



The Corporation of the Township of Wellesley  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 20, 2020**

## **Township of Wellesley to reopen some outdoor recreational amenities**

**CROSSHILL, ON** – In alignment with the May 14 and May 19 provincial announcements permitting the opening of some outdoor recreational amenities, the Township of Wellesley has begun to reopen some amenities and will continue with reopening its skatepark, multi-use courts, ball diamonds and soccer fields, over the next two weeks.

“We know that residents have been waiting for recreation amenities to open again and we appreciate their patience. After receiving direction from the Provincial government, Township staff will move as quickly as possible, to reopen them in a manner that will ensure the safety of our staff and residents,” said Mayor Joe Nowak.

While some Township amenities can be reopened right away, in some specific cases, it may take several days to reopen following provincial announcements. For some outdoor amenities, final seasonal maintenance is required prior to opening. In addition, the Township is putting in place additional safety measures and procedures for the protection of staff and the public prior to opening the facilities. Please refrain from using any amenity that hasn't been opened.

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 and regularly wash and/or sanitize their hands.

At this time, all playgrounds, park washrooms, and splashpad remain closed as well as all indoor amenities.

### **The following outdoor recreation spaces are open, effective immediately:**

#### *Multi-use Courts*

Multi-use courts are available for use immediately for tennis, basketball, pickle ball etc. Physical distancing remains in effect. Please use these facilities for individual activity or with others from the same household.

#### *Dog Park*

Leash-free dog park located at the Wellesley Recreation Centre has been reopened for public use.

#### *Outdoor Furniture*

Provincial orders are now lifted on outdoor furniture. Residents can once again use picnic tables, benches or shelters, in parks or recreational areas provided that users maintain a physical



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distance of at least two metres. Outdoor furniture is not sanitized and we remind residents to wash and clean their hands after use.

### *Sports Fields*

The emergency orders are now lifted for sports fields, such as baseball diamonds and soccer fields. Under normal circumstances, these spaces are typically reserved for teams who have booked the spaces, however, with group sports paused for physical distancing, the Township of Wellesley will waive booking requirements for these spaces until such time as team sports are permitted, opening them up for free public use. We ask that members of the public keep off any fields still marked closed as we continue to undertake maintenance to ensure they are ready for use.

### *Skatepark*

The skatepark at the Wellesley Recreation Centre is available for use immediately. Skatepark equipment is not sanitized and we remind users to wash and clean their hands after use.

“Staff are closely monitoring for any Provincial direction on re-openings and have been doing the needed planning to ensure we can open amenities as soon as possible’ ,” added Nowak.  
“Unfortunately we are in a situation of limited staffing and some openings may take a bit longer than others. We thank the public for their ongoing patience.”

To stay up to date on reopening details and current closures, visit [www.wellesley.ca/COVID19](http://www.wellesley.ca/COVID19) and Township of Wellesley social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter for details.

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