

Ontario: Where You Can't Fly a Drone

Parks, conservation areas and city bylaws — the land rules that sit on top of Transport Canada's. Current to the rules in force in 2026 · Last verified 2 October 2026.

Two layers, and both apply. Transport Canada regulates the air. The province, Parks Canada, conservation authorities and municipalities regulate the ground you take off from — and they can prohibit launching on their land however compliant your flight is. Clearing one layer never clears the other.

Who controls the ground

LAND	RECREATIONAL FLYING	WHAT IT TAKES
Ontario provincial parks Algonquin, Killarney, Bronte Creek, Pinery and every other provincial park	Not permitted, at any weight — including under 250 g	Research and commercial filming only, with an Ontario Parks Aircraft Landing Authorization applied for in advance, plus every Transport Canada requirement
National parks and historic sites Bruce Peninsula, Georgian Bay Islands, Point Pelee, Pukaskwa, Thousand Islands, among others	No takeoff or landing without a permit	A Restricted Activity Permit — issued for park management, research and resource protection, not photography. Parks Canada states a fine of up to \$25,000.
Conservation authority land e.g. Conservation Halton (Kelso, Rattlesnake Point, Hilton Falls, Mount Nemo); Grand River Conservation Authority	Set by each authority on its own holdings	Assume permission is required, and ask before you fly
Toronto city parks	Prohibited, at any weight	No recreational permit stream. Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 608, §608-19 prohibits operating powered models of aircraft in any City park.
Other municipalities	Varies: an explicit ban, a general nuisance or park-use bylaw, or silence	Read the parks bylaw section on powered models, motorized devices or nuisance — or call the bylaw department. Silence is not permission.

The five-minute check before you fly

- **Who owns the ground you launch and land on?** A park, a conservation authority, a city, or a private owner — check that owner's rules first.
- **Search the municipality's parks bylaw** for "powered models", "motorized devices" or "nuisance". It takes about five minutes and never needs doing twice for the same town.
- **Under 250 g changes nothing here.** The 250 g line is a Transport Canada certification and registration threshold; park and municipal rules generally make no weight distinction at all.
- **Then check the airspace.** Land permission and airspace authorization are separate things, and a compliant flight needs both.

The federal rules still apply on top

122 m (400 ft) maximum altitude above ground level	30 m horizontal distance from bystanders (Basic); never overhead	5.6 km from the centre of a certified airport (Basic)	250 g + register the drone and carry your pilot certificate
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