



Backgrounder

What's New in Your #WinterCapital

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Capital Commission (NCC) has been working to provide increased public access to its assets to help contribute to physical and mental well-being.

While respecting public health directives — and by collaborating with our municipal and community partners — the NCC is proud to provide an unprecedented winter offering across the National Capital Region.

Here is an overview of what's new this year in your #WinterCapital!

Expanded Winter Trail Network

With increased funding to our partners, we are adding 24 km of new community-managed winter trails in Ottawa on NCC and City of Ottawa lands.

	2020–2021 Winter Expansion (pilot project)	Total (in length)
SJAM Winter Trail	+16 km in width (NCC) +2 km in length (NCC)	18 km (NCC)
Ski Heritage East Winter Trail	+7 km (NCC)	10 km (NCC) 7 km (City of Ottawa)
Britannia Winter Trail	+1 km (NCC) +1 km (City of Ottawa)	4 km (NCC) 4 km (City of Ottawa)
Rideau Winter Trail	+6 km (NCC)	9 km (NCC)
Kanata Ski Club	+6 km (NCC)	8 km (NCC)
Orleans Ski Club	+1 km (City of Ottawa)	19 km (NCC) 1 km (City of Ottawa)
Total (all lands)	+24 km	80 km

To enable even more room for physical distancing in Gatineau Park, we have also created four new winter trails (58, 72B, 79 and 80), and have extended the Sugarbush Trail.

New Interactive Map

To help everyone discover these new winter trails, as well as our existing network of 450 km of trails, we are launching a new [interactive map](#) to personalize and share your route with friends and family.

New Winter Parking Lots

Users of Ski Heritage East multi-use ski trail will be pleased to note the addition of one parking lot (P7) on the Sir George-Étienne Cartier Parkway, creating a convenient western access point.

To help ensure everyone's enjoyment of Gatineau Park, we have increased visitor capacity by creating two new parking lots:

- P20 (Breton Beach)
- Old Chelsea parking lot (at Old Chelsea and Kingsmere roads)

New Rest and Warming Areas

To facilitate physical distancing and ensure additional room to rest and warm up, this year, we are doing the following:

- adding 50 new benches along the Rideau Canal Skateway
- bringing back the Concord Rest Area on the Rideau Canal Skateway
- adding two new fire pits, with increased access to a third, in Gatineau Park (for a total of five)
- launching a new evening reservation system for the night shelters in Gatineau Park

New Challenges

And, finally, to encourage everyone to get outdoors and experience all that your #WinterCapital has to offer, we are launching two new challenges. Sign up for free, track your kilometres, and earn your bragging rights for distances travelled!