



BEAUMONT

WINTER CITY STRATEGY

OCTOBER 2022

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Contents

Introduction	2
Winter Design	5
Neighbourhoods	6
Urban Design	10
Built Form	22
Winter Mobility	27
Active Transportation	30
Public Transportation	33
Roadways	34
Winter Communities	35
Winter Equity	36
Winter Programming	38
Winter Wellness	40
Implementation	42
City Actions	43
Business and Cultural Organization Actions	61
Resident Actions	66

Note: This document is best viewed in "two-page" mode, as content on facing pages tend to correspond to each other.



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INTRODUCTION

Winter is a part of life in Beaumont. It's a season that is met with a variety of feelings. It is both celebrated and dreaded, and oftentimes we find ourselves somewhere in between. However, as a city, we can learn to embrace and love winter. When we fully integrate winter into the planning and design process, long, dark nights can become canvases for creative lighting, cold days are opportunities for gathering around fires to enjoy a hot chocolate, and freshly fallen snow leads to a fun day of tobogganing and skiing. A city that chooses to actively embrace winter finds ways to make the season accessible and enjoyable, giving residents a reason to leave the comfort of home and explore their community.

The Beaumont Winter City Strategy seeks to change Beaumont's relationship with winter, making it a foundational and celebrated aspect of the community's identity. In this strategy are objectives, action items, ideas, and best practices to equip our community and provide guidance to transform Beaumont's winter experience. This document is for the entire community, including City staff, officials, businesses, community groups, and residents. Over the years, as this strategy is implemented, we will work together to make winter in Beaumont vibrant and accessible for everyone.

This shift to a winter city culture and mindset is not intended to happen overnight. However, with consistent and deliberate action, and with investment and partnership with the community, Beaumont will transform its relationship with winter over time.

Document Structure

This document is organized into three Focus Areas. Each Area has several Big Ideas that structure the objectives and practices. The Winter City Strategy can be read cover-to-cover or used as a reference guide for specific insights and direction. The Focus Areas include:

Winter Design

- Neighbourhoods
- Urban Design
- Built Form

Winter Mobility

- Active Transportation
- Public Transportation
- Roadways

Winter Communities

- Winter Equity
- Winter Programming
- Winter Wellness

Strategy Creation Process

The Winter City Strategy project team took a collaborative and multi-phased approach to create the objectives and practices outlined in this document. The process blended local expertise with a global look at winter city best practices. Over the course of its creation the project team engaged with the public, stakeholders, City Administration and subject-matter experts.

Background Research

To obtain a firm foundation in winter city planning and operations, the team set out to review global best practices and local conditions in Beaumont. A resulting Background Report was prepared, which applied what we learned from winter cities across the globe to Beaumont's unique context. Local subject matter experts were also interviewed at this stage, with backgrounds in academics, event planning, and city planning, to start the project on an effective and proven footing.

Public Engagement

The Beaumont Winter City Strategy is a document developed by, and is for the whole community. In its development, the project team hosted two rounds of Public Engagement that offered both in-person and online opportunities. The first round sought broad, high-level ideas and perspectives from residents, which would later inform the content in this document. The second presented the high-level structure and organization of the document and asked residents to refine or confirm the structure and provide further ideas and insights.

External Stakeholder Engagement

The project team created a Business and Cultural Collaborative Committee, inviting representatives from local businesses and organizations to take part in two workshops. These workshops aimed at providing opportunities for businesses and organizations to provide their perspectives on winter in Beaumont, and also identify partnership opportunities for winter initiatives either with the City or between themselves.

Internal Stakeholder Engagement

The project team also worked with an Internal Working Group, with representatives from different City departments. Three separate sessions were held with the Internal Working Group. The sessions provided updates on the work completed, as well as opportunities for representatives to share insights and ideas for the emerging strategy. Separate follow-up meetings were held with various departments to discuss more specific topics.



Figure 1. Beaumont Winter City Strategy Public Engagement



WINTER DESIGN

A successful winter city considers design for all seasons. Through design, cities can maximize sunlight exposure and minimize wind, creating more comfortable areas called micro-climates. Cities can also more easily accommodate snow storage when designers and planners consider the winter months. Winter-friendly buildings feature vibrant colours, public art, and lighting that stands out on a winter evening. What's more, design solutions that address the winter wind, cold, snow, and ice will also function well in the spring, summer and fall. Everyone can play a role in designing a Beaumont that provides a safe and fun winter experience, from city staff and officials to contractors and residents. This section goes over some key actions and strategies to improve Beaumont's design from a four-season perspective.

WINTER DESIGN

NEIGHBOURHOODS

Winter neighbourhoods are fun, accessible and safe for all ages and abilities, and in all months. The objectives and practices outlined in this section not only promote a higher quality of life in the winter but also in the spring, summer and fall.

A good winter neighbourhood encourages and invites its residents to get out and explore, even on cold days and dark nights. It offers both indoor and outdoor activities, with places to gather that encourage interaction and togetherness.

Winter neighbourhoods feature a variety of housing options, with areas of density that support small commercial areas featuring neighbourhood services like grocers, coffee shops, and other daily necessities. They have a well-connected network of paths and roads that allow for all types and levels of mobility and link to a variety of amenities and facilities in the community. This neighbourhood form encourages people to go outside to walk and experience their neighbourhood both outdoors and indoors safely and comfortably.






New Neighbourhoods

As Beaumont continues to grow, there is a significant opportunity to incorporate winter-city design best practices into new neighbourhoods.

Objectives:

1. Encourage new neighbourhood designs and existing neighbourhood redevelopment to integrate winter-design best practices for user comfort and accessibility.
 2. Promote the creation of neighbourhoods that have a variety of recreational and commercial destinations.
 3. Promote neighbourhoods that are integrated into Beaumont's active transportation network.
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New Neighbourhood Design Practices

1. Design neighbourhoods so that they have convenient walking or biking access to one or more centres of higher density residential and mixed-use development that allow for street-oriented retail and commercial services and serve as a gathering hub for the community.
 2. Connect community gathering hubs with low-speed roadways and dedicated active transportation pathways that are easy to maintain in winter.
 3. Connect residential areas in neighbourhoods with active transportation pathways to destinations within and outside the neighbourhood.
 4. Incorporate open spaces that are connected to pathways and feature a variety of recreational activities for all seasons.
 5. Use building massing and planting plans to strategically create areas with a pleasant microclimate by maximizing sunlight and minimizing wind impact.
 6. Orient land parcels to encourage building design that maximizes passive heating through sunlight and retain natural tree stands to reduce wind.
 7. Design all residential roadways with boulevards to provide a buffer region between windrows and the sidewalk and as a space to provide street trees.
 8. Boulevards should provide multiple pedestrian access points from the road that should remain clear of snow.
 9. Encourage neighbourhood design to feature lane ways with vehicle and service access. These should be well suited for winter operation and snow clearing to allow for more effective snow removal and create potential connection routes for pedestrians and cyclists.
 10. Undertake a neighbourhood lighting strategy that promotes well-lit environments that minimize light trespass.
 11. Integrate colour in the design of entry signs, playgrounds, park shelters, public art, and other placemaking and urban design installations.
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Existing Neighbourhoods

There are opportunities to improve winter design in Beaumont's existing neighbourhoods. These can be capitalized upon when community infrastructure is scheduled for renewal, allowing for designs and open spaces to be re-thought in a way that integrates winter considerations. Neighbourhood renewal efforts should consider the following best practices and actions.

Infill and redevelopment can also contribute to transforming existing neighbourhoods into communities that are well-positioned to embrace and celebrate winter. In strategic locations, allowing for added density and neighbourhood-scale commercial areas can create local destinations that encourage people to get out and enjoy their neighbourhood even in the winter months.

Objectives:

1. Integrate winter design best practices into infrastructure renewal plans.
2. Retrofit existing open spaces and streets to function more effectively in winter.
3. Support redevelopment of individual properties to be better adapted to winter.

Existing Neighbourhood Design Practices

1. Explore opportunities to include boulevards on every sidewalk, attempting to install them at both sides of the street.
2. Explore incorporating plantings and bulb-outs at crosswalks at higher-risk crossings to make them more visible to traffic and shorten pedestrian crossing distances. Bulb-outs should provide a clear benefit when weighed against their cost to snow-clearing, and, therefore, should be prioritized for pedestrian crossings at roadways that are particularly wide, carry heavy or high-speed traffic, or are at low-visibility locations.
3. Explore the inclusion of dedicated bike lanes that are wide enough to be cleared of snow and connect to destinations and other pathways both within and outside the neighbourhood.
4. Renew amenities and furnishings in parks and open spaces with materials that are attractive and comfortable in the winter months.
5. Explore opportunities to add winter-focused amenities that can also be used in all seasons, including benches, fire pits and shelters.
6. Support rezoning and development applications that include medium-density residential and/or neighbourhood-scale commercial at strategic and accessible points within neighbourhoods.
7. Encourage redevelopments to consider winter design best practices, including window orientation for passive heating, colour and lighting (see *Built Form* for more details).



URBAN DESIGN

Beaumont's network of streets, pathways and parks offers many opportunities for further activation. In the winter, creating fun and interesting streets and parks that invite residents to get out of their homes requires some additional consideration and planning. The following is a list of recommendations that address Beaumont's streetscape, parks and pathways.



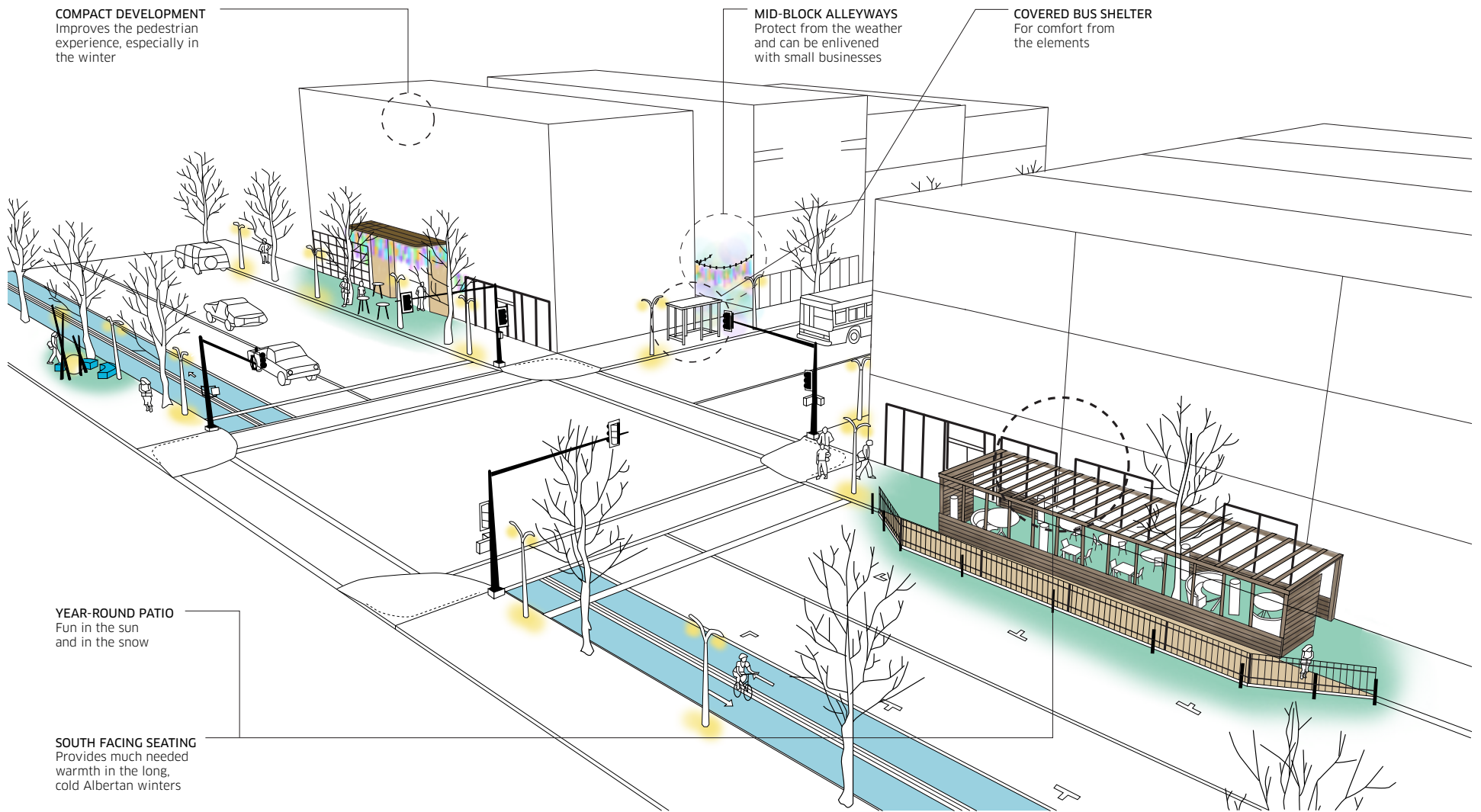


Figure 2. Winter Streetscape Illustration

Streetscape

Streets are more than just lines of connection, but rather are unique, linear public spaces that can encourage community interaction and activity. Creating streets that focus on their year-round sense of place creates a network that attracts businesses, residents and visitors through all months of the year.

Objectives:

1. Design streets that are comfortable and attractive in the winter.
2. Design streets that support year-round accessibility for various modes of travel.
3. Support the wayfinding system in central Beaumont.



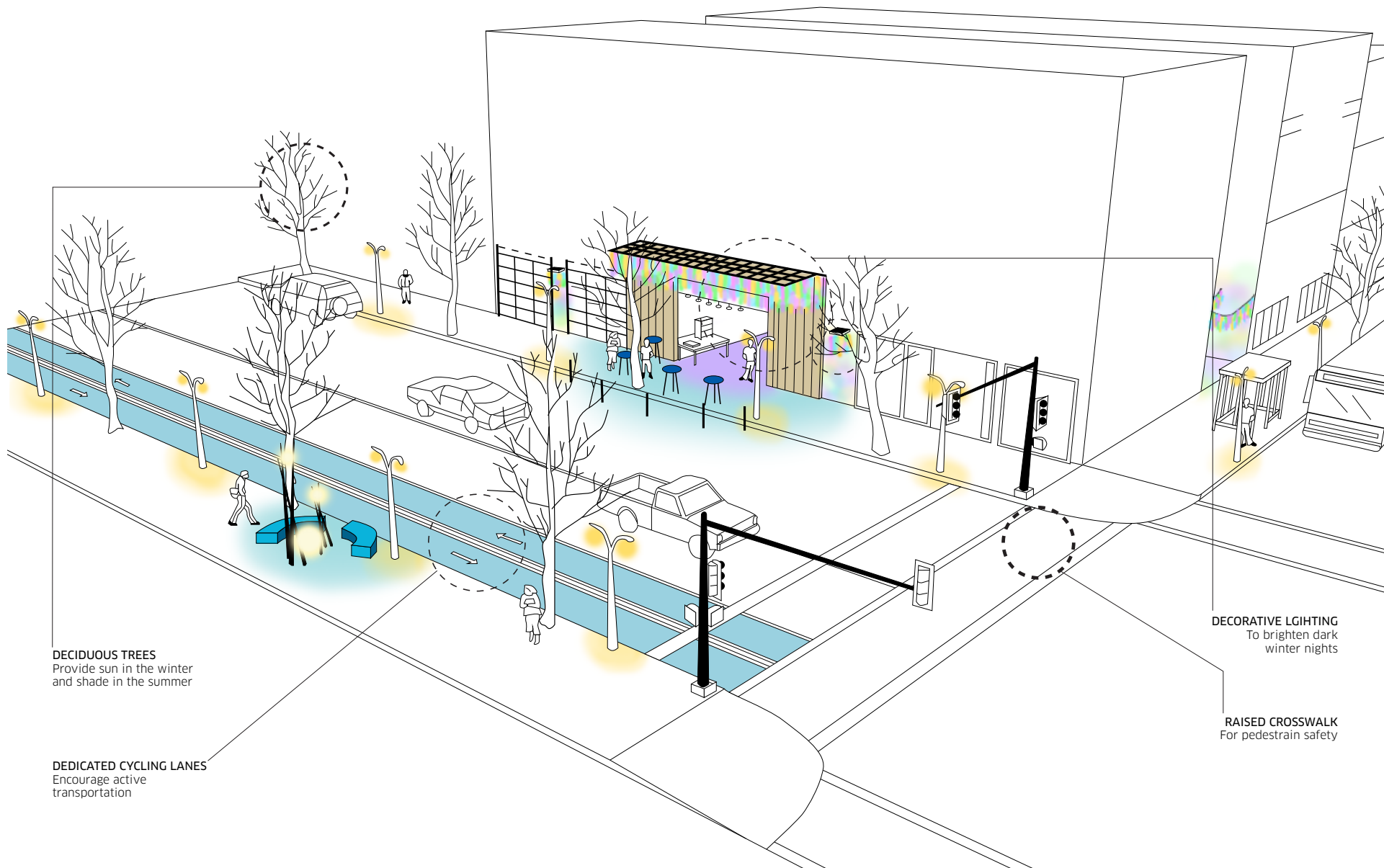


Figure 3. Winter Streetscape Illustration Enlargement

Streetscape Design Practices

1. Design streets in a way that promotes favourable micro-climates in the winter by maximizing warmth through sunlight and minimizing wind. Strategies to accomplish this include:
 - a. Plant coniferous trees in between sidewalks and pathways and the dominant wind direction (usually north/west, or from tall buildings and wind tunnels), interventions should be designed while considering CPTED principles, especially maintaining sightlines.
 - b. Plant deciduous trees in areas that receive sunlight to promote sunlight penetration in the winter and shade in the summer.
2. Make use of materials and lighting that add colour to the streetscape, minimizing the use of greys to create greater visual interest in the winter:
 - a. Include power servicing at the base of street trees and other site furnishings to allow for bright, coloured decorative lights.
 - b. Introduce colour to Beaumont's streets by using coloured materials for site furnishings, lighting, and planting.
 - c. Explore opportunities to use light projections for functional purposes such as crosswalk markings, and other decorative purposes.





Parks and Pathways

Winter brings a wealth of recreational opportunities that are unique to cold, snowy climates. Cross-country skiing, sledding, skating and snowshoeing are just a few of the many activities that Beaumont's parks and pathways offer. City parks are a perfect place for residents of all ages and abilities to enjoy winter's unique opportunities for both active and passive recreation.

Objectives:

1. Foster a connected system of parks and pathways that are comfortable and attractive in the winter.
2. Design parks that provide a range of activities and options in the winter.
3. Invest in Beaumont's pathway system, making it safe and enjoyable to walk through in the winter during the day and evening.



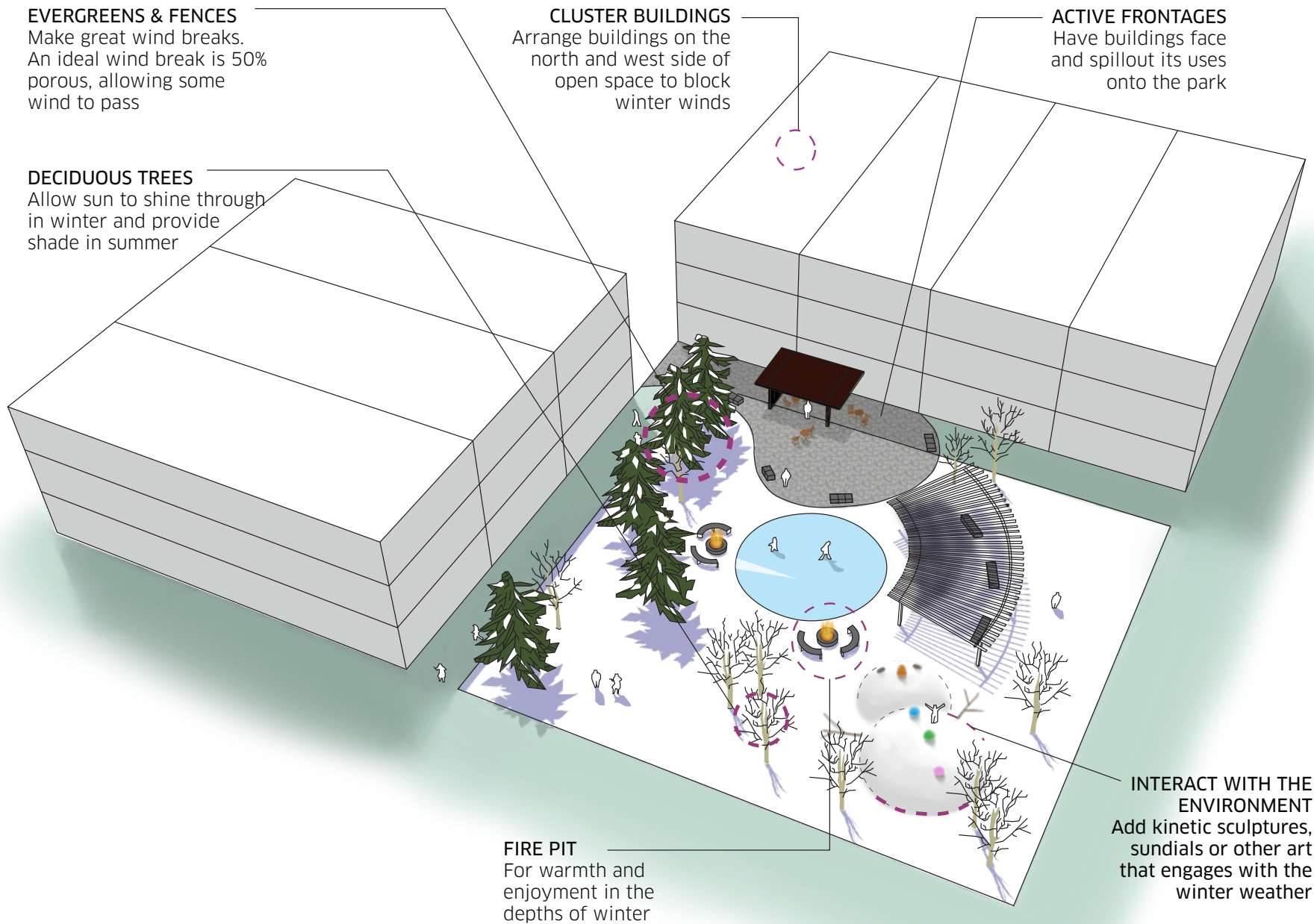


Figure 4. Urban Park Illustration

Park Practices

1. Design Parks with micro-climate design in mind:
 - a. Use trees to maximize visual interest in all seasons and create micro-climates through wind mitigation and maximizing sunlight penetration.
 - Plant coniferous trees on the western edges of parks and gathering places, especially in areas where they would provide shelter from prevailing winds.
 - Southern edges of parks should be primarily planted with deciduous trees, to maximize sunlight penetration in the winter, and provide shade in the summer.
2. Park features should be chosen and designed to function in all seasons, such as splash pads that become ice rinks during the winter or boarded outdoor rinks that can double as soccer/ball hockey areas during warmer months.
3. Park amenities such as public washrooms should be designed to be operational in cold temperatures.
4. Program parks with opportunities for both active and passive recreation. For example, all skating rinks should have nearby shelters, benches and fire pits that are easily accessible for people to rest and watch the skaters.
5. Future designs for open spaces should consider all-season use and provide opportunities for businesses and vendors to further activate the space during the winter. This is particularly important for open spaces in the downtown area and around neighbourhood commercial and service centres.
6. Explore opportunities to add colour to parks, including in new play structures, plants, trees, art and lighting.
7. Explore opportunities to add decorative and functional lighting to parks, so that they are safe and inviting in the winter evenings.
8. Site furnishings and park shelters should be designed with colour and use wood for seating to provide additional warmth and comfort.

FUNCTIONAL LIGHTING
Lighting along pedestrian routes
creates safe and functional
spaces, even after the sun sets

DECORATIVE LIGHTING
Colourful lighting creates a
visually intriguing and fun place
for users

SHELTER FROM WIND
Place hills and evergreen trees at
the north and
western portions of the park to
protect users from wind

Figure 5. Neighbourhood Park Illustration

Pathway Practices

1. Strengthen and expand Beaumont's path system, reinforcing connections to public open spaces or other destinations.
2. Design pathway alignments to maximize sunlight penetration on the pathway to minimize ice build-up.
3. Create and implement a city lantern program that seeks to light up Beaumont's pathways with decorative, colourful lanterns during the winter months.
 - a. Partner with schools and community groups to organize and coordinate the creation of the lanterns.
 - b. Provide support for this program in terms of funding, and operational support in installing and maintaining the lanterns.
4. Evaluate existing and planned trails for lighting conditions, and act to provide a level of lighting along the system that allows for all people to walk and bike safely when it's dark out.
5. Modify Beaumont's trail light standard to a full cut-off fixture to preserve the night sky.
6. Install amenity nodes along Beaumont's pathways in areas that are sheltered from the wind and receive sunlight. These amenity nodes should be placed at locations that provide convenient access and high visibility, and feature:
 - a. 1 or more benches
 - b. Shelter
 - c. Fire pit (where appropriate)
 - d. Waste receptacles
 - e. Planting beds with appropriate winter interest species
7. Explore opportunities to partner with university design programs, architecture firms and other organizations in designing shelters along Beaumont's pathways that are safe, warm and visually appealing.

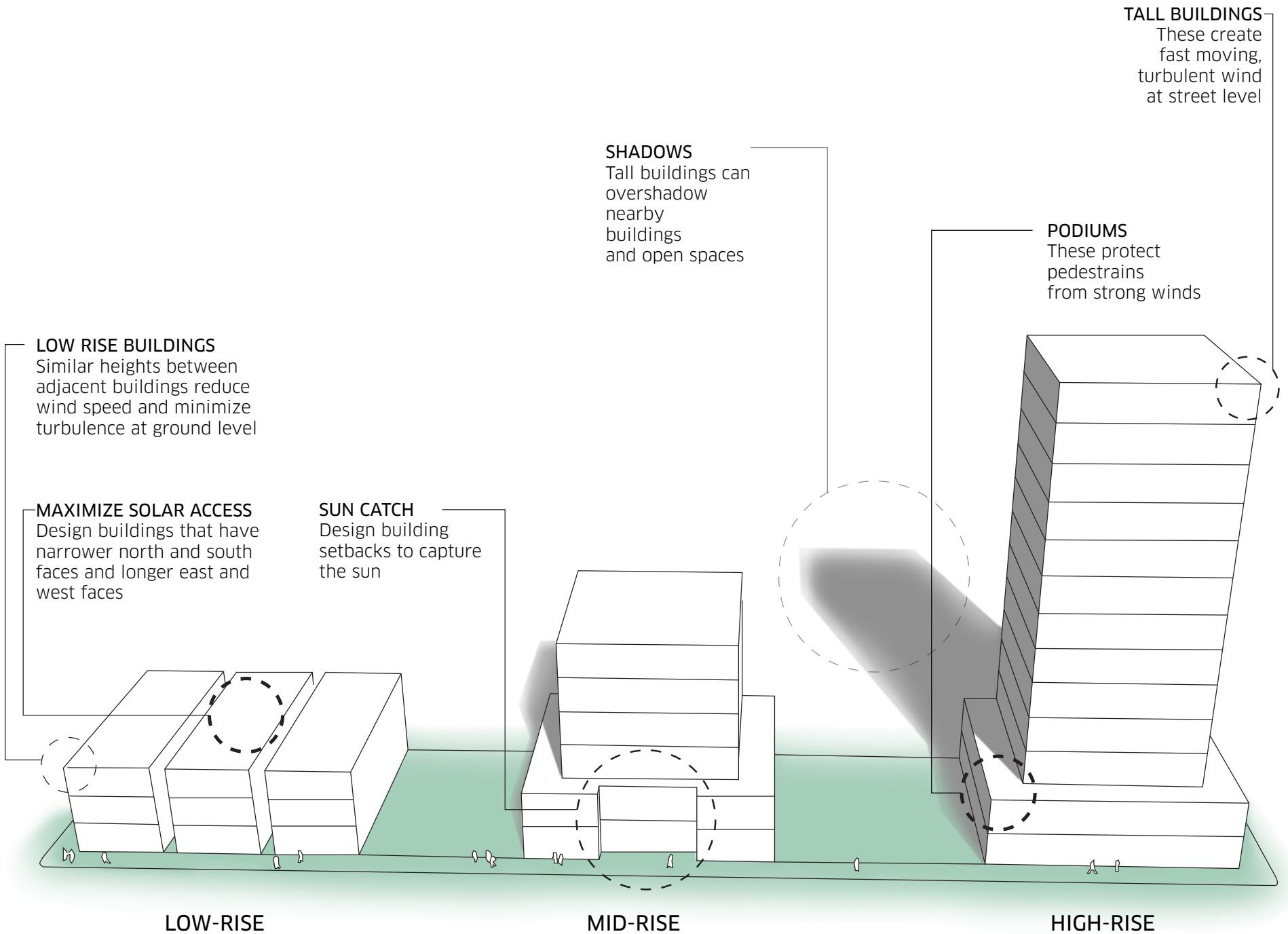
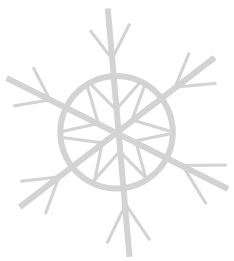


Figure 6. Built Form Illustration



BUILT FORM

As Beaumont transforms its relationship with winter, its buildings should promote a comfortable and enjoyable experience on the street level, minimizing wind and maximizing sunlight, while adding visual interest and landmarks. Their design should also embrace environmentally friendly building techniques that minimize the need for power and natural gas to keep warm.





Buildings

Beaumont is a growing city. The buildings that make up Beaumont play an important role in supporting a thriving winter city. There are intentional design considerations that should be made when considering user experience both outside and inside buildings in the winter.

Objectives:

1. Encourage buildings to incorporate design features that promote a pleasant and enjoyable experience on the street level.
2. Require and encourage buildings to utilize features and practices that promote visual interest in the winter months, especially at the street level.
3. Encourage and support outdoor commercial and patio space in the winter.

Massing Practices

1. Any building with more than four storeys should be stepped-back to prevent wind-tunneling and increase sunlight penetration onto the street level.
2. Buildings taller than four storeys should conduct a sun/shadow and wind, and their massing and positioning should minimize any shading or wind on open spaces and pedestrian-focused streets.

Street Level Practices

1. Entrances should feature awnings or other forms of weather protection that provide shelter from precipitation; awnings that provide continuous shelter along a street wall are also encouraged for longer developments.
2. Buildings, especially on the first three storeys, should strategically integrate light and colour.
3. Ground-level commercial uses should use a high proportion of glazing, with colour and lighting in their window displays.

Winter Patio Practices

1. Partner with Beaumont businesses to provide outdoor venues, patios and other spaces in the winter months. These could include heated winter patios attached directly to their business space, auxiliary sites with heated igloos or vendor sites at popular park destinations.
2. Partner with local Beaumont chefs and restaurants to pilot outdoor dining events, using tactical shelters and warming pits in various Beaumont locations.

Get your Patio Ready for Winter!

With the right consideration and design, a winter patio can make your business (or even the front porch) a unique and desirable destination. Here are some tips to keep people warm and happy while sitting on your winter patio:

1. Choose patio heaters and fire pits that provide warmth from the ground up. Patio heaters that heat from above are less effective
 - a. Training your staff to keep fires lit and patio heaters warm will help keep these features safe for everyone.
2. Place awnings over seating areas that can trap heat from gas/electric fire pits and patio heaters.
3. Find ways to incorporate bright colour and light into your winter patio. Some easy ideas include:
 - a. Colourful blankets for guests
 - b. Painted patio furniture
 - c. Hanging decorative lighting
4. Choose wood patio furniture rather than plastic or metal, as wood stays warmer in the cold weather.
5. Set up your patio to maximize sun exposure, specifically from the south and east for places with morning business, and from the west for places with evening business
6. Use planting, small walls, snow or the natural topography to shelter your patio from prevailing winds, which are typically from the north/ west in the winter.
7. Offer incentives to encourage your customers to try your winter patios, such as discounts on drinks or food, or a winter patio festival.
8. Pilot your winter patio in the late winter/early spring. -5 Celsius feels much better in March than it does in November.



Homes

At the individual household level, residents of Beaumont can participate in transforming their city into a lively winterscape. Residents can come together to transform their front yards, back yards and balconies into places that are not only warm areas to spend time outside, but places that brighten the entire community.

Objectives:

1. Encourage residents to design their frontages and yards as areas that celebrate and embrace winter.
2. Equip residents with tools to help them design and retrofit their properties to reduce utility costs in the winter.

Home Practices:

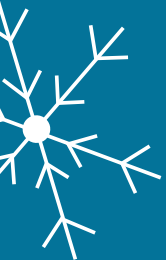
1. The City of Beaumont should enhance its Winter Lights contest to also consider efforts residents have taken to enhance their front yards using snow, decorations, furniture and other features in addition to lights.

2. The City of Beaumont should hold sessions or provide resources or information to property owners on how to maximize the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses. These resources should also include a web page that connects property owners to various grants, rebates, and financing programs that make these programs more financially accessible and lower their cost, including the Clean Energy Improvement Program (CEIP).
3. Encourage building designs with skylights and windows pointed towards primary sunlight directions. Deciduous trees, properly designed roof overhangs, or roller shades can be used to shade these windows in the summer months.

How to make your outdoor space a winter destination ?

Your yard can be enjoyed in all seasons, including winter. Here are some tips to transform your front or backyard into a place that is comfortable and enjoyable to spend time in during the winter:

1. Stamp pathways in the snow using a shovel or boots.
2. Create a seating area centred around a fire pit or with ice and snow.
3. Remove obstructions from the south or the direction you primarily get sunlight.
4. Add sheltered elements to block winter wind.
5. Use snow as a building material
6. Add decorative lighting throughout, or consider keeping your holiday lights installed throughout the winter.
7. Freeze coloured water in balloons or other molds to make interesting ice sculptures.





WINTER MOBILITY

Getting around in winter presents unique challenges. Snow and ice removal is an important aspect of a safe and fun winter city. Our climate's freeze-thaw cycles contribute to the buildup of ice, which makes the removal process more difficult. As Beaumont continues to grow, the way we design and maintain our roads, sidewalks and paths can assist in providing safe and enjoyable choices in transportation for people of all abilities.

WINTER MOBILITY

Our vision to increase the number of trips we take during the winter on public transit, walking, and biking will require a four-seasons approach to the design and operation of our transportation system. With proper design and maintenance plans, these more-sustainable modes of transportation can be effective and even pleasurable in the winter.

General Practices

1. Require new major developments and applications that modify or add roads, parking lots, pathways, and sidewalks to Beaumont to submit a snow management plan that details how the transportation infrastructure will remove and store snow.
2. Consider utilizing snow storage from snow removal as opportunities for temporary barriers or play features.





ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Active transportation (walking, biking, and rolling) contributes to the health, sustainability, and vitality of cities. In the winter months, encouraging people to take active modes, and providing a safe, convenient, and effective network to do so, requires special consideration.

Objectives:

1. Increase the active transportation mode share in the winter months.
2. Provide an active transportation network that is safe, convenient and effective in the winter for all ages and abilities.
3. Provide enjoyable experiences for people walking, biking, and rolling in the winter.
4. Foster a culture of winter biking, walking, and rolling.

Active Transportation Practices

1. Include Beaumont's pathways and publicly cleared sidewalks on Beaumont's online snow clearing map.
2. Consider a pilot project that experiments with projected crosswalk markings that are visible on snowy and cleared roadways at night.
3. Incorporate pedestrian and cyclist systems that use eye-level signage to account for pavement markings being covered periodically during the winter.
4. Initiate city-wide challenges and activities that encourage people to get out and walk or bike in the winter. These could include Instagram contests, formal runs/walks or events that allow participants to try winter walking and biking gear.
5. Communicate with and educate the public on shoveling best practices, including not storing sidewalk snow on roadways, and keeping curb inlets free of snow and debris to prevent them from freezing over in the spring.



Walking Practices:

1. Set up a City-run “Snow Angels” program, which allows residents to nominate neighbours who go above and beyond in snow removal for rewards such as a lawn sign and draw prizes.
2. Provide education and outreach services that inform residents on how to properly clear sidewalks and avoid the build-up of ice and hard-packed snow. This could include social media posts, videos and programming.
3. Provide education and outreach services that inform residents on how to safely navigate icy or snowy paths, including walking techniques and equipment such as ice cleats. This could include social media posts, videos and recreational programming.
4. Increase the amount of sand/grit boxes along public pathways and major pedestrian crossings and allow residents to distribute the sand as an additional measure to the City’s existing sanding service. Sand/grit boxes placed at the entrances of trails should be prioritized.
5. Prohibit snow storage or windrows that block crosswalks or sidewalk access points.

Biking Practices:

1. Destinations, especially those accessible through Beaumont’s cyclist network, should feature sheltered bike racks that protect from snow and vehicle spray from adjacent roads.
2. New multi-unit residential buildings should include sheltered and secured bike storage for residents.
3. Continue to support the expansion of Beaumont’s multi-use trail network.
4. Re-evaluate which trails are on Beaumont’s priority one list for snow removal, giving priority to those that connect to destinations such as schools and other services.
5. Partner with local businesses in providing informative sessions on winter biking, including equipment, techniques and other tips and tricks.
6. Future expansion of Beaumont’s cycling network should prioritize infrastructure that can be easily cleared from snow and ice in the winter. This includes physically-separated bike lanes and trails, with at least 0.5 metres for snow storage. Shared roadways and painted-line bike lanes are not considered to be winter-friendly in this regard and are discouraged.



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation systems that are regular, convenient and reliable are used more frequently by residents. This is even more true in winter cities. Minimizing wait times is essential when the weather is cold or snowy, and providing additional stops reduces the distance people need to travel in order to access transit. Appropriate transit shelters that include heaters and protect from wind and snow are also essential for providing a high-quality passenger experience.

Objectives:

1. Explore continual improvements to Beaumont's public transit system as the city grows.
2. Winterize transit assets and facilities.

Public Transportation Practices

1. Any future transit service expansion should consider winter barriers to taking transit, and provide convenient, reliable service in cold and snowy conditions.
2. These considerations should favour systems that:
 - a. Typically have shorter wait times before passengers can board a vehicle;
 - b. Maintain a reliable schedule, even during snowfall and cold temperatures; and,
 - c. Maximize accessibility to pick-up points throughout the city.
3. Explore options that increase pick-up locations for Beaumont's transit service.
4. Set standards for snow and cold-weather performance when procuring new transit vehicles, with all components showing a history of the ability to provide service at temperatures of -40 degrees Celsius or lower.
5. Provide snow clearing services for the walkways immediately connected to any future transit pick-up locations.



ROADWAYS

As Beaumont shifts towards more sustainable methods of transportation, driving is still a primary way residents travel within and outside the City. A winter city strategy needs to recognize this and promote a roadway and maintenance system that promotes safety, and efficiency and limits negative impacts on surrounding areas.

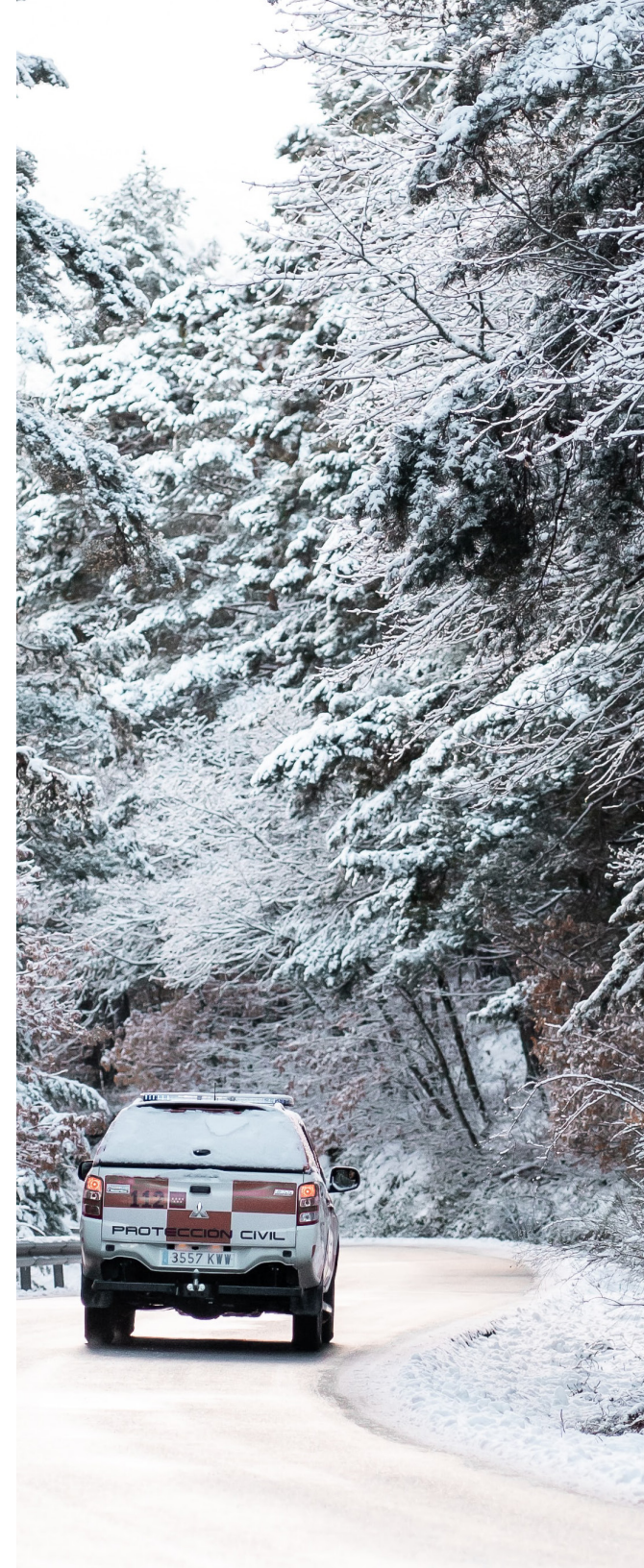
Objectives:

1. Coordinate and collaborate with the public and other service providers to improve snow clearing in Beaumont.
2. Promote infrastructure that is designed for easy and effective snow removal.



Roadways Practices

1. Explore ways to increase coordination between snow clearing and other services (waste, forestry etc.) so one service does not impact the performance of the other.
2. Get input in upcoming budget public engagement periods on what residents are willing to spend to increase the snow removal budget and service level.
3. Discourage the development of any additional cul-de-sacs in new neighbourhoods, to promote more effective snow clearing and service delivery.
4. Encourage infrastructure designs and standards that consider easy and effective snow removal.



A photograph of a family walking away from the camera through a snowy field. An adult in the center is carrying two large, colorful inflatable tubes. Two young children are walking alongside them, one holding the adult's hand. The scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast on the snow. The background shows snow-covered bushes and trees.

WINTER COMMUNITIES

The chilly days of winter are an invitation for us to gather. Whether it is around a fire, at a skating rink, or in a restaurant or café, this is a season that encourages people to come together and build community. Creating a winter city is a team effort, requiring buy-in and action from City staff and officials, businesses and organizations and residents alike. When a city works together to make winter safe and fun for everyone, it truly becomes a season worth celebrating.

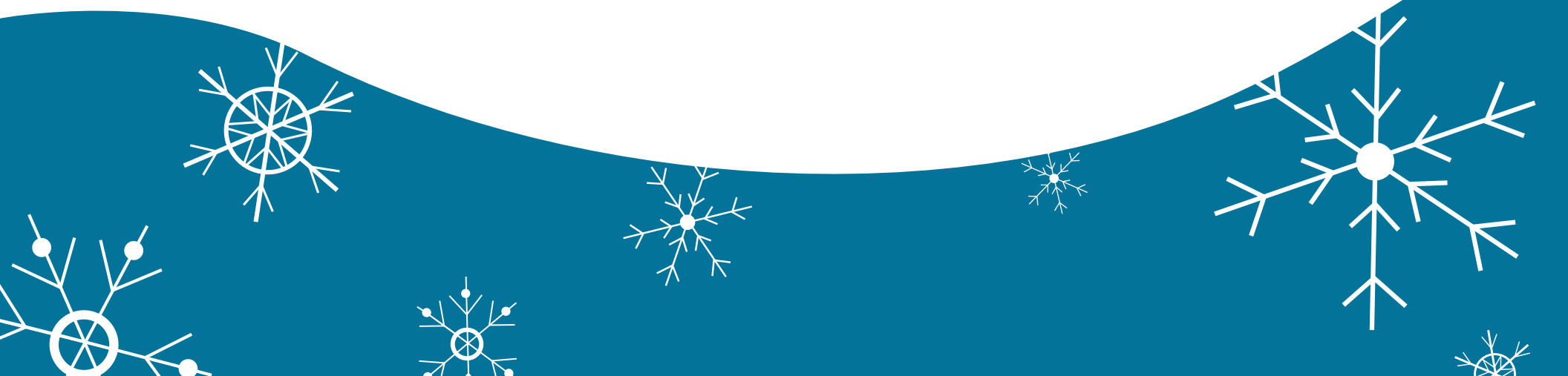
WINTER COMMUNITIES

WINTER EQUITY

When creating a winter city, it is important to realize that the impacts of the season are not equally felt or experienced by everyone. While a snowy or icy walkway may only be a minor inconvenience to someone who is young and able, it can be a serious barrier for someone who is older or has limited mobility. Winter activities like hockey and skiing are fun, but oftentimes have a far higher costs associated with them than activities in the summer. Applying an equity lens, a perspective that considers the needs and abilities of others, to our winter city strategy fosters a community where everyone can genuinely enjoy winter. The following objectives and practices will support winter equity in Beaumont.

Objectives:

1. Create and operate, or support, a transportation system that puts the needs of pedestrians first, especially those with limited mobility or other factors that affect their access.
2. Establish winter programming and recreational opportunities that reduce the cost and knowledge barriers to participation in activities.
3. Create a system that provides heat and shelter to those in need during periods of extreme cold.
4. Promote winter education that teaches residents how to respond to the season's conditions.



Winter Equity Practices

1. Continue efforts on working with municipal partners to offer emergency shelter access in Beaumont or the Leduc region.
2. Explore providing warming shelters along with Beaumont's pathway system that aim to provide temporary warmth and shelter to trail users.
3. Identify sidewalks and pathways that connect assisted living complexes to essential services and evaluate incorporating these into the public snow clearing program.
4. Identify sidewalks that experience high pedestrian traffic and evaluate incorporating these into the public snow clearing program.
5. Ensure all snow clearing practices remove windrows at crosswalks and other pedestrian access points.
6. Aim to increase the proportion of pathways that are at a priority one snow clearing status.
7. Continue to expand Beaumont's inventory of winter recreation equipment, including cross country skis, skates, and sleds and make it available to residents on a free or heavily subsidized rental basis.
8. Partner with non-profits, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS), and other organizations in providing new residents access to winter education resources that cover essential information on season-specific topics such as dressing for the weather, shoveling, and winter car and home maintenance.
9. Partner with non-profits, FCSS, and other organizations in providing winter gear for low-income households or for those new to Canada and the Canadian winter
10. Communicate through social media and other channels useful winter tips for residents, including tips on dressing warmly, proper winter equipment (ice cleats, clothing, shovel, de-icers), and winter activity opportunities.

WINTER PROGRAMMING

Winter presents the opportunity for many unique and memorable events and activities. From big winter festivals with light displays and snow sculptures to day-to-day activities like shinny, tobogganing, and winter patios, a little creativity can go a long way in creating fun winter experiences. The following lists objectives and practices that will support a fun and inclusive variety of winter programming in Beaumont.

Objectives:


1. Support community-led winter events in ways that enable organic growth and development over time.
2. Balance large, one-time events with regularly planned activities to create consistent opportunities for community participation throughout the winter.
3. Program and develop parks and recreational areas with a variety of activities that cater to all ages and abilities.
4. Partner with local businesses to activate parks and open spaces in the winter.





Winter Programming Practices

Events

- 
1. Work with other levels of government and sponsors to establish a Beaumont Winter Event grant that awards funding to organizations seeking to start a recurring festival in Beaumont during the winter.
 2. Implement lower permit fees for events that are scheduled during the winter.
 3. Create municipally owned winter block party kits that come with furnishings and equipment that can be booked by residents to host a block party. This kit should also come with resources on how to properly plan and execute a winter block party.
 4. Organize and implement several smaller-scale events throughout the winter that focus on activating Beaumont's toboggan hills, ice rinks and other outdoor winter activity areas. These can partner with local businesses in bringing warm drinks, snacks and activity equipment to the parks.

Recreation

1. Partner with the Agricultural Society in planning and funding the activation of their lands as a winter recreation destination that can hold festivals and everyday recreation activities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

2. Evaluate winter recreational programming from an all-ages, all-abilities perspective, allocating slots and resources for a variety of activities that appeal to different demographics and interests.
3. Undertake a pilot project in which a trail or park is selected to have a maintained cross-country skiing track, this can be evaluated before deciding on continuing/expanding or discontinuing the practice.
4. If the pilot project for cross-country skiing is successful, pursue partnerships with golf courses within Beaumont to implement a winter joint-use agreement for snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.
5. Explore incorporating vendor booths, that are serviced with water and electricity, into Beaumont's outdoor winter activity areas that can support a business in providing warm drinks and snacks in a comfortable outdoor setting.
6. Use hay bales on toboggan hills to create seating areas and delineate safe tobogganing routes.
7. Create outdoor winter activity areas that have a balance of active (snowshoeing, skating, tobogganing) with passive activities (fire pits, seating and shelter) so people can either participate in activities or watch comfortably.
8. Encourage winter walks through passive programming such as creating a winter QR code scavenger hunt along Beaumont's trails.



WINTER WELLNESS

With all the wonderful opportunities in winter, it is important to also recognize the potential negative impacts the wintry weather and short days can have on our physical and mental health. Icy roads and walkways can make getting around in winter more difficult, and some may find it more difficult to get adequate exercise in the winter months. Seasonal-affective disorder (SAD) is also prevalent among winter cities, with reduced sunlight contributing to winter-related SAD. As a winter city, it is important to come together and work towards building healthy and happy communities in all seasons. The following objectives, practices, and actions are intended to maintain our wellness during the winter months.



Objectives:

1. Raise community awareness and knowledge on how to maintain physical and mental wellness during the winter months.
2. Support events and programming that lead to increased social and physical activity opportunities in the winter.

Winter Programming Practices

1. Circulate and distribute communications and materials prepared by other organizations (Canadian Mental Health Association, Get Prepared Canada, etc.) that provide tools and resources for residents to address the physical and mental health challenges associated with winter in a constructive manner.
2. Provide and promote opportunities for older residents to meet and gather for a group outdoor walk, explore bringing on a physical therapist or similar professional who can lead the walk and instruct on how to walk in the winter safely.



IMPLEMENTATION

Creating a Winter City requires collaboration from City officials and staff, residents, businesses, and community organizations. Everyone in Beaumont has a role to play in transforming the City's relationship with winter into something safe and fun for everyone. This section outlines concrete and actionable ideas to accomplish the objectives and practices of this strategy.

These actions are not commitments that are required to be implemented, but rather are opportunities that can be taken by the identified lead actor at the appropriate time. Advancing the goals and recommendations of this strategy requires the support and buy-in from Council and Beaumont Administration. Each action idea has a different level of resource requirements from both the City and the Community, and moving forward it will be important for staff and Council to identify priority projects and allocate the necessary resources and supports. Many ideas identified in this section are quick wins, require minimal investment, and put a winter city perspective into existing practices and

programs. However, some of the actions in this strategy require upfront or continuous funding. These costs are investments in transforming Beaumont's relationship with winter and will ultimately bring a range of social and economic benefits to the City. Cities that embrace winter, and commit to making it a season worth celebrating, leverage in attracting residents and businesses, and provide a high quality of life in all seasons - vastly improving resident satisfaction and community wellbeing. Cities that integrate a winter perspective into all their practices also see long-term savings with reduced maintenance and repairs.

This section organizes these action ideas between lead actors, with actions intended to be City-led, community-led, or business and cultural organization-led. Actions are broken up into short-term, low-cost quick wins, and long-term investments.



CITY ACTIONS

This section identifies actions that can be taken under the leadership of City Staff, possibly in partnership with other City Departments or Businesses and other organizations. These actions range from short-term to long-term items - the identified Lead Actors may identify the best time and setting to pursue them.

General

Action C.01 – Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator Position	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Planning and Development, Recreation, Communications Departments
Required Resources	Resources for the additional position (or formal role within another position) in City Administration
Action Description	Create an “Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator” position. The person in this position will have demonstrated community collaboration, communications, and planning skills. This person in this role will lead and assist with various elements of the Winter City Strategy implementation and evaluation. They will also oversee the implementation and evaluation of other interdisciplinary plans, such as the Urban Agricultural Master Plan, and Age Friendly Strategy.

Action C.1.1 – Neighbourhood and Area Plans	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Development Industry, Urban Development Institute
Required Resources	City staff time
Action Description	Add language into the Terms of Reference for Area Structure Plans, Area Redevelopment Plans, and Neighbourhood Structure Plans, that requires a narrative describing how the plan responds to the Beaumont Winter City Strategy.
Winter City Benefit	Developers will more thoroughly consider winter conditions and how to best optimize their Neighbourhood and Area plans to promote a high quality of life and effective infrastructure for all seasons.

Action C.1.2 – Urban Design Guidelines Review	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Development Industry, Beaumont Design Review Committee
Required Resources	City staff time, Beaumont Design Review Committee time
Action Description	Add language to the Beaumont Urban Design Guidelines that refers to the Winter City Strategy and that the Winter Strategy should be considered in conjunction with the Urban Design Guidelines.
Winter City Benefit	City of Beaumont Planning staff and the Beaumont design community can use the resources and guidelines in the Winter City Strategy in their reviews of proposed developments, fostering winter design capacity within the development community, and promoting a winter-friendly built form.

Action C.1.3 – Winter Competition Opportunities	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Events Department
Potential Partners	Communications Department, local businesses
Required Resources	City staff time, budget for lawn sign creation and distribution, local business sponsored prizes
Action Description	Look into ways to enhance the existing Winter Lights Contest by modifying the entry criteria to include features such as landscaping, lighting, and snow sculpting in addition to winter lights. Explore the inclusion of small lawn signs to be placed at winning properties.
Winter City Benefit	This program would encourage and recognize residents and other property owners to consider their front-yard space in the winter, contributing to a more vibrant and attractive city during the winter months.

Action C.1.4 – Homeowner Winterization Resources	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator
Potential Partners	Communications, Infrastructure, and Planning and Development Departments
Required Resources	City staff time
Action Description	The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will coordinate resources and information from various sources that inform residents on how to winterize their homes, including tips to reduce heating and electricity bills in the winter months, and how to take advantage of micro-climate design. These resources can be put on the City's website and promoted through City social media channels.
Winter City Benefit	These resources would connect residents to existing sources of information on how to prepare their homes for winter, promoting safe and effective heating systems and good interior air quality, while reducing energy consumption.

Action C.1.5 – General Design Standards Review	
Timeline	Long-Term
Lead Actor	Infrastructure Department
Potential Partners	Planning and Development Department
Required Resources	City staff time
Action Description	Review and update General Design Standards for drainage, sidewalks, pathways and other infrastructure with a winter lens. This includes but is not limited to measures to minimize ice formation on pedestrian walkways, the inclusion of bike lanes that can receive snow clearing, and underground utility details that allow for year-round use of public amenities such as washrooms and change rooms.
Winter City Benefit	This update would ensure Beaumont’s development and redevelopment automatically consider winter impacts, making it easier to develop infrastructure that is safe to use and cost-effective to maintain year-round.

Action C.1.6 – Pathway Lighting Assessment	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Infrastructure Department
Potential Partners	Planning and Development Department
Required Resources	City staff time, potential consultant cost, and capital costs to provide lighting in deficient areas
Action Description	Conduct a city-wide assessment of Beaumont’s trails to identify areas that require pedestrian-scaled lighting in order to function safely after the sun sets. Recommended lighting levels should consider which trails and areas are priority pedestrian routes after dark, and balance pedestrian safety with the minimization of light pollution and trespass onto neighbouring properties. The study should result in a list of locations that require lighting, and an estimated capital and operations cost.
Winter City Benefit	This study would be the first step in enhancing Beaumont’s pathway system to be more safe and comfortable for everyone after the sun sets. This is especially important in the winter, when the sun sets much earlier in the day.

Action C.1.7 – Year-Round Outdoor Patio Program	
Timeline	Long-Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Communications and Economic Development Departments, local businesses
Required Resources	City staff time, optional funding for annual grants
Action Description	The Planning and Development Department will lead a Year-Round Outdoor Patio Program that provides information, streamlined approvals, and potential funding to assist businesses in building patios that are suited for year-round use. This program will require a partnership with Planning and Development for an approvals process, and the local Business community for input on how to best support outdoor patios in Beaumont. Council will need to approve funding if any, that can be made available to businesses looking to create a year-round patio space.
Winter City Benefit	This program will encourage businesses to initiate outdoor patios that are designed to be open year-round, contributing to more thriving and attractive streetscapes in Beaumont, especially in the winter.

Action C.1.8 – Open Space Winter Retrofit Program	
Timeline	Long-Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development and Infrastructure Departments
Potential Partners	
Required Resources	City staff time, upfront capital cost budget, ongoing operations and maintenance budget
Action Description	The Planning and Development and Infrastructure Departments will lead an Open Space Winter Retrofit Program. This program will enhance Beaumont’s existing outdoor spaces to make them more engaging and comfortable in the winter. This includes the creation of amenity nodes in parks and along trails that provide benches, shelters, fire pits and lighting, among other opportunities identified by the program.
Winter City Benefit	This program will make Beaumont’s parks and trails more engaging and comfortable in the winter, supporting more active winter lifestyles and overall resident enjoyment.

Action C.1.9 – Winter Decorative Lights Program	
Timeline	Long-Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator
Potential Partners	Recreation Department, Local Arts and Community Programs
Required Resources	City staff time, upfront capital cost budget, ongoing operations budget
Action Description	The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator, in conjunction with the Arts & Events team, will seek out community groups, industrial design classes or other similar organizations to create an annual decorative light and art installation that is featured in a rotating location yearly.
Winter City Benefit	This program will create meaningful partnerships with the local arts community and provide an opportunity for community members to create and transform a community space with lights. The annual light installation will attract visitors and residents to Beaumont's parks.

Winter Mobility

Action C.2.1 – Snow Removal Online Information	
Timeline	Short-Term - Long-Term
Lead Actor	Operations
Potential Partners	Communications Department
Required Resources	City staff time
Action Description	Add to existing communication strategies, as appropriate, involving snow removal processes, including identifying municipally cleared trails and sidewalks on the existing Beaumont priority map.
Winter City Benefit	Having access to more information on the status of snow clearing in Beaumont will allow residents to make better decisions on the routes and trips they take and help manage resident expectations regarding snow clearing.

Action C.2.2 – Snow Angel Program	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator
Potential Partners	Communication Department, local businesses
Required Resources	City staff time, budget for lawn signs, local business sponsorship for prizes
Action Description	Create and operate a program where residents can nominate neighbours who go above and beyond what is expected for snow removal, including shoveling neighbours' sidewalks and driveways. For example, nominees could receive a small lawn sign which designates them as a 'snow angel' and be entered to win door prizes.
Winter City Benefit	Keeping residential sidewalks clear of ice and snow is important for pedestrian safety, especially for those who are more vulnerable. While bylaws may require residents to shovel their own walks, this program seeks to recognize those who do more than that in order to encourage more extensive and timely clearing.

Action C.2.3 – Prioritization of Active Mode Pathway Snow Clearing	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Operations
Potential Partners	Planning and Development Department
Required Resources	City staff time
Action Description	Review pathway snow clearing prioritization, with the aim to create a system where most functional routes are set as “priority one”, and an increasing proportion of pathways are “priority one”.
Winter City Benefit	Pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable transportation modes, especially in the winter. To encourage active mode transportation in the winter, setting more routes, and the routes most commonly used as priority one, will provide safer and more reliable routes for those choosing to walk or cycle.

Action C.2.4 – Winter Active Transportation Communication	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator or Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Communications Department
Required	City staff time, budget for lawn signs, local business sponsorship for prizes
Resources	City staff time
Action Description	The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will coordinate materials that encourage and promote the use of active transportation modes in the winter, including tips and equipment that make it more enjoyable and safer. The Coordinator will work with the Communications department to send out this information through City communication channels and place it on the City’s website. See Business-led action B.2.1 for a similar initiative.
Winter City Benefit	Encourage and provide information on how to use active transportation modes during the winter months affirms the City’s vision of increasing the active transportation mode share, and promotes the idea within the community.

Action C.2.5 – Winter Active Transportation Contest	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator
Potential Partners	Communications and Recreation Department, local businesses
Required Resources	City staff time, prizes from local businesses
Action Description	The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will coordinate a contest or event that encourages residents to walk and bike in their communities during the winter. Suggestions for contests include a winter bike outfit photo contest, or winter outdoor scavenger hunt.
Winter City Benefit	Encouraging the community to try out winter cycling or getting out for a winter walk helps achieve the City's goals of increasing active transportation mode share. More people walking and biking in the winter leads to more vibrant and safer streets.

Action C.2.6 – Snow Removal Public Engagement	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Infrastructure Department
Potential Partners	Communications Department
Required Resources	City staff time, potential consultant budget
Action Description	Undertake a public engagement process, either as a separate occurrence or as part of a larger budget engagement, on snow removal. This engagement should seek the community's perspective on current snow clearing practices in Beaumont, and inform residents of the costs associated with increasing service delivery before assessing their willingness to pay. The outcomes of this engagement should inform future snow clearing practices and budgets.
Winter City Benefit	Engagement to help match residents' expectations regarding snow clearing standards with their expectations regarding costs can help increase satisfaction with snow removal and help minimize staff time spent addressing complaints.

Action C.2.7 – Transit Expansion	
Timeline	Long-Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Infrastructure Department, Edmonton Metropolitan Transit Services Commission
Required Resources	Staff time for feasibility study, potential capital and operational funding for selected implementation option
Action Description	Continue ongoing work to expand Beaumont’s public transportation network, utilizing a system and processes that consider the unique needs of winter cities. This includes the need for regular service that comes at reliable times (even during inclement weather), an appropriate shelter near stops, and a fleet of vehicles that are able to perform during cold and snowy winter conditions.
Winter City Benefit	Regular and reliable public transportation that can perform in winter conditions is an important aspect of winter cities. Without this service, a large portion of the population will choose to rely on private automobiles as their primary transportation method – especially when it’s cold outside. When the service considers winter service delivery in every decision that is made, public transportation will become a more attractive choice to residents in all seasons of the year.

Action C.2.8 – Bike Network Expansion	
Timeline	Long-Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Infrastructure Department
Required Resources	Staff time for network planning; potential capital and operational funding for recommended solution
Action Description	Expand Beaumont’s bike network with pathways and dedicated bike lanes that the City can regularly and effectively clear. Consider the winter-friendly end-of-trip facilities, including covered bike parking or secure indoor bike parking areas.
Winter City Benefit	As Beaumont aims to increase the amount of people walking and biking for recreation and for their daily trips, expanding the bike network in a manner where it is an attractive and safe option in all months is essential. A safe and well-connected bike network that is regularly cleared of snow and ice is an attractive option for people looking for alternative transportation methods to driving.

Winter Communities

Action C.3.1 – Winter Block Party Kit	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Recreation Department
Potential Partners	Infrastructure and Communication Departments
Required Resources	Upfront cost for kit resources, ongoing staff time
Action Description	Put together materials such as traffic pylons, folding tables and chairs, mobile fire pits, hot beverage dispensers, and outdoor winter activities for a municipally owned and managed 'Winter Block Party Kit'. This kit will include a guide on how to close a residential street and organize a block party for the neighbourhood. Residents can book the kit ahead of time for their use.
Winter City Benefit	Effective winter cities provide residents with fun and accessible ways to get outside and enjoy the season. This winter block party kit has been successfully deployed in other Albertan municipalities and is an effective tool in bringing neighbours together even on cold days.

Action C.3.2 – Agricultural Society Partnership	
Timeline	Short-Term to Long-Term
Lead Actor	Recreation Department and Beaumont Agricultural Society
Potential Partners	
Required Resources	Capital funding, operational funding
Action Description	Explore opportunities to partner with the Agricultural Society and other organizations in creating a plan that seeks to activate their lands as a winter destination for events and other day-to-day recreation.
Winter City Benefit	This partnership will begin to capitalize on the potential the Agricultural Society lands have for the greater community of Beaumont. The lands have the potential to become a place for activities like cross-country skiing and snowshoeing and for winter events.

Action C.3.3 – Hay Bales at Toboggan Hills	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Infrastructure Department
Potential Partners	Recreation Department
Required	Capital funding, operational funding
Resources	Staff time, upfront cost for additional hay bales if needed
Action Description	Place hay bales at toboggan sites to create seating areas at the top or sides of the hill. These seating areas could be enhanced with a fire pit (placed at an appropriate distance). Hay bales can also delineate safe starting places for tobogganers or block steep or potentially dangerous routes.
Winter City Benefit	Through public engagement, we heard a desire from the community for more spaces to sit comfortably and watch winter activities. Hay bales are a material that can provide temporary and adjustable seating areas at the base of toboggan hills, and do not get cold during the winter like steel benches.

Action C.3.4 – Winter Wellbeing Resources	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator or Community and Social Development Department
Potential Partners	Communications Department
Required	Capital funding, operational funding
Resources	Staff time
Action Description	The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will create a list of resources from existing sources from other organizations that provides information and guides residents on how to promote mental and physical wellbeing in the winter. These resources can be listed on the Beaumont Website. The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator can partner with the Communications Department to distribute pertinent tips through the City social media.
Winter City Benefit	Winter can provide challenges to people’s mental and physical wellbeing. While healthcare is outside of municipal scope, the City can play a role in promoting the wellbeing of the community by connecting residents to existing resources.

Action C.3.5 – Cross Country Trails	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Recreation and Infrastructure Departments
Potential	City Infrastructure and Communication Departments
Partners	Schools, Golf Courses, Agricultural Society, community sport organizations
Required Resources	Capital funding, staff time, operational funding
Action Description	Identify opportunities for cross-country skiing trails in Beaumont and plan out routes, as well as trail area opportunities. Identified routes and trails can include golf courses, school yards, and/or Four Seasons Park, adjacent to existing pathways. Necessary equipment will then need to be sourced and employed to produce and maintain the trails, potentially in partnership with community organizations with expertise in this area. This can be done as a pilot project, starting off with one trail, before assessing and expanding opportunities.
Winter City Benefit	The ability to cross-country ski in Beaumont was a common desire during public engagement. Providing routes and trails for cross-country skiing provides residents with an additional choice of outdoor winter activity, contributing to a high quality of life in the winter season.

Action C.3.6 – Winter Equipment Inventory Program Expansion	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Recreation Department
Potential Partners	Community and Social Development Department
Required Resources	Upfront funding, ongoing replacement funding, staff time
Action Description	Building on the existing snowshoe rental program, continue to invest in outdoor winter activity equipment such as snowshoes, cross country skiing equipment, and skates that can be made available to rent for free by community members. Oversee the management of this rental process.
Winter City Benefit	Winter activities typically have a higher cost barrier than summer activities. By providing equipment that is available for all to use, Beaumont will be helping more people to get outside and have exciting and memorable winter experiences.

Action C.3.7 – Winter Active and Passive Programming Opportunities	
Timeline	Short-Term
Lead Actor	Recreation Department
Potential Partners	Local Businesses
Required Resources	Staff time
Action Description	<p>Program a variety of active opportunities that activate outdoor winter areas throughout the year. These events should have a balance between once-a-year opportunities and regularly scheduled activities. Partnering with local businesses to provide food, hot beverages, or equipment is encouraged.</p> <p>These events should also be balanced with passive programming opportunities, such as QR scavenger hunts throughout Beaumont’s trail system and contests to promote passive winter activity. See Business-led action B.3.1 for a similar initiative</p>
Winter City Benefit	Beaumont has a wide variety of areas for outdoor activities in the winter. By programming opportunities and events into these spaces, people will be drawn to check them out more regularly, leading to a more active winter lifestyle.

Action C.3.8 – Winter Festival Grants	
Timeline	Long Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator
Potential Partners	Recreation and Economic Development Department
Required Resources	Potential ongoing budget, staff time
Action Description	<p>The Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator will work with the Arts & Events team to seek out sources of funding to create an ongoing Winter Festival Grant. Sources can include, but are not limited to, provincial and federal initiatives and organizations, the City budget, fundraising, and non-profit foundations.</p> <p>The Winter Festival Grant should be awarded to applicants seeking to establish a recurring winter festival in Beaumont to assist in the funding of the event.</p>
Winter City Benefit	<p>The City of Beaumont plays a vital role in creating programming and events for residents; however, it can also play a supporting role for community-initiated events. Winter events are typically more costly to establish than events held in the summer, and with government tourist and economic development agencies moving more towards placemaking and revitalization efforts, there is lots of potential to set up a source of funding for these community-led events.</p>

Action C.3.9 – Year-round Vendor Stations at Parks	
Timeline	Long Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator
Potential Partners	Recreation, Planning & Development, and Economic Development Departments
Required Resources	Upfront Capital Budget, City Staff Time
Action Description	<p>Identify existing and future parks that are well suited to accommodate a vendor station. This vendor station should have the ability to lease space to a restaurant or other food/beverage business that can serve park users. The vendor station should have a mix of outdoor and indoor spaces, designed to be functional, attractive, and comfortable in all seasons.</p> <p>This may be implemented as a pilot project, with space for a food truck and a temporary shelter at one park location.</p>
Winter City Benefit	One of the greatest draws to public parks in the cold winter months is a fire and warm food and drink. This program will help activate Beaumont’s parks, particularly in colder winter months, while providing additional opportunities for the City’s business community.

Action C.3.10 – Public Sidewalk Clearing Review	
Timeline	Long Term
Lead Actor	Interdisciplinary Plan Coordinator
Potential Partners	Infrastructure and Planning and Development Departments, local seniors' housing providers and assisted-living facilities
Required Resources	City staff time, Operations Budget
Action Description	Undertake a study to identify sidewalks and trails that connect assisted living facilities, retirement homes and other institutions that house older individuals or those with reduced mobility to essential locations such as grocery stores, medical facilities, and parks. Findings from the study will suggest sidewalks and trails that should be included on the Beaumont public snow clearing program.
Winter City Benefit	Individuals with reduced mobility are more vulnerable when walking on uncleared pathways and sidewalks during the winter months. Uncleared sidewalks can become isolating to these people. By providing public clearing on important pedestrian routes that connect assisted living facilities, retirement homes and similar institutions to important destinations, the City will help empower individuals to get outside and walk more regularly in all seasons.

Action C.3.11 – Emergency Shelter Access	
Timeline	Long Term
Lead Actor	Planning and Development Department
Potential Partners	Community and Social Development Department, Leduc County, Provincial and Federal Government
Required Resources	Staff Time, Capital Budget, Operations Budget
Action Description	Continue collaborative efforts to provide emergency shelter access serving residents of Leduc County. Emergency shelters should provide safe and secure spaces for people experiencing homelessness.
Winter City Benefit	Winter makes the need for emergency shelters in cities even greater. With winters reaching hazardous cold temperatures, having spaces that can provide temporary warmth and shelter for individuals within their home communities is essential.

BUSINESS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION ACTIONS

The following identifies opportunities for businesses and other organizations in Beaumont to participate in making winter a safe and fun season for everyone. These items can be adopted, adapted and lead by businesses and other organizations. As we continue to implement the Winter City Strategy, the City will be seeking to partner with businesses and organizations to provide opportunities to the public where feasible.

Winter Design

Action B.1.1 – Winter Patios	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Food/beverage services, Restaurants
Potential Partners	Planning and Development and Economic Development Departments
Required Resources	Upfront costs, minimal operating costs
Action Description	Work with the City in creating an outdoor patio space for your business that is functional in all seasons, utilizing the best practices found in this document and other related sources.
Winter City Benefit	A well-designed patio space that creates a comfortable and welcoming environment in the winter can make your business a unique destination for residents and visitors, allowing them to enjoy the outdoors while they eat and drink.

Action B.1.2 – Winter Storefronts	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Businesses and Organizations
Potential Partners	Planning and Development Department
Required Resources	Upfront costs, minimal operating costs
Action Description	Use the best practices found in the Winter Design Focus Area of this document, including the use of light and bright colours, to transform your business' space into something that provides interesting visual appeal against the white and grey tones in winter.
Winter City Benefit	Businesses can attract customers and contribute to a bright and visually appealing winter through investments in their frontage and display areas.

Action B.1.3 – Incorporate Winter Design Strategies	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Businesses and Developers
Potential Partners	Planning and Development Department
Required Resources	None
Action Description	In future development projects, including new buildings, renovations, and additions, use the guidance found in the Winter Design Focus Area of this document, which should be considered in conjunction with Beaumont's Urban Design Guidelines.
Winter City Benefit	Incorporation of the Winter Design Guidelines will make buildings and the public realm more visually appealing and supportive of comfortable environments in all seasons. These Guidelines also contribute to tenant and resident satisfaction.

Winter Mobility

Action B.2.1 – Winter Cycling Advocacy	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Bike and Sport Shops (Beaumont and Greater Edmonton Area)
Potential Partners	Recreation Department
Required Resources	Display Materials
Action Description	Partner with the City and other events in creating displays and trail areas for winter cycling. Have staff available at these events to answer questions related to winter cycling and associated equipment. See City-led action, C.2.4 for a similar initiative.
Winter City Benefit	Winter cycling becomes much more accessible when riders are equipped with the appropriate knowledge and equipment. Bike and sport shops have an important role to play in providing this knowledge and connecting residents to the proper equipment. This action will be mutually beneficial in promoting all season cycling in Beaumont, and promoting local businesses.

Action B.2.2 – Neighbour Snow Removal	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Businesses
Potential Partners	None
Required Resources	None
Action Description	Businesses that are adjacent to each other should set up agreements to share the burden of snow removal, such as an agreement to shovel the neighbour’s sidewalk if a business gets out to do their sidewalk first.
Winter City Benefit	Beaumont is a community that cares about each other, and this action is likely already taking place in residential and business settings. Continuing and expanding this practice is a great way to come together during the winter and keep sidewalks safe for everyone.

Winter Communities

Action B.3.1 – Winter Events	
Timeline	Short Term - Long-Term
Lead Actor	Businesses
Potential Partners	Recreation and Economic Development Departments
Required Resources	Project Specific
Action Description	Work together with other businesses, organizations, and the City in organizing winter activities throughout the City, or using your business/organization to support or augment existing winter activities. See City-led action C.3.7 for a similar initiative.
Winter City Benefit	Beaumont is a growing community with an exciting business and cultural community. Within these communities are resources and opportunities that lend themselves to great winter events and activities, either in a leading or supporting role. Getting the business/cultural communities in Beaumont involved in winter activities brings the city together, and makes events authentic to the community.

Action B.3.2 – Park Vendors	
Timeline	Long-Term
Lead Actor	City of Beaumont
Potential Partners	Food/beverage services, sports stores
Required Resources	Project Specific
Action Description	Work together with the City of Beaumont in creating opportunities for your business to activate existing park space. In the short-term, this may take the form of a food truck parked at scheduled times. In the long-term, it could take the form of occupying a permanent space constructed in a selected park.
Winter City Benefit	Beaumont is a community with a wide variety of beautiful parks. Especially in the winter, providing warm drink, food and fire will draw residents and visitors alike to the parks that are activated by local businesses. This will encourage residents to spend more time outside, together, in the winter months.

RESIDENT ACTIONS

The following identifies opportunities for residents of Beaumont to make winter a safe and fun season for everyone. The City of Beaumont recognizes the importance each community member has in transforming Beaumont into a Winter City. These items can be adopted, adapted and lead by residents. As we continue to implement the Winter City Strategy, the City will be seeking to partner with businesses and organizations to provide opportunities to the public where feasible.

Winter Design

Action R.1.1 – Holiday Lighting Extension	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	None
Required Resources	Minimal electricity costs
Action Description	Instead of taking down holiday lighting in the new year, keep it up and on during the night for the entire winter season.
Winter City Benefit	Holiday lighting contributes to a welcoming and visually appealing environment in neighbourhoods, making it more pleasant to walk around, especially during months where the sun still sets early.

Action R.1.2 – Create a Winterscape	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	None
Required	Minimal electricity costs
Resources	Project-dependent
Action Description	In the same way that one would landscape their front yard in the summer, undertake a winterscape project for your front yard or other outdoor space in the winter. This can include the creative application of snow and ice, yard furniture, decorative lighting, winter-suited planting and other features.
Winter City Benefit	Front yards and other outdoor spaces usually get the most attention in the summer months, however, there are many options to make your space attractive and interesting in the winter. When communities get together to create winterscapes, Beaumont’s neighbourhoods will be welcoming and vibrant spaces in all seasons.

Action R.1.3 – Create a Winter Gathering Place	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	None
Required Resources	Project-dependent
Action Description	Turn your outdoor spaces, including front porches and backyards, into gathering spaces that have a comfortable environment, even in the winter months.
Winter City Benefit	Recent winters, where gatherings were forced to be outside, had many people turning their outdoor spaces into comfortable gathering spaces. This practice should continue in future winters, promoting more time spent outdoors with friends and families.

Action R.1.4 – Winterize your Home	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	Provincial and Federal Governments
Required	Minimal electricity costs
Resources	Project-dependent
Action Description	Invest in winterizing your home, especially if your house is older. Investments such as insulation, multiple-paned windows, and door sweeps are all ways to prepare your house for winter.
Winter City Benefit	Having a more energy-efficient home, that effectively keeps heat in and cold out, is great for both the environment and personal budgets. There are existing and emerging sources of funding for these types of renovations, which can be useful in reducing the up-front cost.

Winter Mobility

Action R.2.1 – Equipping your Household	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	None
Required Resources	Equipment-dependent
Action Description	Before the beginning of winter, ensure the members of your household are sufficiently equipped for the season. This includes appropriate winter clothing, well-suited footwear, and other equipment such as clamp-on ice cleats for icy conditions. Reach out to friends and neighbours for advice on what to choose, and to local resources such as Community and Social Development if cost is a concern.
Winter City Benefit	The winter season, especially walking outside in the winter, is safer and more enjoyable when everyone has proper equipment and clothing for the season.

Action R.2.2 – Community Snow Clearing	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	None
Required Resources	None
Action Description	Households that are adjacent to each other should set up agreements to share the burden of snow removal, such as an agreement to shovel the neighbour’s sidewalk if a neighbour gets out to do their sidewalk first. Also consider committing to removing the snow from the sidewalk of a neighbour who is older or has reduced mobility.
Winter City Benefit	Beaumont is a community that cares about each other, and this action is likely already taking place in residential and business settings. Continuing and expanding this practice is a great way to come together during the winter and keep our sidewalks safe for everyone.

Winter Communities

Action R.3.1 – Host a Winter Block Party	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	Recreation Department
Required Resources	Block Party Kit, Additional Equipment
Action Description	Host a Winter block party for your community, with the support of the City Winter Block Party Kit (when available). This includes closing a local road, setting up hot beverages, activities, and inviting your neighbours for an afternoon of fun.
Winter City Benefit	Winter can be a socially isolating experience for some residents, having an opportunity to go outside and meet other community members is important to promote a physically and socially healthy winter city.

Action R.3.2 – Attend Winter Events	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	Recreation Department
Required Resources	None
Action Description	Beaumont has many winter activities and is working to create winter events throughout the season, commit to attending these as they emerge.
Winter City Benefit	Attending and supporting these events and activities is an important part of fostering a winter city. While it may not be common practice for everyone to get outside for an event in the winter, by wearing appropriate clothing, and keeping an open mind, you may just find a new reason to love the season.

Action R.3.3 – Try a new Winter Activity	
Timeline	Short Term
Lead Actor	Residents
Potential Partners	Recreation Department
Required Resources	Activity dependent
Action Description	Commit to trying at least one new winter activity or sport every season.
Winter City Benefit	Winter has a vast range of different sports and activities to try. Keeping an open mind, and committing to try a new one every winter keeps the season exciting, gets you engaged with your community, and may lead to you discovering a new favourite pastime.





BEAUMONT

WINTER CITY STRATEGY

DIALOG

