



ENJOYING EDMONTON'S OUTDOOR ICE: TOP 10 PLACES TO ICE SKATE IN (AND AROUND) THE CITY

Ice skating, a favourite Canadian sport that is fun for all ages and abilities, is a great way to bundle up and enjoy the fresh air with family and friends. There is nothing more Canadian than strapping on skates and leisurely gliding through winter scenery or joining a game of pick-up or “shinny” hockey, then taking a break to warm up with hot chocolate before heading back out for more. When it comes to ice skating, Edmonton has a lot of free outdoor rinks to choose from, whether it's a classic oval or a loop through a forested park.

Skating is a safe and fun activity if you do it right. While community ponds are beautiful and convenient, many are stormwater facilities that are dangerous and unpredictable because warmer water continuously flows beneath the frozen top layer. There are safer alternatives out there--lots of them. City-operated ice surfaces are monitored daily and are [closed if unsafe](#). Many Edmonton community leagues also have rinks for the winter, though many require you to be a member. You can find more information about those rinks on each [community league's website](#).

Here are just 10 of Edmonton and its surrounding areas free, outdoor rinks where you can lace up and enjoy winter.

Rundle Park & Iceway

2909 113 Ave.

One of the most pleasant places to go skating in Edmonton thanks to its variety of ice surfaces, its beautiful setting, and smaller crowds. The Iceway winds for 2-kilometres through a treed area of the park past several picnic areas and it's lit up at night, so you can safely skate after dark. As an added convenience, washrooms and a skate change area are located inside the Rundle Family Centre Pavilion.

Victoria Park Oval & Iceway

12130 River Valley Rd.

Starting at the park's oval rink, this picture-perfect iceway begins under a lit archway and loops through a treed area, offering up views of the Alberta Legislature and the river valley. It is especially nice at night when a pattern of shapes and colours are projected onto the ice surface, creating an atmosphere you don't get at other outdoor rinks. Its central location in the river valley and ample parking is a bonus. A skate change room, washrooms and water bottle fill-up station are also available inside.

Hawrelak Park

9330 Groat Rd.

Nestled on almost 70-acres, Hawrelak Park is one of the largest and most popular ice rinks for outdoor skating in Edmonton. With spectacular views of the river valley, it is a premium pond skating experience. To top it off, the pavilion offers an ideal spot for warming up or roasting marshmallows. Washrooms, a skate change area, concession, skate rentals and lockers are all available.

City Hall

1 Sir Winston Churchill Sq.

Want a break from natural settings? Skate under the colourful holiday lights of Sir Winston Churchill Square in the downtown core. It might be smaller than other rinks, yet size is no match for a unique experience in an urban



setting under Christmas lights, skyscrapers, and the iconic City Hall. And, conveniently, there is no shortage of local cafes and restaurants nearby to warm up with a cup of coffee or hot chocolate.

Alberta Legislature Grounds

10800 97 Ave.

Another great option for skating in the river valley can be found at the Alberta Legislature. In the winter, the south grounds are converted into a winter wonderland, perfect for enjoying the property's big trees and beautiful open spaces. Afterwards, take a walk to check out the holiday lights on the north grounds of the property to make a fantastic addition to your evening skate.

Meadows Outdoor Leisure Ice

2704 17 St.

In the southeast corner of the city, the new Meadows Rec Centre offers a large space for leisurely outdoor skating. While hockey players and figure skaters do their thing indoors, you can skate loops and pathways outside with the Rec Centre next door for a convenient warm up.

Castle Downs

11510 143 Ave.

This northside park is a massive skating and ice leisure area next to a toboggan hill and playground; Castle Downs makes for a great family day playing for hours in the snow and on the ice. There is also an outdoor skate change area available with washrooms located inside.

Jackie Parker Park

4549 50 St.

Tucked nearby the Millwoods Dog Park and Golf Course, this popular park provides a lace-up and warm-up area, ample parking, and plenty to explore around the pond after your skate. Note, your pups are not permitted off-leash on the skating side of the park. Washrooms are located inside, and a skate change area is set up outside.

Astotin Lake

Elk Island National Park

Up for a drive? Bundle up, pack a thermos and head out to Astotin Lake in Elk Island National Park. A skating track follows the shoreline before taking you out and around Archer Island. A rink is also maintained and perfect for a game of shinny. You can even skate under the stars of the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve. Note: use caution on the ice as it is an unsupervised rink. Please check conditions.

Jubilee Park Skating Trail

510 Grove Drive, Spruce Grove

This is Spruce Grove's largest park, and in addition to a huge skating trail, it also offers changing areas, washrooms, a toboggan hill for more winter fun, and a playground. The skating trail winds through the entire park past picnic benches, and plenty of rest and photo stops. It's an unforgettable winter experience for everyone.