About the park

Shade’s Mills has been called the best-kept secret in Cambridge. Favourite activities in this day-use park include swimming, sport fishing and canoeing on the 32-hectare (80 acre) reservoir.

Enjoy 12 km of hiking trails that take you through mature hardwood forest and along Mill Creek. The park offers cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and ice fishing during the winter.

Our staff is here to make your visit as enjoyable as possible. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fishing, swimming, hiking or boating, our parks are as close as your own backyard.

Join us at one of 11 Grand River Parks. From quiet solitude to the delight of an outdoor family adventure, our parks showcase the best the area has to offer.

Shade’s Mills is open year-round, except Christmas Day and Boxing Day. For more information including fees, hours of operation, park amenities or to reserve group facilities, please ask at the gatehouse, call the park, or visit www.grandriver.ca/parks.

Address: 450 Avenue Road
Cambridge, ON  N1R 5S4
T: 519-621-3697
E: shadesmillspark@grandriver.ca
www.grandriver.ca/parks

Emergency Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Phone</td>
<td>519-621-3697</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Non-Emergency</td>
<td>519-653-7700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police/Fire/Ambulance</td>
<td>911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambridge Hospital</td>
<td>700 Coronation Blvd, Cambridge 519-621-2330</td>
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The 32-hectare reservoir is perfect for fishing, swimming and canoeing.
We offer plenty of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

**Swimming**
Our sandy beach is a welcoming sight to families looking to swim, picnic or simply relax in the sun. Swimming is available in our buoyed area when conditions permit. There are no lifeguards, so parents and guardians must keep a close watch on children at all times. A lifejacket loaner program is available. Inquire at the gatehouse.

**Canoeing / Boating / Kayaking**
Canoes, kayaks and SUPs may be rented at the gatehouse. A boat launch is available. Gas motors are prohibited, but electric trawlers may be used.

**Picnicking & Group Facilities**
Our park is an ideal spot to host a family gathering, company picnic or wedding. We offer three large pavilions for rent, along with a fully enclosed shelter with heat, full kitchen and washrooms. Throughout the park you’ll also find plenty of picnic tables for your family or group to enjoy a day of fun.

**Hiking**
Hike along our 12 km trail network that loops through 170 hectares of natural area. The trails take you through various ecosystems and allow you to view numerous species of wildlife and flora. Enjoy the sight and sounds of Mill Creek as it flows through mature hardwood forest and cedars.

**Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing**
Groomed ski trails form several loops and cater to both beginners and those looking to be challenged. You’re also invited to snowshoe. Ski and snowshoe rentals are available for individuals and groups in our heated chalet.

**Fishing & Ice Fishing**
Cast your line into Shade’s Mills reservoir. Note there is a catch and release program in effect.

- **Summer species:** small/largemouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, brown bullhead, sunfish.
- **Winter species:** northern pike, yellow perch, black crappie, sunfish.

We welcome group events such as family reunions, corporate picnics and weddings. We also have three beach volleyball courts and a natural playground for kids.

Ski equipment and snowshoes can be rented on weekends, and daily during March break. But first, call the park for conditions.

Visit www.grandriver.ca/parks for more information.
Join us at the Toyota Amphitheatre on Friday evenings from June until September (weather permitting) for our Movies Under the Stars program. For a list of movies and to learn about other park events, contact the park or visit www.grandriver.ca/events.

TRAILS

Plantation Trail – GREEN – 1 km (part), 1.3 km (whole) Summer: Hiking Winter: Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hiking

Red squirrels chitter from the tree tops while feeding on seeds from the cones of white spruce and red pine. In spring and summer watch for monarch, swallowtail and sulphur butterflies nectaring on a multitude of wildflowers as song sparrows, American goldfinch and house wrens fly overhead.

Toyota Way Trail – DARK BLUE – 3.9 km Summer: Hiking Winter: Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hiking

Life flourishes along Mill Creek with downy, hairy and red-bellied woodpeckers, great horned owls, grey squirrel, eastern chipmunk and mink. Don’t forget to keep an eye out for the elusive grey tree frog!

Deer Run Trail – YELLOW – 5.6 km Summer: Hiking Winter: Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hiking

Reforested nearly forty years ago, the white spruce and red pine provide shelter for white-tailed deer from winter’s biting winds and deep snows. While traveling along the trail keep a look out for deer standing just off the trail or for their heart-shaped tracks in the snow.

Red Pine Trail – RED – 5.7 km Summer: Hiking Winter: Skiing, Snowshoeing, Hiking

Stroll through the shade of red pine coniferous trees as the trail meanders past old fence rows and rock piles from farming days gone by. You’ll find habitat for cottontail rabbits, deer mice, red fox, coyote, as well as garter and eastern milk snakes. Cardinals and yellow-billed cuckoos dart among the hawthorns, black cherry and conifers.

Hardwood Trail – ORANGE DASHED – 2.5 km Summer: Hiking Winter: Snowshoeing and Hiking

While you stroll through the hardwood forest you will see many varieties of spring wildflowers along this trail. As fall sets in, enjoy a walk through the autumn colours in the maple and oak stands.

Other Trails & Links – BLUE DASHED – 2.3 km Summer: Hiking Winter: Closed

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* Trail distances are measured from the Chalet Shelter and back.