

Winter '23-24 News



Winter Recreation Opportunities

We are fortunate in Boxford to have various outdoor winter recreation options. Below is a list of a few options in and around Boxford and how to access them.

Snowshoeing

Easy Boxford locations include: Boxford Common trails, Boxford State Forest, and Cleaveland Farm State Forest

Cross Country Skiing

The above-listed trails for snowshoers are good for cross-country skiing as well!

Also, the North Shore Nordic Association grooms and maintains trails for XC skiing at Appleton Farm in Hamilton/Ipswich. Go to <https://www.nsnordic.org/> for more details.

Ice Skating

Boxford has many beautiful ponds where residents can skate when the ice is thick enough. See our article, right, regarding ice safety in Boxford.

Outdoor skating is also available in Topsfield. The Topsfield Recreation Department purchased a 45'x90' ice skating rink in 2021 that is free and available to the public throughout the winter season at the Topsfield Town Common. The rink will be open to ALL ages. The main use is for figure skating. However, there will be designated 'Puck & Stick' hours which allow the use of hockey pucks and sticks, and only during these designated hours. Click [here](#) for more information.

Ice Fishing

Stevens and Stiles Pond is a popular, and easily accessible spot

Ice Safety Tips from Mass.gov

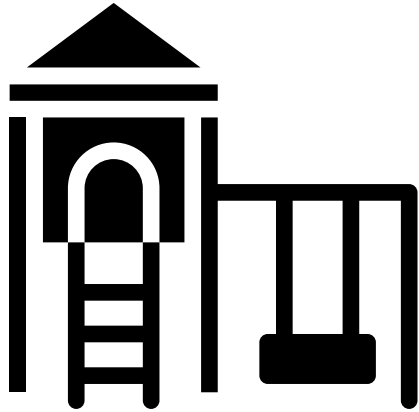
Ice tips to remember:

- New ice is stronger than old ice.
- Ice doesn't freeze uniformly. Check ice conditions frequently as you venture out onto the ice.
- Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often more dangerous. Many lakes and ponds may contain spring holes and other areas of currents that can create deceptively dangerous thin spots.

Before heading out onto the ice

- Tell someone your plans, including where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Carry a cell phone in case of emergency. Always carry ice picks and rope with you on the ice in case of emergency.
- Wear your life jacket. If you fall in, a life jacket will keep you at the surface and can provide insulation against the effects of cold water.

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Playground Safety Form

Have you visited a playground recently and noticed it needed repair? Our committee wants to make sure all play areas are safe.

Just complete our form to submit any observed damage or safety concerns. The information submitted is confidential. Responses will be reported to the DPW for further evaluation. We aim to work closely with the DPW to maintain the playgrounds. This form can also be used for other recreation questions.

Use the link below to access the form.
<https://forms.gle/SvgErzhqYagrTrTd8>

Seeking members!

The Recreation Committee is seeking 2 additional members!

See the description below for more information on the role of the Recreation Committee.

Contact Leanne Mihalchik for more details or to join our group!
Lmihalchik@town.boxford.ma.us

The Boxford Recreation Committee oversees the maintenance of all the athletic fields in Town, except for the BAA baseball field at Stiles Pond. The Boxford DPW Parks and Recreation department actually does the maintenance. The tennis courts behind the Boxford Police Station also come under the Recreation Committee. The Town-owned parcel of land between Stiles Pond and Main Street, north of the Danvers Y Camp, is known as Camp Sacajewea and is managed by the Recreation Committee. The Boxford Trails system, maintained by BTA/BOLT and the Boxford Bay Circuit Program Committee, has a representative on the Recreation Committee. Visit <https://www.town.boxford.ma.us/recreation-committee> for more information.



BAA Winter News

2023 MIDDLE SCHOOL INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD PROGRAM: Registration for Middle School Indoor Track and Field is open!

<https://www.baasports.com/page/show/92613-track-and-cross-country>

Indoor Track and Field is a competitive program usually for 5th through 8th graders that starts in December and ends in March with the USATF New England Indoor Championship. We compete at major indoor venues like The Track at New Balance, Reggie Lewis Athletic Center, and Wheaton College. For questions, please contact Coach Ladd at sarahladd05@gmail.com

Masco Youth Lacrosse is Open

<https://www.mascoyouthlacrosse.com/>

Registration for the following sports is open in January:

Girls Softball

<https://www.baasports.com/page/show/92610-girls-softball>

Baseball

<https://www.baasports.com/page/show/446846-baseball>

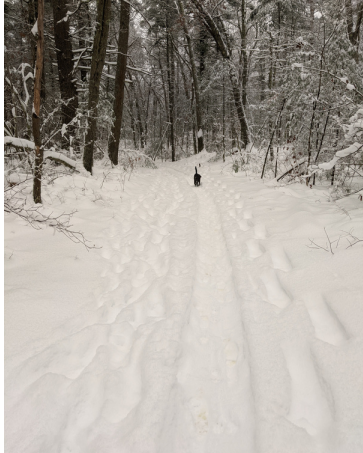
Flag Football

<https://www.baasports.com/flagfootball>

Spring Soccer

<https://www.baasports.com/page/show/92609-soccer->

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BTA/BOLT Updates

Winter Speaker - Living with Bears!
Thursday, January 25, 2024
6:30 PM 9:00 PM
Center at 10 Elm Elm Street Boxford,
MA

Join us for drinks, socializing, and a hybrid talk with Chalis Bird, a Northeast District Wildlife Biologist from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

We should have an entertaining and informative evening as we learn about these wonderful creatures and how to adjust to their more frequent visits to suburban and urban settings.

Drinks begin at 6:30pm, talk at 7:00pm with time for questions afterwards.

The Center at 10 Elm

The Center at 10 Elm offers a variety of recreation opportunities for all ages in the beautiful, peaceful new building.

Fitness classes such as yoga and chair yoga, strength training, and Qigong are offered.

Other activities include meet-ups for Bridge and Mahjonn.

Visit the Boxford Council on Aging website for more information on their programs.

www.town.boxford.ma.us/council-aging

Click [here](#) to read their December 2023 newsletter.

Tennis/Pickleball Courts

Courts do not officially close, however, snow is not removed from the courts during winter months.

Court Reservation:

<https://boxfordcourts.skedda.com/booking>.

Courts are located behind the Boxford Police Station. Parking in the lot behind the station. For more information on how to book or cancel a court and to view guidelines for court usage click the following link:

<https://www.town.boxford.ma.us/recreation-committee/pages/tennis-pickleball>

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