



Township of Wilmot to reopen some outdoor recreational amenities

BADEN, Ontario – Wednesday, May 20, 2020 – In alignment with the May 14 and 19 provincial announcements permitting the opening of some outdoor recreation amenities, the Township of Wilmot will be working towards reopening a number of recreation and parks amenities this week as outlined below.

“We know that residents are anxious to be able to use these community amenities again and we appreciate their patience as Township staff move as quickly as possible, after receiving direction from the provincial government, to reopen them as soon as they are safely able to do so,” said Mayor Les Armstrong.

While some Township amenities can be reopened right away, in some specific cases, it may take several days or weeks to reopen following provincial announcements. Staffing levels at the Township have been dramatically reduced as a cost-saving measure, and staff have been redeployed, in many cases, to support critical services.

Provincial orders require that individuals using these amenities, except for members of the same household, are to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres or six feet. Public Health continues to encourage members of the public to follow good personal hygiene by regularly washing and/or sanitizing their hands.

The following outdoor recreation spaces are open, effective immediately:

Basketball Courts

Basketball courts and multi-purpose pads are available for use immediately. Physical distancing remains in effect. Please use basketball facilities for individual activity or with family members from the same household.

Dog Park

During the uncertainty regarding the longevity of amenity closures, the temporary Dog Park has been dismantled to avoid continued fencing rental costs and staff are working towards determining the permanent location as a part of the 2020 Capital Plan. An online consultation process will be available at www.wilmot.ca later this week or early next week, and residents are encouraged to provide input and feedback into possible locations. Once a location has been confirmed, staff will work towards hiring a contractor to install fencing and other required amenities. Please continue to use parks and trails with

your leashed dog until a permanent location is constructed. **Dogs are not permitted on sports fields under any circumstances.**

Sports Fields

Baseball diamonds and soccer fields will be available for non-team sports such as walking, running, biking, playing Frisbee or kicking a ball. Individuals are not permitted to play team sports, such as soccer or baseball, even on fields intended for this purpose unless they are members of the same household. Individuals using these amenities, except for members of the same household, are required to maintain a physical distance of at least two metres or six feet. Sports fields are not being groomed, maintained or inspected, so please use at your own discretion. **Dogs are not permitted on sports fields under any circumstances.**

Skatepark

The Baden Skatepark will remain closed at this time due to a reduced staff complement. This will be re-evaluated regularly.

Bike Park

The Bike Park will be reopened later this week. Please avoid use of the bike park after it rains and ensure physical distancing is respected.

Outdoor Tennis, Pickleball and Beach Volleyball Courts

Township staff will have nets up and these amenities will be opened later this week. Physical distancing is required on all courts.

“Staff are closely monitoring further provincial direction on re-openings and planning accordingly to ensure that we can open these amenities as soon as possible,” added Mayor Armstrong. “With substantially reduced staffing, and with a focus on delivering only critical services these past few weeks, some of these reopenings will take some time. We are grateful for the public’s ongoing patience and understanding.”

To stay up-to-date on reopening details and current closures, please visit: www.wilmot.ca/COVID19 or follow the Township on Twitter @WilmotTownship.

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For more information:

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Township of Wilmot

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