leash while in City parks, including all trails, occupied sports fields and on all Grand River Conservation Authority lands as required by the City's Animal Control By-law.
- Dogs are not permitted on tennis courts, playgrounds, wading pools or splash pads.
- Motorized vehicles, other than authorized vehicles, are prohibited in parks. This includes trail bikes, mopeds, motorcycles and snowmobiles.
- Parking on earth or grass surfaces within City parks is prohibited—any vehicle found in violation will be ticketed.
- Golf and archery are not permitted
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted

**For by-law concerns call By-law Compliance at 519-836-7275.**  
**Email: [operations@guelph.ca](mailto:operations@guelph.ca)**

## Leash-free Zones

- Eight areas within the City are designated as leash-free zones
- Dogs may be off leash on unoccupied sports fields from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. (May 1 to September 14) and from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. (September 15 to April 30)
- All dog owners must 'stoop and scoop' their dog's waste. Stoop and Scoop bylaw is in effect.
- Dogs must be on a leash while entering or leaving a leash-free area
- Dogs must have current vaccinations and wear a current license
- Owners must ensure dogs are prevented from jumping, biting or harassing any person, dog or animal
- Dogs must respond to voice command and be under control
- Dogs are to remain within sight and earshot

Visit [guelph.ca/living](http://guelph.ca/living) for Leash-free Zones

**For animal control concerns, call the Guelph Humane Society 519-824-3091.**

## LACE UP YOUR SKATES!

As the weather gets colder, get out for an afternoon of fun at a community ice rink in your neighbourhood. Check out the neighbourhood rink sites operating this winter by visiting the City's website at [guelph.ca](http://guelph.ca) > seasonal information.

### Lend a hand... help improve your neighbourhood!

Some neighbourhoods have established volunteer committees and would welcome more participation. All assistance is greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering at a specific neighbourhood rink, please contact **519-837-5628** or [operations@guelph.ca](mailto:operations@guelph.ca).



### Parkland Encroachments

Residential neighbourhoods are conceived and designed with a tremendous amount of thought and planning. In many cases, they are carefully created to include a variety of features such as parks, trails storm water management ponds and corridors, and wetlands. The City of Guelph owns these public spaces or “City lands” in your neighbourhood and most others across the city. It’s the City’s responsibility to ensure City lands are used for their intended purposes. Doing so has a great number of health, wellness and environmental benefits that are important to everybody.

When humans interfere with neighbourhood features, it’s called ‘encroachment.’ Encroachment refers to the gradual trespass on another’s property. The City of Guelph has a by-law in place that prohibits a variety of encroachment activities. Encroachment activities might seem harmless, but they have the potential to cause significant problems. You can help preserve an important balance in your neighbourhood by avoiding encroachment activities, and by informing the City if you see them taking place.

Encroachments take many forms:

- Grass cutting of city lands, whether maintained or naturalized areas
- Dumping (grass clippings, garden debris, or other refuse) on City lands
- Removal of, or additions to Living Fences
- Planting, pruning, cutting and/or removal of plants on City lands
- Expansion of yard areas, including gardens, decks, sheds, retaining walls, fences

The City of Guelph is committed to the maintenance of City lands. They are there to be enjoyed by everyone. Please help us ensure this is the case.

### Park Access Permits

A Park Access Permit must be obtained for the purpose of accessing your property over City-owned or controlled parks or trails to undertake property improvements including pool/hot tub installation, landscaping, deck/fence building, etc.

The permit is required to minimize any damage and ensure the reinstatement of City-owned parkland. A Park Access Permit can be obtained from the Operations, Transit and Emergency Services area, Carden Street, and a non-refundable fee of \$109.00 (2013 rate) plus applicable taxes will be charged to initiate the process.

Subject to the form being completed, terms and conditions being agreed to, and the payment processed, staff will then schedule a site visit to determine the conditions for approval. Due to certain circumstances, some approvals may not be granted.

Park Access Permits require a minimum of two weeks to process, which includes a site visit to assess and document photographically, existing conditions.

Before the permit is issued, a Certificate of Insurance is required—providing proof of insurance for a minimum amount of \$2 million indemnifying the City of Guelph as an additional insured for the duration of the park access period. A certified cheque or credit card payment of a predetermined sum will be held as a damage deposit.

Where access over municipal sidewalks is required, an additional permit is required from the Public Works department.

**Operations at 519-837-5628**  
**Email: [operations@guelph.ca](mailto:operations@guelph.ca)**

### Naturalization

Naturalization provides a more diverse local environment by mimicking the course of nature within our parks. The urban city park supports a natural, self-perpetuating landscape that is not only environmentally sound but also provides passive environmental recreation to its users. With the growth in development and the influx of residents, we are concerned about the human impact on our environment. Protection and maintenance of our woodlots, heritage trees, water resources and environmentally sensitive areas is mandatory. Our naturalization policy allows the park landscape to self-perpetuate and provide natural ecosystem functions while preserving our parks and the city’s natural resources for the enjoyment of future generations. Please respect our environment.

### Park Planning and Development

Park Planning and Development is the responsibility of the City’s Parks and Recreation Department, which continually prepares proposals for new open spaces and redevelops older parks. Park Planners work closely with internal and external stakeholders and local neighbourhoods to ensure that park facilities meet their needs.

### Who to contact

For more information or to comment on park planning and development:

**Community and Social Services at 519-837-5618**  
**Email: [community@guelph.ca](mailto:community@guelph.ca)**

To report or comment on park and trail maintenance:

**Operations at 519-837-5628**  
**Email: [operations@guelph.ca](mailto:operations@guelph.ca)**

### Do You Have Ash Trees?

The emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in Guelph. This is a highly destructive insect that attacks and kills healthy ash trees. Signs of infestation include a thinning tree crown; long shoots growing from the trunk or branches; vertical cracks in the trunk, s-shaped tunnels under the bark and D-shaped emergence holes.

EAB spreads when infested wood is moved. It has the potential to kill millions of ash trees across Canada. Help control the spread of this pest; do not move wood.

For more information contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-866-463-6017 or visit [inspection.gc.ca/pests](http://inspection.gc.ca/pests)