

Play it Safe - Tips for Winter Hiking & Snowshoeing

There's no need to stop enjoying the outdoors when winter comes! Here are a few tips that will help keep you safe and comfortable in the colder weather.

- Dress in layers, looking for items that will keep you warm and dry.
- Know your route. Know when sunset is expected and plan to be off the trail well before. Carry a map and a flashlight.
- Some trails go over waterways and near steep slopes. Check the snow/ice conditions when approaching these areas.
- Note that snowshoeing trails may take you across or alongside snowmobile routes.
- Our normal sense of thirst lets us down in winter, so be sure to keep drinking water.
- The sun may be weaker, but it can still pack a punch; use at least an SPF 15 sun screen.
- Hike with a friend. Leave word of where you are going, and when you are expected back.
- Pack a few extra items to add more comfort and safety when you are out. A first aid kit, an extra warm layer for when you stop, a piece of closed cell foam to sit on, water, some high energy snacks, spare socks and mitts, and some lip protection.

Many of these tips came from Hike Ontario. Check-out their full winter hiking fact sheet at hikeontario.com.

Getting There

Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area
Vespra Valley Rd., south of Hwy 26,
Springwater Township.

You may be able to park in the small lot off Vespra Valley Rd. Otherwise park along the road.

Operating Hours

Conservation Area open daily from dawn to dusk.

Trails may be closed depending on trail and weather conditions. Visit nvca.on.ca for updates.

Parking Fees

Visitors to NVCA-operated conservation areas are required to purchase a parking pass.

- Daily Parking Pass: \$10.00/vehicle
- Annual Parking Pass: \$70.00/vehicle

Parking passes can be purchased online or in-person. Learn more at nvca.on.ca.



**Nottawasaga Valley
Conservation Authority**
705-424-1479
www.nvca.on.ca

Alternative formats available.

Mayer's Marsh Snowshoe Trail

Minesing Wetlands Conservation Area

A Trip through the Trees



A Trip through the Trees

The Mayer's Marsh snowshoe trail follows the "wiggling" Willow Creek as it meanders through the internationally significant Minesing Wetlands. Spanning more than 15,000 acres, the Minesing's unique assemblage of fens, marshes, swamps and bogs supports a network of sensitive flora and fauna, some rare or endangered.

Although a looped-trail can be made by following the OFSC snowmobile trail back to Vespa Valley Road, this may not be the safest route. The OFSC trail is quite narrow in this area. If you are following it back, walk as far off the trail as possible, keeping an eye – and ear – out for approaching snowmobiles. Or consider turning back along the creek when the Mayer's Marsh trail meets with the OFSC trail.

Note: Willow Creek is fast-moving, making for poor ice conditions. Stay on the trail and off the ice.

