
Winter City Strategy Update

Recommendation

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities & Corporate Services recommend to City Council:

That this report be considered during the 2018 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update City Council on the work required for 2018 to develop the Winter City Strategy (Strategy) for Saskatoon.

Report Highlights

1. Engagement of the community in the co-design of a Winter City Strategy for Saskatoon has generated enthusiasm for the Strategy among a significant number of stakeholders across the community. There is more work to be done to ensure engagement is inclusive of the entire community, such that the Strategy appropriately reflects the challenges and opportunities associated with the winter experience of all Saskatonians.
2. Based on the successes of the last year and the ideas generated through community engagement, Administration is requesting \$350,000 from the Reserve for Capital Expenditures for the Strategy. Funding would be used to:
 - Maintain and expand the online inventory of existing assets;
 - Continue the community conversation about challenges and opportunities associated with winter;
 - Participate in the Winter Cities Institute;
 - Review and revise civic policies and procedures to better reflect the objectives of the Strategy and facilitate community initiative; and
 - Leverage increased winter activity by supporting investments in new winter assets.
3. The Strategy is intended to be co-owned by the community and the City. A Community Working Group has been formed and will continue to help identify critical success factors for Saskatoon.

Strategic Goals

This report supports multiple Strategic Goals, in particular:

- Quality of Life by providing opportunities for activities in a winter city;
- Sustainable Growth by ensuring our City Centre is vibrant in all seasons of the year;
- Moving Around by ensuring accessibility and connectivity continue to exist when snow and ice are present; and
- Economic Diversity and Prosperity by creating an environment for business sustainability through all seasons.

Background

City Council, at its meeting held on January 23, 2017, received the Saskatoon Winter Strategy Update report which provided an update and more detailed description of the components of a Winter City Strategy for Saskatoon. The Strategy was described as an intentional effort by the City of Saskatoon and community stakeholders to celebrate what makes Saskatoon unique as a four-season place that is inviting, vibrant and prosperous, even in the coldest months of the year.

Report

Status Update on the Development of a Winter City Strategy for Saskatoon

Attachment 1, Strategy Discussion Paper (September 2017), provides an overview of the four-step process by which the Strategy is being created with the community. The steps are implemented iteratively rather than sequentially and include:

- Building on the strength of existing assets;
- Engaging the community in change;
- Implementing actions; and
- Developing the Strategy.

Stakeholders gathered at a kick-off event in March 2016 identified the need to first inventory existing assets and improve awareness of them before embarking on further planned improvements to Saskatoon's 'winter experience'. Attachment 2, Online Winter City YXE Asset Inventory, provides a snap-shot of the online inventory created for the last winter season in response to this identified opportunity.

Continuing to Engage the Community in Change

Community Engagement in the co-design of a Winter City Strategy for Saskatoon began in January 2017 and enthusiasm for the Strategy has been communicated by a significant number of stakeholders across the community. Attachment 1 describes some of the specific opportunities that generated excitement among those engaged to date. These include:

- Improving mobility;
- Improving facilities and infrastructure;
- Providing more support to existing activities;
- Introducing new events and things to do; and
- Improving the promotion of events and activities.

The results of engagement activities between January and April were compiled into a brief (see Attachment 3, Engagement Results – Consolidated Report - April 25) shared with and discussed by stakeholders at a Community Workshop on April 27, 2017. The above list of priorities, along with a list of concepts that stakeholders felt would be important considerations as the Strategy developed, emerged from the Community Workshop and are elaborated in Attachment 1.

Continuing to learn from other communities has remained a theme throughout the strategy development process. Attachment 4, Selected Winter City Conference Observations, provides an overview of some of the observations from the Winter City

Shake-Up held in Edmonton in February where delegates from across North America, Europe, China and Japan shared their progress as Winter Cities.

There is more work to be done to ensure engagement is inclusive of the entire community to ensure the Strategy appropriately reflects the challenges and opportunities associated with winter. Also identified in Attachment 1 are some of the additional community engagement efforts the community identified as important next steps. These include:

- Making a special effort to hear from Saskatoon's youth, children, frail older adults, new Canadians, Indigenous peoples and restaurant owners as there have been fewer of these 'voices' or perspectives participating in the Winter City dialogue so far.
- Providing food, facilitators from within the community (rather than civic staff or professional facilitators) and meeting locations in community spaces when planning future engagement efforts, as these elements are critical to future success.
- Continuing to help community members understand what already exists (i.e. through further development of the asset inventory) as this is an important starting point to future conversations.

Engagement across divisions of the City of Saskatoon was also limited to date and significantly more is planned in order to identify and implement changes to current plans, policies and procedures that align with the goals of the Strategy and enable and facilitate community initiative.

'Quick Win' Actions

\$35,000 was set aside to support community initiatives deemed to advance learning or move core concepts of the Strategy forward. \$25,000 of this funding was used in a call for submissions, administered by the Recreation and Community Development Division in alignment with other community granting processes. Attachment 5, 2017 WinterCity YXE Grant Awards, provides a summary of the selected projects that the community intends to deliver this winter that will add a new dimension to existing initiatives and/or facilitate linkages between existing initiatives to create new outcomes.

From the emerging themes identified through engagement activities at the Community Workshop and in ongoing discussions with the Community Working Group, Administration proposes to undertake the following next steps throughout 2018 to achieve additional 'quick wins':

- Maintain and expand the online inventory of existing assets;
- Continue the community conversation about challenges and opportunities associated with winter, ensuring under-represented population segments have a voice in the further development of the Strategy;
- Review and revise civic policies and procedures to better reflect the objectives of the Strategy and facilitate community initiative by taking a less 'risk-averse' perspective; and

- Leverage (through capital funding) increased winter activity by supporting investments in new winter assets that may include:
 - Creatively designed warmup shelters;
 - Washrooms available through the winter;
 - Clear paths and sidewalks to support persons of all abilities;
 - Address accessibility barriers to active transportation (particularly for those with mobility challenges);
 - Winter festivals introducing new themes;
 - Intergenerational events;
 - Neighbourhood-level events;
 - More cultural events (particularly Indigenous);
 - Indigenous winter structures in parks (e.g. tipi with warm-up fire);
 - Coordinate efforts through partnerships and collaborative funding;
 - Heated outdoor patios;
 - Add more food and drink options to existing events;
 - Focus on affordability to enable participation by all Saskatonians;
 - Implement 'pop up' features to better utilize existing spaces; and
 - Continue to provide small amounts of community grant funding to support community innovation.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

As outlined throughout this report, the focus of continuing community engagement activities are intended to create a common vision and a shared understanding of current assets and opportunities for creating a city that is more inviting, vibrant and prosperous, even in the coldest months of the year.

Prior to the 2017-18 winter season, a benchmark survey on current attitudes, perceptions and behaviours related to Saskatoon's winter season will be implemented to help in further refinement of the Strategy and provide insight on what initiatives, once implemented, may affect positive change.

Communication Plan

Communications and awareness about the Strategy will continue to be multi-channeled (as described in previous reports) and focus on core content developed for a webpage hosted on the City's website that acts as a resource hub for the community and provides information about:

- The goals and rationale for creating a Community Winter City Strategy;
- The ongoing process for developing the Strategy through engagement, 'quick win' actions, and learning from other centres;
- An inventory of winter-related assets;
- Descriptions of the potential economic and quality of life benefits achievable through the Strategy; and
- Continuing to provide opportunities for community innovation to collect a 'blizzard' of ideas on ways in which Saskatoon can achieve renown as a Winter City.

Policy Implications

A number of changes to existing policies as well as the development of new policies is anticipated as a result of the Strategy development process.

Financial Implications

Capital Project #2519 – Community Winter City Strategy Development received funding of \$85,000 in the 2017 Budget. These funds supported engagement and awareness efforts (\$50,000) and small-scale community initiatives (\$35,000) including supporting community members to participate as delegates at the Winter City Shake-Up conference in Edmonton in February and six (6) small grants to support activities this upcoming winter.

Based on the successes of the last year and the ideas generated through community engagement, Administration is requesting \$350,000 be allocated from the Reserve for Capital Expenditures for the Strategy. Funding would be used to:

- Hire temporary staff to conduct reviews of civic policies and draft amendments and new policies supportive of Winter City themes where necessary, develop winter design guidelines and participate in internal civic service and process reviews to ensure the objectives of the Strategy are internalized and community initiative is facilitated as effectively as possible;
- Maintain and expand the online inventory of existing assets;
- Continue community dialogue, communications and outreach to promote existing assets and new community initiatives;
- Continue to provide a small amount of funding to community groups to support community-led initiatives that generate learnings for the Strategy; and
- Invest in new assets that support outdoor winter activities (such as warming huts or some of the other priorities identified in this report).

The Administration will also continue to commit existing operating resources (most specifically in the form of staff time) to facilitate the development of the Strategy as described in this report.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no environmental, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations at this time.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Administration will report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services in May 2018 to provide an update on work-to-date, initial engagement results and options for moving the Strategy forward.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachments

1. Strategy Discussion Paper (September 2017)
2. Online Winter City YXE Asset Inventory
3. Engagement Results – Consolidated Report - April 25
4. Selected Winter City Conference Observations
5. 2017 WinterCity YXE Grant Awards

Report Approval

Written &

Reviewed by: Brenda Wallace, Director of Environmental and Corporate Initiatives

Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, Acting General Manager, Corporate Performance
Department

CP EUCS Admin Report - Winter City Strategy Update.docx

“Approved by Jeff Jorgenson, Acting GM, CP Department, October 30, 2017”

Strategy Discussion Paper (September 2017)

What is the Winter City Strategy about?

A Winter City Strategy is an intentional effort by a community to celebrate what makes Saskatoon unique as a four-season place that is inviting, vibrant and prosperous, even in the coldest months of the year. Facilitated through the City of Saskatoon's (City) leadership and engaging the interest and efforts of motivated stakeholders and the entire community, the Saskatoon Winter City Strategy will articulate the changes necessary to help residents, businesses and visitors 'embrace' winter with as much enthusiasm as they currently demonstrate for the summer season.

Why is a Winter City Strategy being developed for Saskatoon?

An idea that has been around within the planning and urban design professions since the early 1980's, the concept of a Winter City capitalizes on opportunities to mitigate the real and perceived negative effects of the winter season (such as inconvenience and added expense) and reinforce positive ones (such as unique activities, beauty, and sense of coziness). The outcome can be a more vibrant, sustainable, prosperous and livable community. A Winter City requires a creative approach to addressing the problems associated with snow, ice and cold while enhancing the advantages, opportunities and beauty of the season. A positive approach has been found to benefit the attitudes of residents, and bolster the community's ability to attract new business and residents.

In the last three years in particular, a Winter City movement has been growing rapidly, in Western Canada based on factors such as:

- The idea of a strategy: In addition to design, an expanded focus including mobility, recreation, culture and vibrancy. In place of one-off actions, integrating actions into a co-ordinated strategy and raising the profile of winter-specific needs and opportunities.
- A broad movement: No longer limited to official circles, ideas and actions are now being generated by community groups, neighbourhoods, the creative sector as well as leading cities.
- The Prairies as a leading region: Key events such as the 2nd annual international Winter Cycling Congress (Winnipeg, 2014) and international Winter Cities Shake-Up Conference (Edmonton, 2015 and 2017) attended by members of the Saskatoon community, City Councillors and civic staff.

The overarching objectives most Winter City Strategies attempt to achieve include:

- Creating a compassionate community. Addressing community inclusion and social isolation issues that are exaggerated by inclement weather. This includes issues of community equity in terms of individual mobility and barriers to participation and accessibility resulting from income, language or other factors.
- Supporting healthy lifestyles. Addressing structural barriers to healthy choices, particularly related to active transportation, outdoor comfort in all seasons, and accommodation for a variety of active pursuits.

- Economic resilience through diversity and activity. Identifying and supporting business opportunities that sustain the community and generate further opportunities for innovation, creativity and employment.

These objectives align well with the City of Saskatoon Strategic Goals of Quality of Life, Sustainable Growth, Moving Around and Economic Diversity and Prosperity.

Specifically, Saskatoon's Winter City Strategy is being developed to improve broader community accessibility, inclusion, activity and energy, and lead to greater economic vitality (particularly within service, accommodation and retail sectors) as the opportunities of winter are realized and the challenges mitigated. The intent of the Strategy is to be broad, responding to opportunities associated with winter life, winter design and winter economy; as well as addressing perceptions, attitudes and behaviours of citizens to generate a positive winter culture.

What has been the process for developing the Strategy so far?

In an attempt to build on the successes and learnings of other cities who are further along in the development and implementation of their Winter City Strategies, the City of Saskatoon has approached the development of the Strategy as an iterative process where community stakeholders co-design the Strategy with the City.

This co-design process began with a Stakeholder Breakfast. An interactive breakfast workshop was held on March 15, 2016, at Le Relais, attended by 45 community members. An orientation to the concept and potential of a Winter City Strategy was provided (based largely on recent work by the City of Edmonton), and key steps for moving forward a Strategy forward in Saskatoon was discussed. Stakeholders identified the need to first inventory existing assets and improve awareness of them. There was strong stakeholder interest in engaging in the next steps in a Winter City Strategy, either through volunteering with tasks and events or on a project committee.

As a result of this feedback, the following four-step process for developing a Saskatoon Community Winter City Strategy was developed and implemented between January and May 2017.

Step One - Building on the strength of existing assets

With a small amount of capital funding (\$6500) to hire a communications consultant and the support of existing civic staff (approximately 15 hours), an inventory of existing assets was developed. The purpose of the inventory is to provide a foundation from which the City and community stakeholders can promote what already exists, seek synergies through cooperative efforts, and identify gaps to be filled by the Strategy.

The inventory is located at Saskatoon.ca/WinterCityYXE.

WinterCityYXE: Saskatoon's Winter City Strategy



We're leading the creation of a Winter City Strategy for Saskatoon - the goal of the Strategy is to make winter in our city great!

Check Out What Our Winter City Already Has to Offer!

There is already so much to do in Saskatoon in the winter! From outdoor winter activities like skating and cross country skiing, to PotashCorp Wintershines, one of Canada's Best Winter Festivals, to attending a winter camp.

Want to get out of the cold? The Saskatoon [Civic Conservatory](#) offers is a free place to warm up! Or check out the City of Saskatoon Winter 2017 [Leisure Guide](#) for a listing of hundreds of indoor and outdoor winter activities!

Outdoor Recreational Facilities



Outdoor Winter Events



Outdoor Programs and Activities



Contact Us

Environmental And Corporate Initiatives

306-975-2487

[Email Us](#)

Share Your Ideas

Submit your ideas online!

[Host your own "Kitchen Table Talk"](#)

Related Documents

The online inventory currently contains the following features:

- An interactive map of civic facilities and amenities that support outdoor activity.



- A list (and supporting maps where available) of community-developed outdoor recreational facilities
- A 'calendar' (list by date) of events throughout the winter season.

Engaging the community in change

The notion of a Winter City Strategy can seem vague and intangible. The purpose of community engagement and awareness was (and remains) to make the concept real through stakeholder and community conversations, a digital presence through a central webpage, and by starting the work to create new and/or promote and strengthen existing winter experiences. Spending associated with all communications and awareness activities to date (including design, production and ad placements costs) has been approximately \$25,000.

The City developed an engagement plan that could be implemented during the winter season to gain the interest and attention of the community. The hope was that if community co-design for winter occurred in the winter season it would achieve additional benefits as barriers are more physically evident and opportunities are more perceivable. The engagement process was supported by a contracted communications consultant (contract value including all costs for meeting logistics: \$14,000) and 100 hours of civic staff time.

The engagement process to date has involved the following approaches to help generate a 'blizzard' of ideas for inclusion in the Strategy:

- *Share precedents from other places to help citizens, stakeholders and businesses envision new possibilities.*

Phase one of this approach involved funding four (4) delegates from the community-at-large to attend the Winter Cities Shake-Up in Edmonton, Alberta in February. To apply for funding, applicants were asked to identify how they would contribute to the development and implementation of a Winter City Strategy in Saskatoon as well as how their commitment fit into the four key pillars of the Strategy: Winter Design, Winter Life, Winter Culture, and Winter Economy. The cost to send delegates to the conference was approximately \$10,000.

The following community representatives attended the conference and shared their learnings and observations by producing a video (viewable at Saskatoon.ca/WinterCityYXE):

- Kirby Wirchenko, Broadway Theatre – Winter Culture
- Tannis Millar, Downtown YXE – Winter Economy
- PJ Bell, Saskatoon Cycles / Liveable YXE / EACCA – Winter Design
- Chris Standing, Wanuskewin – Winter Life

These delegates have remained involved in the Strategy and act as champions from the community to share their vision and help craft a new story about winter in Saskatoon. They are also members of a Community Working Group formed to provide ongoing guidance on the Strategy development process.

- *Host roundtables with stakeholders to discuss opportunities, gaps, 'quick wins' and strategies.*

Lively and insightful conversations were held with community representatives from arts, culture, and festival groups, newcomers and settlement groups, seniors, advocacy groups for the mobility challenged, environmental groups, bus riders, cyclists, business groups, community associations, Indigenous students, and sports and recreation groups.

- *Conduct online engagement to gather ideas and feedback.*

An open-ended survey tool to document ideas and advice from community members received 531 responses.

- *Empower self-directed 'kitchen-table-talks' utilizing online discussion guides and workbooks.*

This type of engagement approach has not been widely utilized in Saskatoon before. Several groups used the workbook to guide their discussions, recording their results using the online survey. One group (of 17 individuals) submitted a completed workbook.

- *Host a Community Workshop.*
Not originally included in the engagement plan, as conversations with the community evolved, the stakeholders, as well as individuals from the community-at-large,

expressed interest in having a broader session where dialogue on the results of targeted stakeholder engagement could be discussed. Stakeholders gathered for a Community Workshop held at the Royal Canadian Legion Saskatoon Branch 63 Hall (606 Spadina Crescent West) on April 27, 2017.

The workshop format involved a modified world café-style session where stakeholders reviewed and comments on the 'blizzard' of ideas already gathered, circulated through the 'café' again to participate in an exercise to develop a general consensus on priorities among those participating, and a plenary discussion on themes.

The goals of the workshop were to:

- Identify the big ideas (new things) to be included in the Strategy. Some ideas receiving significant support at the workshop included:
 - Creatively designed warmup shelters
 - Washrooms available through the winter
 - Clear paths and sidewalks to support persons of all abilities
 - Address accessibility barriers to active transportation (particularly for those with mobility challenges)
 - Winter festivals introducing new themes
 - Intergenerational events
 - Neighbourhood-level events
 - More cultural events (particularly Indigenous)
 - Indigenous winter structures in parks (e.g. tipi with warm-up fire)
- Establish a sense of the priority actions to undertake immediately (i.e. supporting or growing existing initiatives and initiating small changes). The ideas receiving the strongest consensus at the workshop included:
 - Coordinate efforts through partnerships and collaborative funding
 - Heated outdoor patios
 - Add more food and drink options to existing events
 - Focus on affordability to enable participation by all Saskatonians
 - Implement 'pop up' features to better utilize existing spaces
 - Continue to provide small amounts of community grant funding to support community innovation

The plenary discussion highlighted the following concepts that participants felt important to develop further through the Strategy:

- Focus on accessibility of all types
 - Cultural
 - Affordability
 - Mobility
- Recognize the importance of equity and its relationship to accessibility
 - Individual mobility

- Income
 - The goal is a caring, compassionate community
 - Focus on becoming a diverse city
 - Recognize not every initiative can be all things to all people all the time but that in aggregate everyone is well served
 - Some initiatives should be broad while others should be specialized and targeted
 - There is tremendous benefit to be realized from focussing on making the city walkable
 - Light is important to creating an atmosphere of warmth and sociability
 - The riverbank is the heart of the community and a network of sites with connections should be a priority
 - People seek opportunities to gather together
 - More opportunities should be created to take advantage of the full spectrum of winter activities and themes
 - Improve assets to accommodate small or large events, whether formal or informal
 - Invest in infrastructure
 - Permanent
 - Pop-up and/or Mobile
 - Include initiatives that focus on continuous improvement (i.e. accessibility improvements) and also include entrepreneurial ideas that are innovative and a departure from our current norms (i.e. take risks)
 - Continue to support community learning through workshops, speakers, etc.
- *Create a Community Working Group.*
 Volunteers representative of a variety of community sectors that relate to the themes of the Strategy helped the Administration by guiding the plans for the Community Workshop, debriefing on the results of engagement activities to date, and will continue to meet to guide further community engagement.

Evaluation of the success of engagement so far

Engagement of the community in the co-design of a Winter City Strategy for Saskatoon has generated enthusiasm for the Strategy among a significant number of stakeholders across the community. However, there is more work to be done to ensure engagement is inclusive of the entire community such that the Strategy appropriately reflects the challenges and opportunities associated with the winter experience of all Saskatonians.

The Community Working Group has noted there have been fewer 'voices' or perspectives participating in the Winter City dialogue so far among Saskatoon's youth, children, frail older adults, new Canadians, Indigenous peoples, and restaurant owners.

Elements critical to the success of future engagement efforts were identified to include food, facilitators from the community (rather than civic staff or professional facilitators), and meeting locations in community spaces.

Helping community members understand what already exists (i.e. through further development of the asset inventory) was identified as an important starting point to future conversations.

The success of the Strategy requires momentum among stakeholders capable of demonstrating the Winter City concept through initiatives. The Community Working Group is willing to continue to participate with the City to keep this momentum going and have identified that the small amount of grant funding provided through the Strategy has been a useful method for engaging and supporting community initiative

'Quick Win' Actions

\$25,000 was used in a call for submissions to support community initiatives deemed to advance learning or move core concepts of the Strategy forward. The community cash grant process was administered by the Recreation and Community Development Division in alignment with other community granting processes.

Funding criteria: Projects that further the four areas of WinterCityYXE: Winter Life, Winter Design, Winter Culture, and Winter Economy. Specifically, grant dollars were made available for new winter program or design initiatives where a gap was verified and need demonstrated. Funding was targeted to meet specific Strategy outcomes focussing on initiatives that:

- add a new dimension to existing initiatives;
- pilot an urban design concept in a high-use public area; and/or
- facilitate linkages between existing initiatives to create new outcomes

Grant awards: Six (6) grants were provided to community groups. The minimum grant available was \$500; the maximum \$5,000. There were 15 applications at the April 21, 2017 deadline requesting a total of \$62,354.99. Only one project and one application was considered from a given organization.

From the emerging themes identified through engagement activities, at the Community Workshop, and in ongoing discussions with the Community Working Group, it has been identified that further work on 'quick win' actions is critical to the success of the Strategy. By continuing to implement actions in parallel with the iterative Strategy development process, the community can capitalize on the current momentum and continue to build community understanding of what is possible.

Quick win actions to be explored beginning in 2018 as the Strategy continues to develop include:

- Theme of improving mobility
 - Work with civic divisions and utilize the Snow Angel promotional program to focus on clearing paths and sidewalks to support persons of all abilities
 - Determine where accelerated enhancements anticipated under the City's Accessibility Action Plan may be required to address accessibility barriers to active transportation (particularly for those with mobility challenges)

- Theme of improving facilities and infrastructure
 - Invest in creatively designed warmup shelters.
 - Invest in washrooms available through the winter, particularly noting that the riverbank is the heart of the community and a network of connected sites with winter amenities should be a priority.

- Theme of providing more support to existing activities
 - Work with community event organizers and winter programs and facilities on opportunities to enhance affordability to enable participation by all Saskatonians and opportunities to add more food and drink options to existing events.
 - Continue to provide small amounts of community grant funding to support community community-led initiatives that generate learnings for the Strategy.
 - Coordinate efforts through partnerships and collaborative funding (e.g. 'blankets and mugs' program similar to the 'bikes for hotels' launched last summer).
 - Work with civic approving authorities to review and revise civic policies and procedures to better reflect the objectives of the Strategy and facilitate community initiative by taking a less 'risk-averse' perspective.
 - Explore to opportunity to provide summer student ambassadors

- Theme of introducing new events and things to do
 - Continue to provide a small amount of funding to community groups to support community-led initiatives that generate learnings for the Strategy
 - Bring community event organizers together to explore the potential to expand existing winter festivals by introducing new themes or introduce new festivals with new themes, including a focus on:
 - Winter lighting;
 - Intergenerational events;
 - Neighbourhood-level events; and
 - More cultural events (particularly Indigenous and French).
 - Invest in new assets that support outdoor winter activities such as:
 - Indigenous winter structures in parks (e.g. tipi with warm-up fire);
 - 'Pop up' features to better utilize existing spaces; and
 - Mobile event supports (i.e. water, power, washrooms, warming facilities).
 - Facilitate the creation of heated outdoor patios.

- Theme of improving the promotion of events and activities
 - Maintain and expand the online inventory of existing assets.
 - Conduct a benchmark survey on current attitudes, perceptions and behaviours related to Saskatoon's winter season.
 - Continue to study the potential economic and quality of life benefits achievable through the Strategy.

- Continue the community conversation, guided by the Community Working Group, about challenges and opportunities associated with winter, ensuring under-represented population segments have a voice in the further development of the Strategy.

Online Winter City YXE Asset Inventory

WinterCityYXE: Saskatoon's Winter City Strategy



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Outdoor Recreational Facilities



Check out our [WinterCityYXE interactive map](#) that shows the locations of outdoor skating rinks, dog parks and other facilities. PLUS amenities to support these activities like public washrooms and places to warm up!

Meewasin Trail

The [Meewasin Trail](#) is home to beautiful pathways that wind along the South Saskatchewan riverbank and displays stunning views of both downtown and the forested riverbank.

<http://meewasin.com/map/>

Cross Country Ski Trails

[Kinsmen Ski Trail](#)

[Wildwood Ski Trail](#)

[Willows Ski Trails](#)

The City of Saskatoon thanks the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club for their efforts in creating and maintaining the trails at these locations.

City Groomed Trails

Holiday Park Golf Course: Access at Avenue U South Outside loop 3.5 km double classic track & skating lane

Lower Meewasin Park: Access at Pinehouse & Whiteswan Drives Loop 4.8 km single classic track

Upper Meewasin Park: Access at Pinehouse and Whiteswan Drives Loop 3.4 km single classic track

Meewasin Park to Adilman buffer: Access at eastend of Adilman Drive or Meewasin Park 2 km single classic track

Diefenbaker Park: Access at Ruth Street & St. Henry Avenue 2.6 km single classic track

Forest Park: Access at Lowe Rd, Nelson Rd & Forest Dr. 3.0 km single classic track. Connecting link to Silverspring Park

Cross Country Ski Trails in Varsity View:

President Murray Park (Wiggins Avenue & Aird Street)

Grosvenor Park (Copland Crescent & Leslie Avenue)

River Landing

River Landing is located on the banks of the beautiful South Saskatchewan River. In addition to the Meewasin Trail running through River Landing, an [Outdoor Adult Fitness Circuit](#) and Pavilion Building public washrooms are open all year round. A [Ceremonial Fire Vessel](#) is available for rent as a warming and gathering place.

Do you have a winter facility you would like to add to our interactive map? [Email](#) (All submissions will be reviewed to ensure they fit within our Winter City Strategy themes prior to posting).

Outdoor Winter Events



November 19 – January 7: [Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour](#)

For 18 years, the Enchanted Forest Holiday Light Tour has been making the winter season sparkle.

January 19 - 22: [Winterruption](#)

Seven venues in Saskatoon are running more than 17 shows to give you a great reason to get out of your house in the longest, coldest, darkest month of the year. There will be music, comedy, podcasts and more.

January 28 – February 5: [PotashCorp Wintershines](#)

Called one of Canada's Best Winter Festivals by the Globe and Mail, Wintershines

offers something for the whole family. From ice carving to winter camping to scavenger hunting at the snow park, the event is sure to warm your heart!

Activities include:

- Winter Camp in the City
- International Ice Carving Events
- Outdoor Petting Zoo
- Warm the Heart Soup Cookoff
- Wintershines Snow Park
- And more!

January 29: [PotashCorp Skating Party](#)

February 4: [SRRA & STCI Wintershines Blizzard Triathlon](#)

February 5: [WinterFest and Skate with the Blades](#), hosted by the Lawson Heights Community Association

February 12: [Hypo1/2](#)

Join in the Hypothermic ½ Marathon

February 11: Free King George Winter Carnival (1:00 pm to 4:00 pm)

Skating, snowshoeing, crafts, bouncy castle, sleigh rides, hot dogs, coffee, hot chocolate and more!

February 18 - 20: [Frosted Gardens at the Zoo](#).

Open 10 am to 4 pm daily. Fee will be by donation.

The Professional Ice Carving Society of Saskatoon (PICSS) President, Peter Fogarty, is very pleased to have Frosted Gardens move to the Zoo. Come on out to the Forestry Farm Park & Zoo on Feb 18th through the 20th to enjoy viewing snow sculpture displays and various ice carvings. From 11 am to 3 pm each day you will see professional Live Ice Carving demonstrations.

Children aged 4 - 10 can enjoy the "Little Chippers" activity where they will have the opportunity to chip and carve their own ice sculpture. The fee for the Little Chippers activity is \$5 per child or \$8 for a family of 2 children. This activity will run every 1/2 hour which will be on a first come basis. Parental accompaniment is required.

Buckeye Café will have a satellite concession selling Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Cold Beverages and Cookies throughout the 3 day weekend!

The Paws Inn Gift Shop will be open 12 noon to 3:30 pm each day.

February 20: [Saskatoon SCOA Globe Walk](#)

Gather your team together for a walk in the park. 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Forestry Farm Park and Zoo. Meet in front of the Superintendents Residence. Hot chocolate will be served! Call [306-651-2255](tel:306-651-2255)

February 26: East College Park Community Association - [Winter Day in the Park](#)

February 26: Montgomery Place Family Fun Day (2:00 to 4:00 pm)

Montgomery Place Community Association is hosting a Family Fun Day for its residents at the Montgomery Park Rink.

Residents are welcome to bring their sleds, skates, cross country skis and/or snowshoes for an afternoon of fun in the park. The event will include an official grand opening of the newly renovated Montgomery Park rink and a celebration of the volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen. Hot chocolate and cookies will be provided at the rec building near the rink.

February 20: [Cameco Family Day Skating Party](#)

March 4: [South Nutana Park Winter Carnival](#)

South Nutana Park is partnering with the École Canadienne-Française to host a winter carnival that will feature curling, sleigh rides, snowshoeing and more!

March 5: [Brainfreeze](#)

Run the 5K, 10K or Half-marathon at the 2017 Brainfreeze by Brainsport.

Do you have a winter event or activity you would like to add to our inventory? [Email](#) (All submissions will be reviewed to ensure they fit within our Winter City Strategy themes prior to posting).

[Outdoor Programs and Activities](#)



Cross Country Skiing Events

Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club hosts a number of skiing programs including:

- Grapefruit Cup races (Tuesday nights at Wildwood Golf Course in January and February)
- Saskatoon Loppet (5 - 50 km race)
- Sask Cup Races (provincial race series)
- Blind Skier Events

View the [full calendar](#) of events.

Cross Country Skiing Programs

Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club programs include:

- Jackrabbits: 165 children (ages 3 - 12) enrolled in Skills Development programs
- A section for blind and low-vision skiers
- HiPer Adult (age 19+) race team
- HiPer Junior (ages 14 - 19) race team
- HiPer Youth (ages 8 - 14) race team
- Sunday and mid-week group ski to Eb's Trails and other locations
- Adult ski lessons

- Ski at School for grades 4, 5 & 6

View the [full calendar](#) of events.

FatBiking

FatBiking, or snowbiking on 3.7-5 inch wide tires, is becoming a popular winter activity in Saskatoon and many recreational fat bike riders become winter commuters! The [Fatlanders](#) FatTire Brigade hosts a number of events and activities to try out the sport.

Kicksledding

A kicksled consists of two skinny runners attached to a handle bar at about waist height. The runners have a rubberized spot to rest your foot and keep your balance and some have seats for transporting small children. You can even harness a dog to the sled and attach a brake.

Outdoor Running

Get out and run and discover how great winter running can be!

Brainsport offers a [Run Academy Winter Session](#) where courses are interactive and fun filled. Great coaches provide training in healthy running techniques and injury prevention.

Saskatoon Roadrunners' Running Club offers ski and/or snowshoe crossing [training](#) Sundays at Holiday Park Golf Course

Tobogganing

Diefenbaker Park and Pest Hill in the George D. Archibald Memorial Park North are great places for the whole family to toboggan. Parks, including Harold Tatler North and South in South Nutana Park, also have small tobogganing hills. <http://www.snpca.ca/>

There are also two [tobogganing](#) hills in Willowgrove University Heights.

Winter Kids Camp

Book your kids into [winter camp](#) at Wanuskewin Heritage Park February 21-24, where they'll take guided trail walks, take part in archeology digs, build outdoor tipis and more!

Outdoor Public Art

Winter is a great time explore Saskatoon's public art, both permanent and temporary.

These artworks particularly shine in winter:

- Land of Berries - Neon Light Installation by Tony Stallard, Joi Arcand, Joseph Naytowhow and Kenneth T Williams. Located on the North Side of Persephone Theatre
- Moose Jaw Trail by Jill Anholt & Susan Mavor – Located in Mark Thompson Park in Stonebridge

New public art installations coming this winter:

- An Eastern Dream of the West, Little Chief Station Riversdale. A lit sculptural installation of the shell of a boat by contemporary artist Jeremy Tsang
- Jason Gress, Broadway & Downtown - installation to be covered in ice as an ice-sculpture this winter.

[Browse our public art collection.](#)

[Browse our public art collection using our Placemaker Program](#)

Do you have a winter event or activity you would like to add to our inventory?

Email (All submissions will be reviewed to ensure they fit within our Winter City Strategy themes prior to posting).

Perform an online search for Winter Sports Equipment in Saskatoon to find a listing of retailers who rent equipment.



ENGAGEMENT RESULTS
April 2017

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all 770 individuals who provided ideas and feedback to Saskatoon's Winter City Strategy!

- Online survey: 531
- Facebook posts: 18
- Kitchen Table Talks: 17 individuals representing 1 group
- 9 Roundtable Groups: 60 individuals representing 48 groups
 1. Arts/Culture/Festivals
 2. Newcomers/Settlement Groups
 3. Seniors/Advocacy/Persons with Disabilities Groups
 4. Environmental Groups/Bus Riders/Cyclists
 5. Business Groups
 6. Community Associations
 7. Aboriginal Students
 8. Sports & Recreation
 9. Miscellaneous Groups

Organizations Who Participated in Roundtable Sessions:

1. La Troupe du Jour
2. Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan
3. Children's Discovery Museum
4. On Purpose Events/WinterShines
5. Broadway Theatre
6. Gordon Tootosis Nikaniwin Theatre
7. Nuit Blanche/Void Gallery
8. Saskatoon Symphony
9. Saskatoon Open Door Society
10. Federation des Francophones
11. International Women of Saskatoon
12. Global Gathering Place
13. Newcomer Information Centre
14. U of S Language Centre
15. Saskatchewan German Council
16. Saskatoon Council on Aging
17. Saskatoon Senior Fitness Association
18. Saskatchewan Abilities Council
19. Saskatoon Services for Seniors
20. Saskatchewan Environmental Society
21. Meewasin Valley Authority
22. Saskatoon Cycles
23. Nature City Festival
24. Tom Brown (Cyclist)
25. Sutherland Business Improvement District
26. Broadway Business Improvement District
27. On Purpose Leadership Inc.
28. Koopman Architecture
29. Downtown YXE (Business Improvement District)
30. Tourism Saskatoon
31. Confederation Park CA
32. Hudson Bay Park/Mayfair CA
33. King George CA
34. Lakeridge CA
35. Sutherland/Forest Grove CA
36. Willowgrove/University Heights CA
37. City Park CA
38. U of S Students (8)
39. City Council Member Sarina Gersher
40. Saskatoon Cycles
41. Saskatoon Health Region
42. YWCA
43. Saskatoon Public Health Evaluation Research Unit
44. Optimist Club
45. Canoeski
46. Crosby Hanna & Associates
47. Escape Sports
48. Fatlanders FatTire Brigade

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Thank you to all 770 individuals who provided feedback and ideas to Saskatoon's Winter City Strategy! This report provides a summary of engagement results.

The engagement process consisted to City-hosted Roundtable Sessions attended by various stakeholder groups, and an online survey. The City's social media tools were the main tools used to promote the online survey.

Participants were asked questions about winter in Saskatoon according to four main themes: Winter Life, Winter Design, Winter Culture and Winter Economy.

In examining the engagement results, particularly the opportunities for improvements that were identified, new themes began to emerge. These new themes revolved around improving mobility, improving infrastructure and facilities, providing more support to existing activities, and introducing new events and things to do. Improving the promotion of events and activities was also a common theme that emerged throughout the engagement.

This report provides a summary of the top things people love about Saskatoon (for each initial pillar), and the most common opportunities identified by stakeholder groups through the in-person 1.5 hour-long Roundtable Sessions. A summary of the main ideas identified for each new theme, and a list of activities currently taking place in other cities that Saskatoon could learn from is also included. Finally, all of the raw results from the engagement process are listed by strategic pillar.

TOP TEN THINGS PEOPLE LOVE ABOUT WINTER IN SASKATOON (BY STRATEGIC PILLAR)

WINTER LIFE:

Celebrating the inviting and fun quality of life we have here, even in the coldest months of the year.

The community was asked to talk about ways to expand the opportunities for getting out in winter. Winter Life is about embracing the winter season, and celebrating the unique activities and opportunities available in our city that make life fun and interesting.

Saskatoon is vibrant and inviting in the summer season with a wide variety of things to do outside. What if our winter season was equally inviting? There are already many ways to adopt an active lifestyle in the winter months – skating, cross country skiing, fatbiking, outdoor running, tobogganing, and the list goes on!

A winter lifestyle also includes simply getting out, even if it means to head back inside again to the many indoor leisure opportunities available in Saskatoon! Walking to the library, Conservatory or to the same locations you would walk to in summer also contributes to enhancing Winter Life in our community.

1. Trails for Cross-country Skiing, Walking, Fatbiking
2. Community Association Skating Rinks
3. Sledding/Tobogganing hills (Parks and Diefenbaker Hill)
4. Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza
5. Leisure Centres/Indoor Skating Rinks/Indoor Pools/Libraries
6. Meewasin Trail
7. Ice Skating (any location)
8. Potash Corp WinterShines Event
9. Walking by the River
10. The Beauty of Winter (crisp bright sunny weather/big clear sky/stars/snow/river views)

WINTER DESIGN:

Improving community comfort and accessibility for everyone, even in the ice and snow.

Winter Design refers to things we can do to plan, design and maintain our communities better; to make the winter months more enjoyable. Some examples include:

- *Ensuring water, washrooms and warming locations are built into the design of parks and public spaces.*
- *Ensuring new buildings are built to take advantage of the winter sun.*
- *Installing lighting to make the darker winter season inviting and beautiful.*
- *Creating public spaces that take advantage of the sun and block out the cold wind (this is called creating a micro-climate and can be part of permanent designs for public or private spaces, or can be created seasonally by creating snow or ice walls or bringing in designed wind breakers).*

1. Snow Removal on Meewasin Trail is Timely
2. Snow Removal is Usually Timely/Improving

3. Snow Removal in Parks and on Pathways/Bridge Sidewalks is Good
4. Getting Around the City to Activities is Easy and Fast/Good Locations
5. Cross-Country Ski Trails are Groomed
6. Residents/Businesses Have to Clear their Own Snow
7. Heated Shack at Meewasin Rink
8. Outdoor Lights and Winter Decorations
9. Warm Up Facilities are Available in Some Locations
10. Indoor Leisure Centres

WINTER CULTURE:

Building enthusiasm for winter, taking advantage of winter opportunities, and telling the story of our winter city.

The City of Edmonton is a great example of a city that is changing its winter culture so that citizens embrace winter. Edmonton is being recognized around the world for its Winter City Strategy, and citizens have proclaimed that it's time they celebrate the joy of winter and embrace the season. They have a plan in place that sees the community working together, and thinking differently, so they can become a great world-leading winter city.

Other examples of Canadian cities where citizens look forward to winter are Quebec City and Ottawa. In Quebec City, the Winter Carnival offers a diverse program of winter activities and is one of the world's largest winter carnivals, drawing thousands of visitors to the city each year. In Ottawa thousands of citizens look forward to skating to work each day during the winter on the Rideau Canal Skateway, the largest naturally frozen skating rink in the world.

In cities that are embracing a Winter Culture, it is the contributions of businesses, community arts and culture groups, community sports and recreation groups, and the positive attitude of citizens themselves that makes all the difference.

1. Wintershines
2. Ice Sculptures
3. There Are Lots of Options to Enjoy Culture
4. Music (Symphony/Bassment Concerts/Music Festivals)
5. Winterruption Event
6. Enchanted Forest
7. Other Winter Festivals
8. Events at Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza
9. Events at Cross Country Ski Trails, Including Winter Triathlon, Fatbiking, Loppets
10. The People/People Gathering

WINTER ECONOMY:

Addressing challenges associated with winter to create a more vibrant economy in the winter. It is common throughout many cities for things to slow down in the winter season (outside the Christmas shopping period). Let's talk about ways in which Saskatoon's Winter Economy could be made more vibrant to sustain our small businesses, attract visitors to new and existing events and festivals, and create a fun and inviting atmosphere that entices people to get out and connect with each other.

Some examples for expanding our Winter Economy include:

- *Hosting a “dine-around” within one of Saskatoon’s shopping districts where citizens and visitors can take advantage of great deals or new exciting experiences by stopping in to participating restaurants for warm-up appetizers, hot meals, or a warm after dinner drink!*
- *In Winnipeg, a “pop-up restaurant” is developed each winter, hosted by the top chefs in the city. This unique event is sold out each year and diners enjoy both top-quality food and drink, and the opportunity to eat outside at a big community table with their friends, family, and new acquaintances!*
- *In Edmonton, entrepreneurs are being encouraged to investigate business opportunities that would thrive in the winter, like the manufacture and sales of warm clothing and toque/mitt stores, etc.*

1. Dining Out (Lots of Dining/Restaurant Options)
2. Good Shopping & Sales
3. I Don't Notice a Difference Between the Economy in the Winter Versus the Summer
4. Broadway Area
5. Indoor Malls
6. Year Round Farmer's Market
7. Going to Movies
8. Great Coffee Shops
9. Heated Underground Parking at Malls
10. Riversdale Area

MOST COMMON OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED BY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (BY STRATEGIC PILLAR)

WINTER LIFE:

1. Improve event promotion
2. Improve snow clearing from roads/sidewalks/pathways
3. Build more winterized public washrooms
4. Free or cheap equipment for winter activities
5. More warm up locations
6. Build more places to park indoors
7. Free or cheaper activities and equipment rentals
8. Improve transit and transportation system
9. Educate people about activities and how to do them
10. Create 'bootrooms' in public buildings

WINTER DESIGN:

1. Add colours to designs – including art, murals, etc.
2. Include art in winter design; Indigenous art
3. Build pedestrian walkways
4. Build outdoor ice castle at the Bessborough
5. Have local artists help promote events like Wintershines
6. Build narrow, walkable spaces to create the necessary micro-climate/wind-break
7. Introduce more lighting (dark sky compliant); add lighting to pathways and ski trails; put lights in bus shelters and at bus stops; light up the trees in Civic Square year-round
8. Replace aging decorations
9. Clear snow and ice from sidewalks; introduce residential snow clearing
10. Ensure infrastructure includes heat/water/power for pop-up venues or winterized washrooms

WINTER CULTURE:

1. Better promotion of cultural events/activities
2. Decrease City's risk-aversion to new ideas
3. Hold a light festival, displays (eg. Victoria Butchart Gardens)
4. Extend public art program beyond static art installations to include a stage podium for concerts/performances
5. Create a continuity of events throughout the year (mix of themes, brands, demographics, etc.)
6. Hold an annual New Year's eve event
7. Increase partnership (eg. francophone community, First Nations, newcomers) to share cultures through events (eg. Global Village at U of S)
8. Partner with Community Associations and seniors groups to hold events
9. Create an annual city-wide winter event people can connect to and be proud of
10. Hold more walking tours (eg. Enchanted Forest)

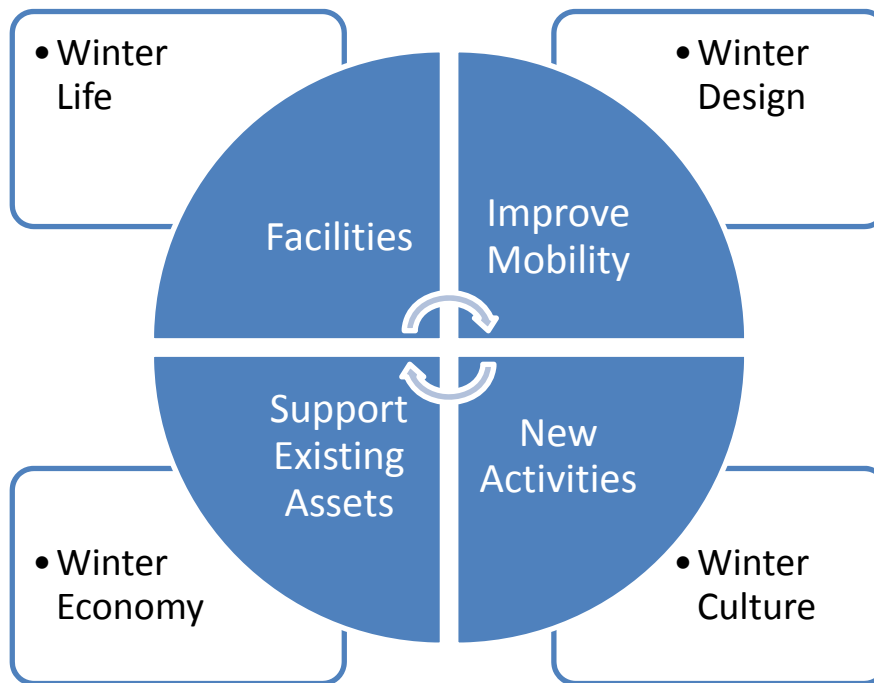
WINTER ECONOMY:

1. Sell hot chocolate at outdoor events/activities like Enchanted Forest
2. Set up temporary, seasonal businesses in Meewasin jurisdiction
3. Add outdoor washrooms and warm up shacks along river
4. Hold more family events

5. Heat key sidewalks in front of business locations
6. Hold big events that will result in retail/restaurant sales
7. Have businesses support art programs and vice versa using coupons, etc.
8. Use existing parking lots for events (i.e. biggest street hockey tourney in Canada?)
9. Open a pop-up, or outdoor theatre
10. Build smaller portable stage for businesses to use for events

NEW THEMES EMERGE

The four pillars proved somewhat useful in guiding discussions during the community engagement phase of the Winter City Strategy. However, as citizens and stakeholders identified ideas for action, new Action Themes emerged.

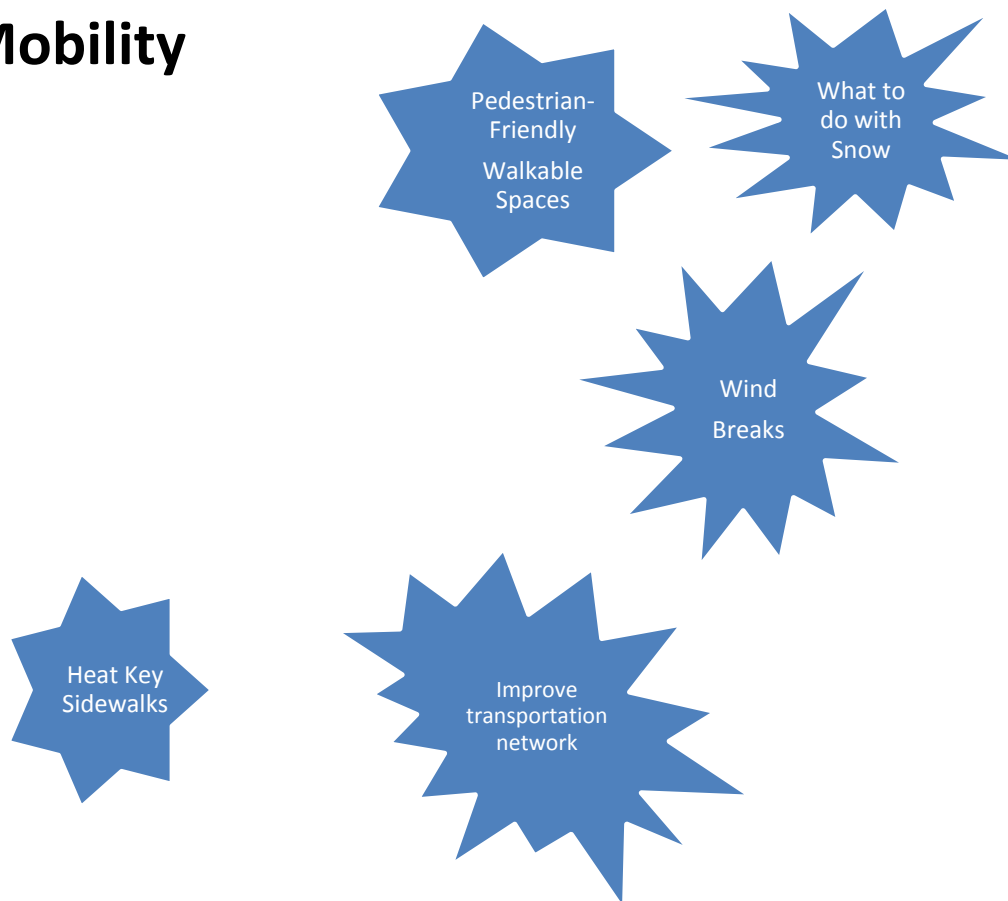


MAIN ACTION ITEMS WITHIN NEW THEMES

IMPROVE MOBILITY

- Better snow clearing
 - roads, sidewalks, residential, pathways
- Build pedestrian walkways
- Improve transit system
- Improve overall transportation system
- Build narrow, walkable spaces to create the necessary micro-climate/wind-breaks
- Heat key sidewalks in front of business locations

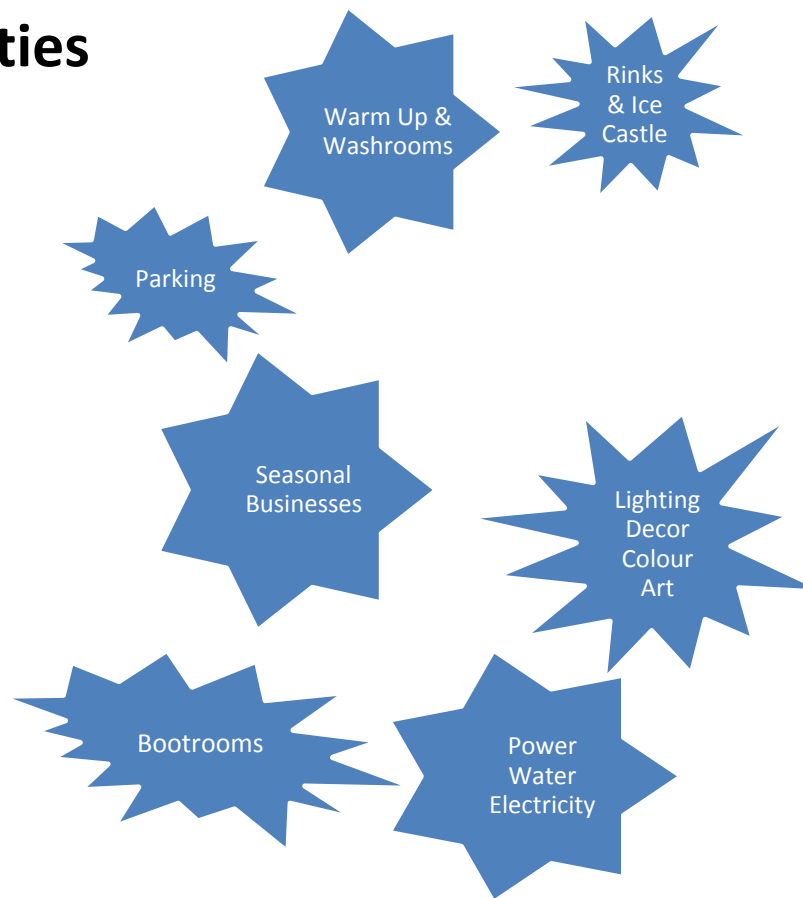
Mobility



IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE & FACILITIES

- Warm up shelters
- Winterized washrooms
- Add power/electricity/water to support outdoor facilities
- Add infrastructure for rental equipment where activities occur
- Support outdoor rinks
- Build “bootrooms” in public buildings
- Add colour, art (Indigenous art) and murals to outdoor facilities
- Include art in winter design; Indigenous art
- Build outdoor ice castle at the Bessborough
- Introduce more lighting (dark sky compliant); add lighting to pathways and ski trails; put lights in bus shelters and at bus stops; light up the trees in Civic Square year-round
- Replace aging decorations
- Set up temporary, seasonal businesses in Meewasin jurisdiction
- Build smaller portable stage for businesses to use for events
- Better parking (more indoor parking lots, underground lots)

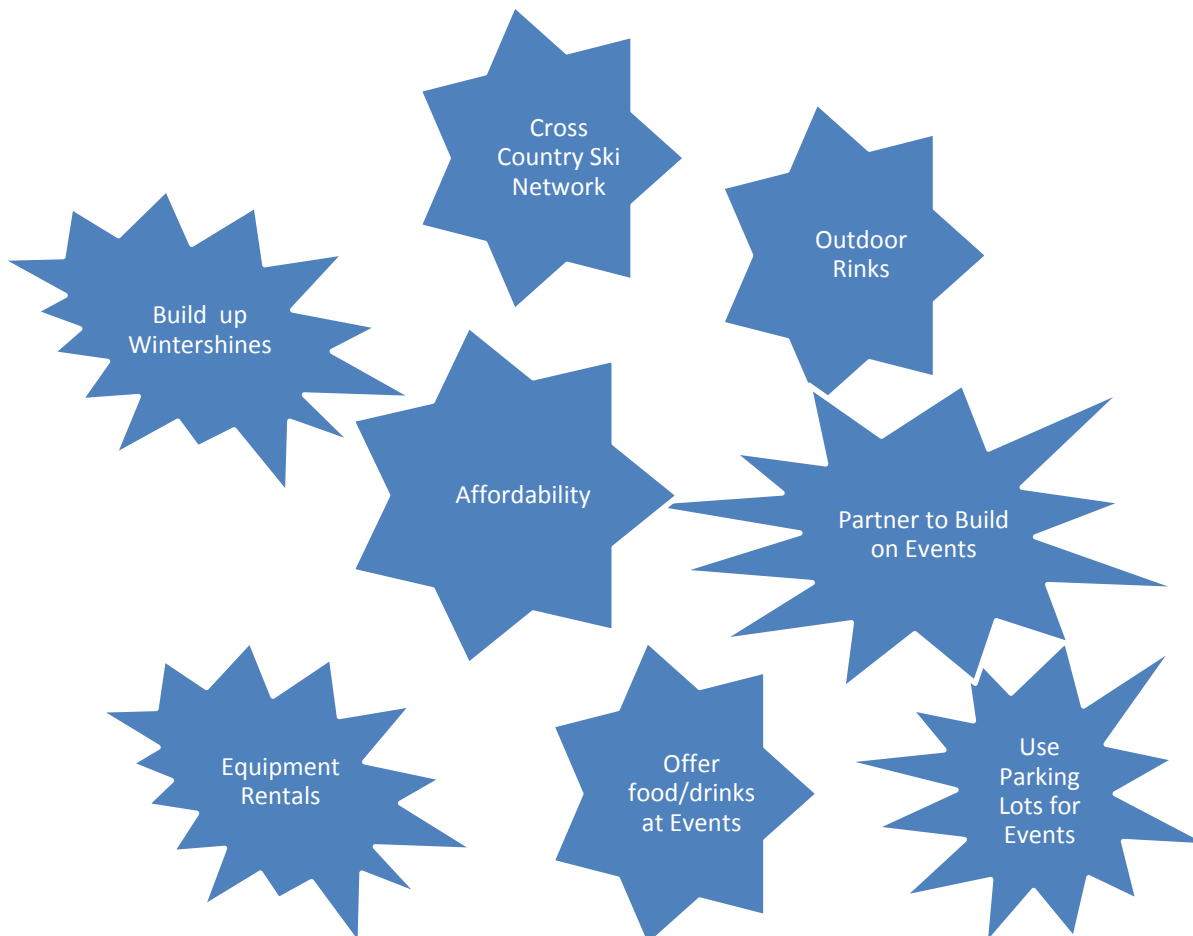
Facilities



SUPPORT EXISTING ACTIVITIES

- Invest in cross-country skiing (more trails, warm up shelters, outdoor washrooms, facilities in Kinsmen Park)
- Grow and expand Wintershines
- Increase partnership (eg. francophone community, Community Associations, First Nations, newcomers, seniors) to hold events and share cultures (eg. Global Village at U of S)
- Sell hot chocolate at outdoor events/activities like Enchanted Forest
- Use existing parking lots for events (i.e. biggest street hockey tourney in Canada)
- Offer free/affordable equipment rentals near activities

Support Existing Assets



EVENTS/THINGS TO DO

- More events (larger, community, cultural, family, annual New Years, fatbiking, Indigenous events)
- More affordable events/activities
- Free or inexpensive equipment rentals (cross-country skis, fatbikes, sleds, skates)
- Heated restaurants/outdoor cafes
- Educate people about activities and how to do them
- Decrease City's risk-aversion to new ideas
- Hold a light festival, displays (eg. Victoria Butchart Gardens)
- Extend public art program to include a stage podium for concerts/performances
- Create a continuity of events throughout the year (mix of themes, brands, demographics, etc.)
- Hold more walking tours (eg. Enchanted Forest)
- Open a pop-up, or outdoor theatre
- Have businesses support art programs and vice versa using coupons, etc.

New Activities



Note: Improving the promotion of winter activities/events in one location (online, app), and supporting others to promote their own activities/event was another common theme identified by both stakeholder groups and individual participants.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHER CITIES?

1. Edmonton - Great winter festivals, Ice Castle, Snowboarding Hill, Commuting Ski or Skate Trail, Food Festival,
2. Winnipeg - SkateTrack Through Park, Festival de Voyager
3. Ottawa - Skating on Canal
4. Kingston – Floods Parks for Skating
5. Yellowknife - Big Bonfire Party, Large Ice Castle
6. Vancouver – Hope On Hop Off Trolley
7. Victoria - Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides
8. Toronto – Christmas Market, Skating Paths
9. Calgary - Hot Chocolate Festival (Month-Long, City-Wide With Proceeds to Charity)
10. Quebec City – Carnival
11. Prince Albert - Winter/Summer Lodge to Host Activities
12. Canmore – X-Country Ski Track w/ Free Rentals so people can try the sport. Involve Collette Bourgonje, Food Festival
13. Grande Prairie: Pool, Gym, and Indoor Playground
14. Scandinavia – Outdoor Christmas Markets, Outdoor Food Festival
15. Calgary, Vancouver – Bike Lane Network
16. Calgary and Coquitlam – Walk Through Light Display
17. Charlottetown – Burger Festival
18. Research Umea, Sweden (Sister City)
19. Winnipeg/Montreal – Underground Connections/Tunnels
20. Edmonton/Calgary – Conservatories

RAW RESULTS

WHAT DO YOU LOVE?

WINTER LIFE:

1. Cross-country Skiing
2. Community Association Skating Rinks
3. Sledding/Tobogganing hills (Parks and Diefenbaker Hill)
4. Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza
5. Leisure Centres/Indoor Skating Rinks/Indoor Pools/Libraries
6. Meewasin Trail
7. Ice Skating (any location)
8. Potash Corp WinterShines Event
9. Walking by the River
10. The Beauty of Winter (crisp bright sunny weather/big clear sky/stars/snow/river views)
11. Lots of Low Cost Things To Do
12. Beaver Creek
13. Clarence Downey Oval
14. Cycling/Fatbiking
15. Festivals/Fireworks
16. Hockey
17. Snowshoeing
18. Lots of Parks
19. Pathways are Cleared of Snow
20. Off Leash Dog Parks
21. Farmers Market
22. Outdoor Lights
23. Walking Paths in the Community
24. Triathlon Races/Winter Running/ Running Clubs
25. Saskatoon Conservatory (old Mendel building)
26. Skate Rentals
27. Winter Hiking
28. Enchanted Forest
29. Neighbourhood Events/Activities
30. Indoor events like Sports and Leisure Shows/Gardenscape, etc.
31. Reasonable access fees for facilities/affordable activities
32. Curling Clubs
33. Blades/Rush Games
34. Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo
35. Skating Rink at Boffins
36. Saskatoon Cycles Event (Ice Cycles)
37. Downtown Area
38. Broadway Area/Winterruption
39. City Park Area
40. U of S Campus Area
41. Art Events - Concerts/Theatre
42. Vibrant Music Scene
43. Sheltered/Protected Outdoor Facilities
44. Snowball Fights

45. Remai Modern
46. Western Development Museum
47. Our Streets Are Safe
48. Festival of Trees
49. Innovation Place
50. People are friendly in winter and help each other
51. Winter events are well-run
52. Lots of indoor programs by Community Associations
53. City maximizes use of bridges
54. Good bird watching/feeding
55. Christmas lights
56. The City is Trying to Address Barriers for Seniors
57. Mall Walking
58. Protected Bike Lanes

WINTER DESIGN:

1. Snow Removal on Meewasin Trail is Timely
2. Snow Removal is Usually Timely/Improving
3. Snow Removal in Parks and on Pathways/Bridge Sidewalks is Good
4. Getting Around the City to Activities is Easy and Fast/Good Locations
5. Cross-Country Ski Trails are Groomed
6. Residents/Businesses Have to Clear their Own Snow
7. Heated Shack at Meewasin Rink
8. Outdoor Lights and Winter Decorations
9. Warm Up Facilities are Available in Some Locations
10. Indoor Leisure Centres
11. Lots of Fun Winter Activities
12. Protected Bike Lanes
13. Availability of Underground Parking
14. The City has Linked Natural Resources Well to the River Area/Riverbank
15. Washroom Facilities at Meewasin Rink and Trail
16. Parks With Ski Trails and Tobogganing Hills
17. Skating Oval
18. Heated Shack at Clarence Downey Oval
19. Access Transit
20. Off Leash Dog Parks are Designed with Natural Scenery and Diversity
21. Snow Angel Program
22. Free Parking at City Facilities
23. Public Transit is Good/Improving
24. Nice Public Space Design at Farmers Market
25. Outdoor Rinks Are Lit
26. There Are Some Wind Shelters
27. Hiking trails
28. Snowshoeing
29. Urban tree canopy (extend it)
30. Farmer's Market has Indoor & Outdoor Activities
31. Diefenbaker Hill
32. Innovation Place – Large Windows, Plants and Sunlight Inside
33. Lots of Bus Shelters
34. Outdoor Fitness Facility at River Landing

35. Lots of Places to Gather in the Community (esp. New Neighbourhoods with Green Spaces)
36. Beaver Creek

WINTER CULTURE:

1. Wintershines
2. Ice Sculptures
3. There Are Lots of Options to Enjoy Culture
4. Music (Symphony/Bassment Concerts/Music Festivals)
5. Winterruption Event
6. Enchanted Forest
7. Other Winter Festivals
8. Events at Cameco Meewasin Skating Rink @ PotashCorp Plaza
9. Events at Cross Country Ski Trails
10. The People/People Gathering
11. Some Events are Interactive
12. Community Association Events
13. Sleigh Rides/Festivals at the Western Development Museum
14. Shows at Persephone Theatre and TCU Place
15. Canada 150/New Years Eve Celebration/Fireworks
16. Farmer's Market
17. Blades and Rush Games
18. Lots of Indoor Activities for Kids & Adults
19. Meewasin Valley Trail and Other Trails
20. Fatbiking Club Events
21. Shoes at Prairieland Park
22. Christmas Lights
23. Blizzard Triathlon
24. Hockey Games
25. Forestry Farm
26. Wanuskewin
27. Conservatory
28. Worlds Biggest Snowball Fight Event
29. Lions Speedskating Events
30. Carnavale fransaskois!
31. Round dances
32. Displays at Innovation Place
33. Cultural Holiday Celebrations
34. Arts Events
35. Our Spirit of Perseverance and Enjoying Life, No Matter the Weather
36. IceCycle by Saskatoon Cycles
 - Minus 20 isn't that cold
37. Strong Cultural Engagement in Saskatoon
38. Sutherland Education Program
39. No Elevated Pedestrian Networks Support "Get Outside" Culture
40. Broadway Shops
41. Public Art Program
42. River Culture is Great – People Love and Connect with the Rive
43. BIDS Support Culture and Programs
44. Community Association Annual Events

45. Good Winter Cycling Culture
46. World Record for Largest Snowball Fight
47. Great Library System
48. Good Relationships Between CA' and Seniors Groups
49. We Are "Prairie-Hardy"

WINTER ECONOMY:

1. Dining Out (Lots of Dining/Restaurant Options)
2. Good Shopping & Sales
3. I Don't Notice or Understand the Difference Between the Economy in the Winter Versus the Summer
4. Broadway Area
5. Indoor Malls
6. Year Round Farmer's Market
7. Going to Movies
8. Great Coffee Shops
9. Heated Underground Parking at Malls
10. Riversdale Area
11. Downtown Area
12. Seasonal Menus
13. Underground Parking
14. Pubs & Live Music
15. Craft Fairs and Trade Shows
16. Economy never shuts down for Snow Days
17. Speciality Stores Like Cabelas and Lee Valley Hardware/Sports Stores
18. Rush Games
19. Blades Games
20. Symphony
21. Christmas Shopping on Broadway
22. Winterruption
23. Libraries
24. Indoor Pool Facilities
25. Growing brewery scene
26. Good Music Facilities
27. Good Theatre
28. Creative Restaurants
29. Holiday/Seasonal Lights Help Economy
30. Small Festivals Have Room to Grow
31. Fundraising
32. Street Hockey Tournaments
33. Mall Walking Gets Seniors Into the Malls
34. Cultural and Arts Events Help Restaurants
35. Business Owners are Receptive to Events
36. BIDS Help Promote Things
37. Entrepreneurs and Arts Organizations are Finding Creative Ways to Work Together
38. Businesses Support the Arts

WHAT OPPORTUNITIES CAN WE SEE? (STEMMING FROM CHALLENGES?)

WINTER LIFE:

1. Hold More and Larger Events and Activities (Eg. Big Snowball) Fight
2. We Need More Public Washrooms at Outdoor Recreation Sites
3. Build More Warm-Up Locations at Outdoor Recreation Sites
4. Build More Indoor Facilities for Hockey, Skating, Ringette, etc.
5. Washroom and Warm Up Facilities (Kinsmen Park Specifically)
6. Increase Promotion About Existing Winter Events/Festivals/Activities
7. Clear Sidewalks of Snow and Ice
8. Better Snow Clearing
9. Build More Cross Country Ski Trails
10. Provide More Funding to Community Associations to Maintain Outdoor Rinks
11. Build More/Better Places to Park
12. Improve Transit System
13. Offer Low-Cost Lessons/Free Equipment So People Can Try New Activities
14. Decrease Prices at Leisure Centres
15. Hold More Free Winter Events
16. Build Tubing/Snowboarding/Skiing facility
17. Use Snow Making Machines to Make Snow
18. Build a Permanent Facility for Nordic Ski Club
19. Add More Lighting at Outdoor Recreation Sites
20. Create a Place for Skijoring
21. More Promotion and Integration of Indigenous Culture and Activities (Traditional First Nations/Metis Activities like Round Dances, Dog Sled Races, Snowshoeing, etc.)
22. Let Restaurants Have Outdoor Patios at Coffee Shops with Seat Covers, Warming Devices
23. Build White Water Park.
24. Build Heated Bus Shelters
25. Build More Outdoor Rinks
26. Build Heated Shelters for the Homeless
27. Hold More Activities for Seniors
28. Ask Schools to Offer Programs to Teach New Winter Activities
29. Use Snow and Ice to Our Advantage/Have Fun With Instead of Taking Away
30. Build an Indoor Area to Walk Dogs
31. Better Parking - Offer Free Parking in Winter
32. Decrease Vehicle Idling
33. Plan More Activities Specific for Teens
34. All Food Trucks to Operate in Winter (warm food and drinks)
35. Celebrate the Arts During the Winter
36. Fill Empty Spaces to With Lights
37. Build Outdoor Hot Tubs Along the River
38. Hold More Music Festivals
39. Better Snow Clearing on Bike Lanes
40. Improve Taxi System
41. Improve Accessibility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
42. Create a Sheltered Market Area
43. Reduce Reliance on Cars in Winter
44. Use Man-Made Lakes as Skating Ponds
45. Enforce Sidewalk Clearing
46. Clean Snow Off Protected Bike Lanes

47. Improve the Field House – Crowded and Old
48. Offer Cultural Events During the Daytime
49. Hold a Winter Food Festival
50. Would love to see the Man of the Trees area by Cedar Villa and the new City Yards as a protected Urban Forest and Winter Recreation area. I am on the board of the Fatlanders Fat Tire Brigade advocating for this area to be recognized and managed by our group and other stakeholders eager for this winter wonderland and natural area
51. Need an Arena Closer to Downtown – SaskTel Centre is Too Far Out
52. Shorter Days Create a Challenge
53. Build More Wind Breaks
54. Our River Doesn't Freeze – Use it in Winter
55. People Tend to Hibernate and Stay Home More
56. Educate People About Activities and How to Do Them
57. Create 'Bootrooms' in Public Buildings
58. Support the Building of Volunteer Groups and Capacity
59. Reduce City Regulations So We Can Try New Things
60. Have a 'Winter Street' for Festivals
61. Create More Community Partnerships to Create More Opportunities
62. More Activities for Single People (Without Kids)
63. Build Winter Market Like the Distillery District in Toronto
64. Build an "Art Placement Alley" Protected from Wind; Nuit Blanche-type
65. Purchase Snow Making Equipment
66. Build a Luge
67. More Winter Play Programs to Get Youth Out
68. Enchanted Forest – Create More Walk-Through Days
69. Create Activity Hubs in Neighbourhoods
70. Increase Access to Good Winter Clothing (wool, etc.)
71. Prohibit People From Leaving Cords on Sidewalks
72. More Fire Pits in Public Areas
73. Promote Winter Fashion
74. Hold a Winter Clothing "Swap"
75. Hold More Family-Friendly Events – Newcomers Won't Come Without Their Kids
76. Make Pedestrian Walk Lights Longer in the Winter
77. Offer More Daytime Activities For Seniors

WINTER DESIGN:

1. Snow Clearing on Streets
2. Snow Clearing on Sidewalks
3. Public Transit System
4. Lack of Warming Shelters
5. Lack of Parking
6. Lack of Space for Cyclists
7. Lack of Winterized Public Washrooms
8. Lack of Heated/Insulated Bus Stop Shelters
9. Poor Accessibility for Wheelchair Users b/c of Snow
10. No Support for Cross Country Skiers (washrooms and warm up shelters)
11. Enforce Sidewalk Clearing
12. Not Enough Lighted Areas (for safety)
13. Need More Skating Rinks
14. Need Protection From Wind

15. Some Areas Have No Sidewalks
16. Too Much of a Vehicle First Culture
17. Too Much Sand Salt For Bikes
18. Need More Indoor Facilities
19. Better Promotion of Winter Activities
20. Better Promotion of Different Ways to Commute in Winter
21. Prevent Water Main Breaks
22. Don't Let Businesses Put Snow Onto Bike Lanes
23. Encourage People to Gather in Public Places in Winter
24. Design and Build Roads with Winter in Mind
25. Need More Sledding/Skiing Hills
26. More Pedestrian Crossings
27. Buy a Snow Making Machine
28. More Amenities in Parks like Restaurants and Cafes
29. Create a Pedestrian Friendly Core Area for Idylwyd and 22nd
30. Improve Taxi System
31. Build More Covered Pedestrian Walkways
32. Need ONE Go To Centre for Winter Activities
33. Build a Drop in Centre for Homeless
34. Get Rid of Bike Lanes
35. Amenities Should be Spread Out Across City, Not Just Downtown/Broadway
36. Encourage Pedestrian Safety
37. Longer Turning Signals
38. More/Better Décor on Store Fronts
39. Build Fire Pits
40. Need More Events
41. Design a Skating Trail Through Major Parks
42. Allow Uber to Operate Here
43. Need More 4 Season Trees
44. Build a Conservatory
45. Build a Light Canopy Downtown
46. Street Art Using Lights
47. Design Sidewalks for Solar Access
48. Make Better Use of River (Winter Dragon Boat Races)
49. Winter Gardens and Landscaping
50. Develop Optimist hill
51. Build Giant Outdoor Heat Lamps
52. Add Colour to Designs (Art, Murals, etc.)
53. Include Indigenous Art in Designs
54. Build Outdoor Ice Castle at the Bessborough
55. Have Local Artists Promote Events like Wintershines
56. Build Narrow, Walkable Spaces to Create the Necessary Micro-climate/Wind-break
57. Introduce More Lighting (Dark Sky Compliant)
58. Replace Aging Decorations
59. "Start From Where We Stand, What is Unique About Where We Are"
60. Create "Parklets" with Heaters, Seating, etc.
61. Plant Trees for Shelterbelts Instead of Retaining Walls
62. Plant Trees in Parking Lots
63. Have Music Playing Outdoors
64. Hold a Night Parade

65. Build Wider Streets in New Developments to Better Manage Snow Clearing
66. Create innovative warming huts and heat bus shelters using solar energy
67. Include Natural Shelter Belts in New Planning/Designs
68. Design Parks With a 'Sled Trail' to Transport Kids in Sleds
69. Design for Winter Instead of Summer (will work in summer)
70. Build More Dog Parks
71. Build canopies over streets to let the sun in, but protect from snow and rain
72. Decrease Amount of 'Red Tape' From the City
73. Build heated glass domes
74. Use signage to inform people of events/activities
75. Build a dedicated winter trail network (fatbiking) out at Richard St. Barbe Baker Afforestation area.

WINTER CULTURE:

1. Hold More Larger Events & Be Creative (eg. Round Dances, Sled Dog Races, Winter Triathlons, Cross Country Skiing Events, Outdoor Concerts, Outdoor Food Festival, Celebrate Chinese New Year, Comedy Festival, Music Festivals, Light Festival, November Festival, Croco-Curl Events, Ididacylce Winter Triathlon, Lacrosse Tournament, Indigenous Games - Indian Rubber Ball, Traditional Dene Hand Games, making dream catchers, Expand Wintershines, Global Fatbiking Day, Fatbiking at Wintershines)
2. More Promotion
3. Events Are Expensive
4. More Skating Rinks
5. Make it Easier for People to Walk or Bike to Events
6. Events Are Only Focussed on Family (eg. Ice Bar, Sporting Events)
7. Provide More Funding to Hold Neighbourhood Events
8. Improve Transit
9. Improve Parking
10. Lack of Sense of Community & Diversity
11. Improve Ski Trail Facilities at Kinsmen Park, Add Lights
12. Build Warm Up Shelters
13. Too Much Negative Speak Around Winter
14. Improve Outdoor Facilities
15. Events Should be Held in More Communal Open Spaces
16. Reduce Vehicle Idling
17. Better Snow Clearing
18. More Kid-Friendly Events Needed
19. Build a Winter Park (tubing, skiing, boarding, etc.)
20. Hold a Large Cross Country Ski Race in Saskatoon and Promote It
21. Need Better Lighting
22. Improve Accessibility for People With Mobility Issues
23. Work With Schools to Create New Events
24. Build Shelterbelts
25. Less Focus on Alcohol at Events
26. More Outdoor Public Washrooms
27. Offer More Affordable Housing
28. Invest in Snow Making Equipment
29. Offer Winter Equipment To Try Out
30. Offer Demonstration Events
31. People Don't Dress Properly For Winter

32. Too Much Light Pollution
33. Need to Educate Newcomers So They Feel Safe
34. Provide More Funding to the Arts
35. More Free Events
36. Raw Almond Restaurant (Winnipeg)
37. Outdoor Cooking Stations
38. Decrease City's risk-aversion to new ideas
39. Annual New Years' Eve Event
40. Increase Partnerships (eg. Francophone Community, First Nations, Newcomers) to Share Cultures Through Events (eg. Global Village at U of S)
41. Partner with Community Associations and seniors groups to hold events
42. Hold more walking tours (eg. Enchanted Forest)
43. Educate newcomers about the weather and support them in buying clothing
44. Promote Winter Canadian Sports (curling, hockey, lacrosse)
45. Build Quinzes
46. Build a Large Outdoor Winter Market (Germany)
47. Give Newcomers Opportunities to Showcase Their Activities to Others
48. Use School Gyms for Warm-Up Locations

WINTER ECONOMY:

1. Better Parking (esp. Underground)
2. More Snow Clearing on Roads Needed
3. Improve Sidewalk Clearing
4. Difficult to Access Shopping Areas If There are Mobility Issues
5. Prices Are High in Winter
6. Improve Public Transit
7. Pop-up Snowshoe and Ski Rentals Along Meewasin Trail
8. More Practical Parking Meters
9. Heated Restaurant Patios (Blankets Sponsored by Companies)
10. Ice Restaurant/Hotel
11. Outdoor Winter Market
12. Offer Food (Food Trucks, Hot Chocolate) in Winter
13. More Rinks
14. Warm Up Shacks
15. Better Shopping with Trendy Stores
16. Winter Food Festival
17. Outdoor Public Washrooms
18. Not Enough Variety in Stores
19. Make Downtown More Vibrant (Arena)
20. Implement Shelters In Back Alleys and Corridors to Create Useable Space
21. Have More Winter Sales
22. Stores Should be Open Longer
23. More Art
24. Build More Ski Trails
25. Build a Skating Track
26. Promote Local Merchants
27. Have More Bonfires to Keep People Out
28. Hold More Winter Events/Attractions to Bring People In
29. Improve Atmosphere in Shopping Areas with Better Lighting/Decor
30. Too Much Light Pollution

31. Build the White Water Park
32. Building Tubing Park
33. Ban Vehicle Idling
34. Winter Fashion Show
35. Reduce Negative Talk About Winter
36. Purchase Snow Making Equipment
37. Have More Pedestrian Only Areas (Broadway, Victoria Bridge)
38. Provide Opportunities to Try New Sports
39. Create Opportunities for Community to Be Involved
40. Hop On Hop Off Shuttle
41. Decrease Panhandling
42. Better Support for Homeless
43. More Local Pubs
44. Have More Places to Put Your Coat and Boots Once Inside Stores and Restaurants
45. Dine Around Events
46. Outdoor Movies
47. More Affordable Taxi's
48. Offer Better Quality Warm Clothing
49. Bike Lanes Are Impeding Parking
50. Update our "Saskatoon Shines" Slogan
51. Have a Large Christmas Tree Like Other Cities
52. Link Buildings with Skywalks
53. Events Need to be Shorter
54. Set up temporary, seasonal businesses in Meewasin jurisdiction
55. Heat key sidewalks in front of business locations
56. Have businesses support art programs and vice versa using coupons, etc.
57. Use existing parking lots for events (i.e. biggest street hockey tourney in Canada?)
58. Build smaller portable stage for businesses to use for events
59. Hold a winter street dance
60. Have lanterns along the river at night.
61. Build Optimist hill for tubing, tobogganning, sledding
62. Build snow tunnel with vendors with hot chocolate, food
63. Encourage vendors to sell good winter clothing ie buckskin mitts
64. Hold an outdoor art show
65. Hold an event like Nuit Blanche—snow village with shops and restaurants open; huts with snow covering them; lights, snow sculptures
66. Create a January event so people have something to look forward to in January
67. Hold a winter parade on Broadway
68. Have a business passport system (coupons)
69. Show movies outdoors in a heated tent
70. Have businesses create inviting outdoor spaces using lighting, music
71. Hold a moveable feast
72. Need adequate power for events
73. Move the bus terminal to Midtown
74. Advertise more to high income seniors
75. Create more unique places to shop (like Broadway)

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM OTHER CITIES?

Cities/Activities Mentioned:

1. Edmonton - Great winter festivals, Ice Castle, Snowboarding Hill, Commuting Ski or Skate Trail, Food Festival,
2. Winnipeg - SkateTrack Through Park, Festival de Voyager
3. Ottawa - Skating on Canal
4. Kingston – Floods Parks for Skating
5. Yellowknife - Big Bonfire Party, Large Ice Castle
6. Vancouver – Hope On Hop Off Trolley
7. Victoria - Horse Drawn Sleigh Rides
8. Toronto – Christmas Market, Skating Paths
9. Calgary - Hot Chocolate Festival (Month-Long, City-Wide With Proceeds to Charity)
10. Quebec City – Carnival
11. Prince Albert - Winter/Summer Lodge to Host Activities
12. Canmore – X-Country Ski Track w/ Free Rentals so people can try the sport. Involve Collette Bourgonje, Food Festival
13. Grande Prairie: Pool, Gym, and Indoor Playground
14. Scandinavia – Outdoor Christmas Markets, Outdoor Food Festival
15. Calgary, Vancouver – Bike Lane Network
16. Calgary and Coquitlam – Walk Through Light Display
17. Charlottetown – Burger Festival
18. Research Umea, Sweden (Sister City)
19. Winnipeg/Montreal – Underground Connections/Tunnels
20. Edmonton/Calgary – Conservatories

Other Ideas Stated:

1. Improve Snow Removal (Roads, Sidewalks, Pathways)
2. Invest in Cycling and Pedestrian-Friendly Areas: More and Better Bike Lanes, Wider Sidewalks, Build Pedestrian Walkways, Heated Sidewalks in Key Areas, Clear Snow from Bike Lanes, More Crosswalks, More Sidewalks, Enforce Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw, Covered or Semi-Covered Pedestrian and Bike Bridge
3. Invest in Skating Rinks: Large Ice Hockey Centre (Regina) to Host Large Tournaments, Build More Indoor and Outdoor Rinks
4. Invest in Cross- Country Skiing: Express Ski Path, More Trails, Facilities to Support Skiing, Collaborate with Golf Courses and Ski Clubs to Host Masters World Cup of Cross Country Skiing, Light Ski Trails, Host Western Canadian Cross Country Ski Championships
5. Warm-up Huts
6. Improve Promotion of Events & Activities
7. Improve Transit
8. Ideas for Festivals/Events: Food Festival, Skate with Local Celebrities, Street Party w/ Live Music, Winter Drink Festival, Dine Arouds, Ice Garden Massive Christmas Tree at Ceremony at City Hall
9. Winterized Washrooms
10. Develop Diefenbaker Hill for Tubing, etc.
11. Heated Bus Shelters
12. More Outdoor Winter Cafes, Pubs and Snack Bars
13. Ideas for Signature Winter Event: Build on Wintershines, City-Wide International Food Festival, “Celebrate Life on the Prairies”, Indigenous Festival/Games, City-Wide Event that Moves Around Neighbourhoods Each Month

14. Ideas for Outdoor Activities: Winter Crokinole, Longer Running Trails, Build White Water Park, Ice Climbing Wall
15. Provide More Free/Low Cost Activities
16. Better Shelterbelts
17. Improve Parking
18. Use Colour in Designing City
19. Buy Snow Making Machine
20. Run a Large Winter Marketing Campaign to Create Hype Over Winter
21. Winter Market/Enhance Farmer's Market
22. Improve Taxi Services (Uber)
23. More Funding to Arts Organizations to Host Events
24. Bonfire Pits
25. Walk Through Version of Enchanted Forest
26. Free Equipment Rentals
27. Improve Promotion of Indigenous Culture
28. Develop Riverbank (Restaurants, Library)
29. Housing for the Homeless
30. Allow People to Bike on Sidewalks
31. More Benches by Skating Rinks
32. Encourage Media to Be Positive About Weather/Winter
33. Create Places for People to Gather – Old Bus Barn
34. More Activities for Teens
35. More Neighbourhood Events
36. Make Remai Modern a Hub for Activities
37. Cancel Bike Lanes
38. Provide SAD Lamps at Libraries, Schools
39. Flood the Meewasin Trail for Skating
40. Outdoor Pubs
41. Public Sweat Lodge
42. Reduce Red Tape (City's Risk Aversion Attitude)

TOP IDEAS FOR ACTION:

1. Better Snow Clearing (Roads, Sidewalks, Pathways)
2. Warm Up Shelters
3. Better Transit System
4. Outdoor Washrooms
5. Develop Kinsmen Park with Washrooms and Indoor Facility
6. More Promotion/Advertising
7. Build Diefenbaker Hill (Optimist Hill)
8. More Free or Affordable Events/Activities
9. Build More Rinks
10. Improve Parking (location, accessibility)
11. Invest in Cross Country Skiing, More Trails
12. Expand Wintershines/Large Festival
13. Upgrade Sidewalks for Accessibility
14. Home for Nordic Ski Club
15. Heated Bus Shelters
16. More Festivals (Food & Cultural Festivals)
17. Spread Events Throughout City Into Neighbourhoods
18. Cheap/Free Equipment Rentals in Good Locations
19. More Funding to Community Associations Neighbourhood Rinks
20. Make Snow
21. Enforce Sidewalk Clearing Bylaw
22. Light Ski Trails
23. More Leisure Centers (northeast side)
24. Ideas for Activities/Events: Snowman Making Contest, Decoration Contests, Annual Snowball Fight, Snow Day Celebration, Ice Sculpture Exhibits, Kite Festival, Geocaching, Winter Photo Contest; Try a New Activity Events, Snow Golf, Pickleball, Free Day at the Forestry Farm, Hay Rides, Dog Sledding, Winter Olympics Event, Shiny Tournament, Sleigh Rides, Mascot, Indigenous Winter Games, Snow Village with Lots of Vendors, Winter Food Festival, Expand Wintershines to Include Lots of Activities Like Curling, Annual New Years' Event, Iddicycle, Winter Corporate Challenge
25. Build Homeless Shelters/Restore Lighthouse Funding
26. Allow Food Trucks in Winter
27. Invest in Facilities for Fatbiking (Trails)
28. Provide Better Lighting in Parks and on Trails
29. More Cafés and Ice Bars on Riverbank (And Pop Up Restaurants)
30. Build Large Ice Rink Facility
31. More/Better Cross Country Ski Trails
32. Focus More On Cyclists and Pedestrians When Planning
33. Make the Meewasin Trail a Priority
34. Build More Bike Lanes to Connect City
35. Neighbourhood Shuttle System
36. Canopied Sidewalks
37. Create a More Vibrant Downtown
38. Transit Park and Ride
39. Develop Trails at Cedar Villa (Protected Urban Forest/Designated Winter Recreation Area)
40. Build Snowshoe Trails
41. Enhance Transportation Options with Uber
42. Celebrate Indigenous Culture (Round Dances, Feasts)

43. Offer More Events That are Affordable For Seniors
44. Build up Farmers' Market/More Markets
45. Heated Sidewalks
46. Move Folkfest to Winter
47. More Fire Pits in Outdoor Public Areas
48. Stop Using Sand and Salt on Roads
49. Clear Neighbourhood Ponds for Skating
50. Walking Tours (eg. Forestry Farm)
51. Build White Water Park
52. More Indoor Events: Music Festival
53. Get Rid of Bike Lanes
54. Open School Gyms on Weekends for Free Use
55. Encourage Media To Decrease Negative Talk re: Weather
56. Champion the Arts
57. Indoor Water Park/Amusement Park
58. Create Pedestrian Only Zones Downtown and Broadway
59. More Tobogganing Hills
60. Educate Kids About Outdoor Physical Activity in Winter
61. Expand Bessborough Ice Surface
62. Pedestrian walkway (skywalk)
63. Integrate Colour Into City Design; Improve Architectural Design
64. Include Power/Water Near Outdoor Facilities
65. Free Shuttles to Blades and Rush Games
66. Winter Cycling Workshops
67. Build Ice Huts
68. Promote Safety in Winter
69. Outdoor Hot Tubs
70. Enhance Conservatory
71. More Running Trails
72. Work With BIDs to Challenge Businesses to Get People Outside
73. Ice Park at the Children's Museum
74. More Windbreaks and Shelterbelts
75. Stop Vehicle Idling
76. Outdoor Kitchen
77. Winter Patios
78. Work With Other Cities on International Event to Draw Tourists
79. Preserve Northeast Swale
80. Support Saskatoon Cycles/Ice Cycles Event
81. Winter 5 and 10K Runs Along Meewasin Trail
82. Restrict Panhandling
83. Service Co-ops for Seniors – snow shovelling, garbage placement, etc.
84. Businesses Beautify Storefronts
85. Walking Route At Enchanted Forest
86. Get Rid of the Weir
87. New Public Library/Conservatory at River Landing;
88. Flood Meewasin Trail for Skating
89. Build for Winter First, Summer Second
90. Underground Tunnels
91. Need more supporting infrastructure outdoors (power, shelters, washrooms, water)
92. Clear Signage on Meewasin Trail

93. Create a Points/Reward System City-Wide
94. Attach Downtown Bus Mall to the Midtown Plaza
95. Create More Partnerships between Community Associations, Businesses and City

OTHER FEEDBACK/COMMENTS

1. Develop Diefenbaker Park Hill; Pickleball Courts
2. Lower Senior Rates at Civic Facilities
3. More Festivals (Kites, Geocaching)
4. More Promotion and Advertising
5. Be Creative and Think Big
6. Involve U of S Students and Youth in Planning
7. Plan Outdoor Activities/Rinks in Existing Parks
8. Better Snow Clearing on Roads, Sidewalks and Paths
9. Plan Indoor Programs for all Age Groups, Include Culture
10. East Side Needs More Facilities
11. Winter Photography Contest
12. Make Winter Recreation more accessible; Provide Equipment Rentals
13. Growth will Stimulate Business and Opportunity
14. More Promotion and Marketing
15. Winterruption
16. Involve Indigenous People (Nehiyawak People of Treaty 6, Metis and the Dakota).
17. Winter Folkfest
18. Big Winter Festival
19. Wintershines
20. More Activities like Summer on Broadway, Fringe festivals, etc.
21. Look to Eastern Canada and Europe for Ideas
22. Support Existing Activities With More City Funding
23. Encourage All Age Groups to Cross Country Ski
24. More Warm-up Shacks
25. More Multi-use Trails
26. Make the Meewasin Trail a priority
27. Light Areas for Night Skiing
28. Winterize Existing and Future Parks
29. Better Facilities at Kinsmen Park
30. Build More Rinks to Attract Tournaments
31. Build Another Holiday Park/Skating Oval
32. Get Blackstrap Ski Hill Going Again
33. Get Rid of the Weir; it Discourages River Recreation
34. Hot Chocolate Stations Around Trail
35. Another Conservatory
36. Fund CAs to Build Warming Shacks for Rinks
37. Invest in Snow Making Machines
38. Provide Facilities to Match City's Growth.
39. Find Winter City Champions Work With Existing Groups (CA's, Tourism, BIDS) to Promote Activities
40. Support Nordic Ski Club and Fat Tire Brigade
41. Subsidize Winter Activity Programs by Lowering Facility Fees Affordability/Low Income
42. Promote Winter Reading for Kids and Adults.
43. Prohibit Idling in School Zones

44. More Activities and Support for Seniors
 45. Build More Cycling Routes
 46. Improve Transit System with Heated Bus Shelters
 47. Enforce Sidewalk Cleaning Bylaw
 48. Have Events in Neighbourhoods; Spread Out Events
 49. Make City Less Reliant on Vehicles
 50. Build a Homeless Shelter
 51. Change Way of Thinking to Embrace Winter
- Positive/General Comments:
52. Let's make it better to be saskatooning in the winter
 53. Yay for initiatives to make Saskatoon a winter-proud city!!!
 54. I love saskatoon winter.
 55. Fantastic; excited
 56. Let's celebrate winter!!
 57. I love the new winter marketing strategy
 58. More happening all of the time, keep it up!
 59. I'm glad you are looking at this!
 60. Excited for Saskatoon to be more winter friendly!
 61. Embrace our winter identity like Scandinavia has. Hygge!
 62. Let's embrace winter and stay active!
 63. I'm glad citizens are being asked what changes they would like to see.
 64. It would be nice to celebrate our winters
 65. Pleased the COS is taking this on, it's much needed!
 66. River landing is nice
 67. Thanks for developing one!!!!
 68. Thank you for this survey
 69. Thanks for this opportunity!
 70. Thanks and good work Charlie!
 71. Thanks for launching this strategy initiative.
 72. Good Job; Good Luck
 73. This is great, good for community to embrace winter
 74. Good idea, put it into action!
 75. Good that the City is thinking about this.
 76. Good idea, good luck
 77. I like the idea!
 78. A great idea
 79. This is a great initiative
 80. Great idea to get people involved
 81. A great idea
 82. Keep it going
 83. Love to see more families remain active in all seasons.

Selected Winter City Conference Observations

- City of Tromsø, Norway
 - 350 kms north of the arctic circle with a two-month long 'polar night' (meaning the sun does not come above the horizon from November 28th to January 14th) – it is located at 69° latitude (compared to Saskatoon at 52°) but is milder than Saskatoon as a result of its location near open seas
 - Called 'Paris of the North' (much like Saskatoon may be considered 'Paris of the Prairies')
 - Researchers have completed a study focussed on determining why Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is not much of a factor affecting the population of Tromsø. Findings highlighted that appreciation and mindset are key. The culture of Tromsø has a strong influence on this and can be intentionally cultivated elsewhere. Leaders in Tromsø actively promote positive mindset and optimism among several important themes:
 - 'get outside' – Civic design and infrastructure, as well as an overall focus on integration with nature creates a compelling invitation for citizens to live an 'open air life' connected to nature; a 20 minute walk is considered a normal part of a winter activity that would occur regularly (this is not unlike the principle that guided neighbourhood development surrounding an elementary school from 1963 until recently). Boot rooms at the entrances to restaurants and shops encourage arrival on-foot and getting comfortable for being indoors again.
 - 'make it special' – The overall design of the community, individual sites, and program decisions focus on creating a sense of cozy (called 'hygge') and includes incorporating fireplaces, candles, blankets and a focus on food and beverage services.



Image courtesy: WBUR Boston Radio

- 'appreciate' – Make a cozy ('hygge') culture a conscious focus, combatting negative perceptions of winter with conscious changes to

the tone of 'small talk' (the idea that people might complain about the dark or the weather was likened to racist ideas that, when heard should be challenged rather than allowed to remain in the conversation).

- 'deal with the weather you have' – Sometimes there is beautiful, crisp, bright snow, but mostly there is slushy, icy, brown sludge. It is important to design and plan for all conditions to make them as appealing as possible. At the individual level, there is no bad weather, only poor clothing decisions.

- <https://www.visitnorway.com/places-to-go/northern-norway/tromso/>



Image courtesy: <http://www.traveltheworld.info/travel-destinations/tromso-norway/>



Image courtesy: uponarriving.com



Images courtesy: Tromso Northern Lights day tour



Image courtesy: Kari Leibewitz - Winter Cities Shake-Up 2017

- Fort St. John, British Columbia
 - Fort St. John is a city in northeastern British Columbia. Located at Mile 47 along the Alaska Highway, the community is the oldest European-establishment in BC (1794). The winter season for Fort St. John is comparable to Saskatoon with temperature norms of -16C (Saskatoon is -19C) but more cloudy with 46% of days overcast (Saskatoon has only 32%).
 - The leaders of Fort St. John have created plans focussing on the concept of 'winter citizenship'. To gain community acceptance, plans focus on:
 - Addressing real community challenges in a manner authentic to the Fort St. John context.
 - Using 'block captains' as champions and introducing things like prizes for the best maintained property in winter.
 - Viewing snow as a resource rather than a waste.
 - Clearly articulating public and private responsibilities.
 - Changing the community relationship to winter by no longer trying to make winter streets the same as summer streets.
 - Introducing temporary shelters in parks, as collectors for snow
 - Design guidelines focussed on winter were approved in 2000.
<http://www.wintercities.com/Resources/Fort%20St.John%20Winter%20Cities%20guidelines.pdf>. A report card on 53 micro-projects to winterize various spaces was produced in 2017.



Dancing in the Snow event - Image courtesy: Northern Lights College



Crystal Cup Pond Hockey Tournament - Image Courtesy: Energeticcity.ca

- The importance of Lighting to a Winter City
 - Light defines one's experience of reality and its properties affect both human biology and psychology. Living creatures (including humans) have evolved on the basis of biological and behavioural (psychological) requirements for night and day as well as seasonal cycles.
 - Light Festivals are popping up in cities in a variety of countries.
 - Many cities are creating Master Lighting Plans as an important component of the community landscape to create atmosphere and contribute to livability and identity. These plans regulate the following elements to enable the public and private sectors to co-create the city landscape:
 - Amount of light
 - Location for light
 - Lighting 'temperature' (colour spectrums)
 - Collateral effects (managing light pollution and spill-overs to ensure light goes only where it is intended)
 - Managing darkness with an emphasis on embracing darkness – recognizing that 'darkness' only exists in built environments as there is always some light in nature (i.e. moon, stars)



Image courtesy: Darío Nuñez Salazar - Winter Cities Shake-Up 2017



Berlin is a low-light city - Image courtesy: BsnSCB.com



Image courtesy: Sabine De Schutter - Winter Cities Shake-Up 2017



Ghent Light Festival - Image courtesy: Travel Gifts Ideas blogpost



Image courtesy: AvenueCalgary.com



Toronto Cavalcade of Lights - Image courtesy: Wheels.ca

- The importance of focussing on a walkable community
 - Vision Below Zero: Goal of zero accidental deaths and injuries related to urban mobility (https://etouches-appfiles.s3.amazonaws.com/html_file_uploads/1c191cbc6e7f5d8e0d235dfbf823d4aa_010_Firth.pdf?response-content-disposition=inline%3Bfilename%3D%22010_Firth.pdf%22&response-content-type=application%2Fpdf&AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJC6CRYNXDRDHQCUQ&Expires=1508708516&Signature=rE1V7FqGN4kw2EnoW9fffZsf%2B24%3D)
 - Analysis of police and hospital data in Stockholm revealed that roadway maintenance turns out to be a 30% contributing factor to pedestrian and cyclist accidents. \$75 Million is spent on hospital visits but only \$30 Million on snow clearing, so Stockholm is looking at ways to orient their spending to the 'preventative-end' of the system.
 - Walk21 – International Charter for Walking (<https://www.walk21.com/>) is rising in popularity among cities, driven in part by Canadian Institute of Health Information findings that obesity 6% for every hour spent in a car and decreases 5% for every kilometer walked.
 - There is 'Safety in Numbers' and this relationship has proven to be true in relation to:

- People's perception of safety
- People's perception of dark
- People's willingness to walk/cycle
- The amount of attention drivers pay to pedestrians or cyclists (i.e. the more pedestrians or cyclists are encountered in the community, the more drivers will be aware of, pay attention to, and respect these people whom they share the right-of-way with)

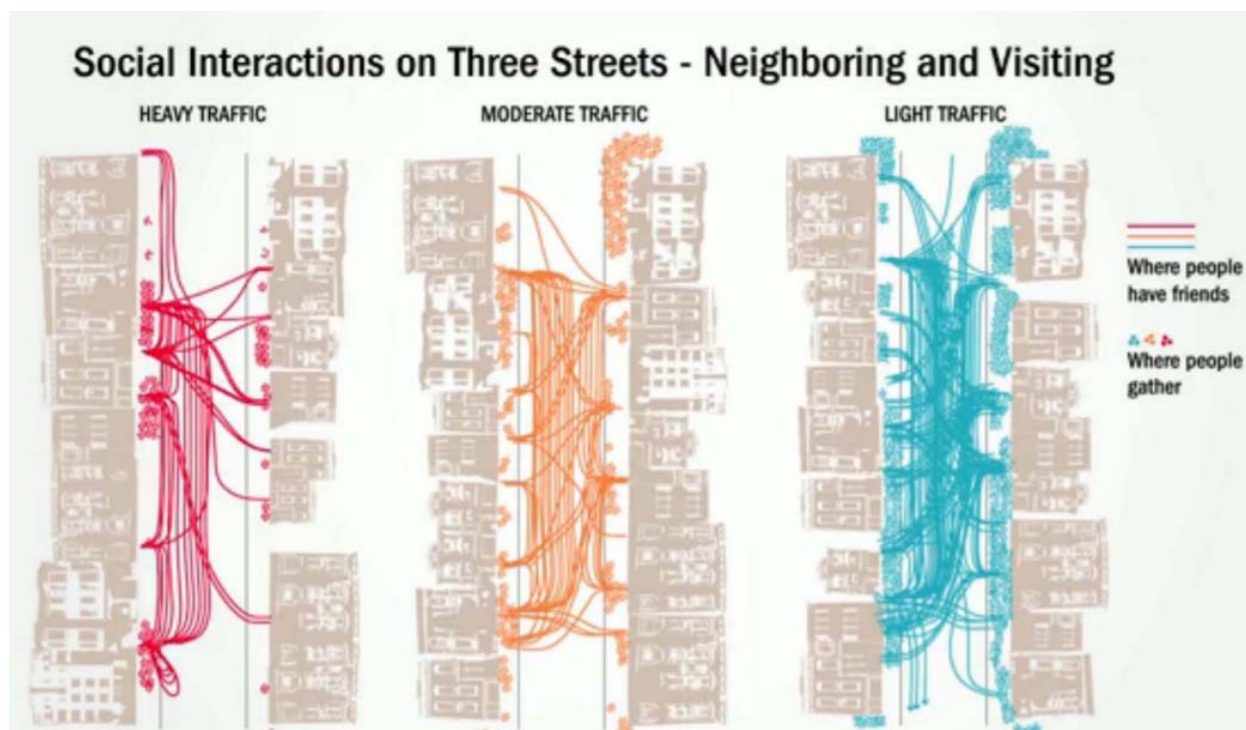


Image courtesy: *Livable streets*, Donald Appleyard (1981)

- Examples of community winter events
 - Ice lantern festivals
 - School art installations
 - World snow day (a celebration of various cultural experiences of the winter season - like a winter Folkfest)
 - Long-john jamboree
 - Ice castles or hotels
 - Food focus
 - Winter or Christmas markets



Image courtesy: Festivals Toronto



Yellowknife castle of the snow king - Image courtesy: Frozentrini.com



Canmore Winter Carnival - Image courtesy: FestivalSeekers.com



Image courtesy: Notey.com



PEI Burger Love & Prince Edward Island Burger Love, and all design elements are trade-marks of Fresh Media Inc

Image courtesy: DiscoverCharlottetown.ca



Image courtesy: MommaOnTheMove.ca

- Heated sidewalks
 - Examples of cities with installations can be found in Sapporo, Holland, Michigan, and Reykjavik
 - Emerging technology: conductive concrete contains 20% steel fibre or carbon material (making it a good end-use for scrap metals) and is applied as a top-coat
 - While a number of cities are starting to heat highly pedestrian-oriented areas of their downtowns using hydronic heating, this new technology is emerging that can be used in wider applications because of its higher strength, cheaper cost (approximately 50% cheaper to install and 90% cheaper to operate, with no risk associated with leaks) and longer life
 - Concrete features can be heated prior to a weather event and left on well past to avoid snow accumulation and icing

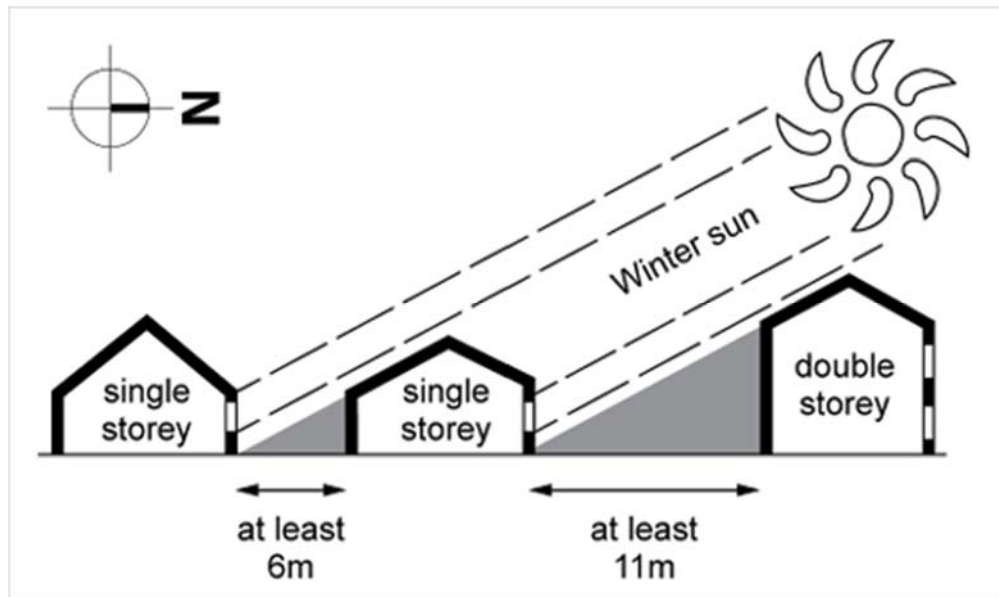
- Creating micro-climates (i.e. pedestrian-oriented areas providing comfort in winter)
 - Thermal comfort – strategies for reducing effects of wind, maximizing exposure to sun, or simply providing heating elements such as heaters or blankets



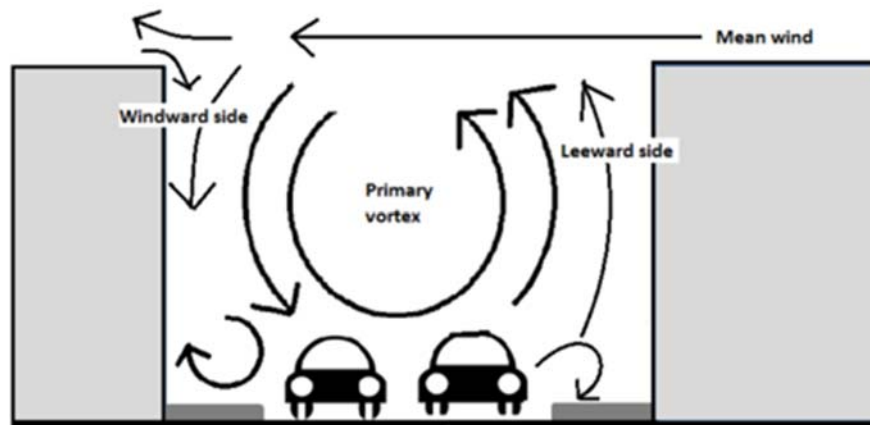
Images courtesy: Urban Traveler



- Solar radiation – design guidelines or standards to protect solar penetration to the sidewalk



- Wind protection - using awnings or other design elements to prevent winds from tunnelling to the sidewalk; it is recognized (through evidence) that Winter Cities gain more from a focus on wind protection than solar penetration



- Humidity – protecting pedestrians from rain and snow
- Human activity level – designing areas where pedestrians are encouraged to sit and/or linger with greater thermal comfort and protection, considering wind-breaks and other sheltering along areas where people are encouraged to walk or cycle
- Communicating the importance of proper seasonal clothing
- Place-making principles
 - Cozy places – pedestrian orientation and scale
 - Desired paths – pedestrian priority culture and areas

- Comfortable streets and ‘urban rooms’ – sometimes these are outdoor plazas and patios, sometimes these are street-level windows with active uses where people can see other people
- Delightful distractions – visual interest and unique views and vistas
- Luminous life – paying attention to lighting as a means for creating an ambience of welcome
- Worthwhile outings – programming (public and/or private spaces – i.e. the more private spaces are programmed to attract people, sometimes the less need there is for public programming)

Sample warming huts



Image courtesy: Inhabitat.com



Image courtesy: University of Manitoba



Image courtesy: University of Manitoba

2017 WinterCity YXE Grant Awards

A total of \$25,000 was awarded to 6 organizations:

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Broadway Business Improvement District | \$4,840 | <u>Winter Economy:</u> Croki curl combines two iconic Canadian pastimes, crokinole and curling, to become an exciting outdoor sport and winter placemaker to draw people to Broadway. |
| Friends of the Broadway Theatre | \$5,000 | <u>Winter Culture:</u> An outdoor festival featuring storytelling, winter activities and live performances. |
| Saskatchewan Cycling Association c/o Fatlanders FatTire Brigade | \$4,925 | <u>Winter Life:</u> To create a network of well signed and reliably groomed trails in an under-utilized urban forest that will initially support winter fatbiking and snowshoeing. |
| Saskatoon Cycles | \$3,100 | <u>Winter Life:</u> " Ice Cycle 2.0" is a collection of events from January to March that will bring together local organizations, businesses, and community groups to celebrate winter cycling culture in Saskatoon. |
| Sum Theatre Corp | \$2,135 | <u>Winter Culture:</u> To create and perform a live theatrical winter walk outdoors along Saskatoon's Meewasin trail with a combination of professional artists, including Indigenous and Newcomer performers. |
| Wanuskewin Heritage Park | \$5,000 | <u>Winter Culture:</u> Wanuskewin's Winter Festival is a family event with programming centred around Indigenous games, activities, and trapping skills. Activities will be inside and outside. |