



## ***Front Yards in Bloom: Winterscapes 2018 Community League Information Package***

We are continuing our program through 2018 this winter to encourage Edmontonians of all ages to celebrate winter in their communities by having fun outdoors while helping to keep our neighbourhoods beautiful!

Individuals, families, and groups can participate by building a winterscape in the front yard of their residence, community hall, office/business, or school. This winter, why not create a winterscape in your community? This program is open to all Edmontonians.

Nominate your own or a neighbour's winterscape for a Winterscape Award by submitting a photo through our website. Nominations also enter a weekly prize draw during the nomination period: **January 15<sup>th</sup> – February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

### **How Can Community Leagues Participate?**

- Spread the word about this program to residents within your community through newsletter articles, posters and events
- Host a winterscape-building party in front of your community league
- At your next winter, holiday, or Family Day community league event:
  - Facilitate a winterscape-building activity for kids and families
  - Offer a snow games challenge for kids/families for extra fun

### **What is a Winterscape?**

A Winterscape can include snow and ice sculpture, winter gardens and landscaping, ice ornaments, and winter-themed scenes. Your imagination is the limit!

- Start with natural materials, such as snow, ice, visible plants, and stones or rocks
- You can add lights, colour, and wildlife-friendly features
- Find creative uses for ordinary home and garden items, such as planter containers, fences, and lawn ornaments

### **Why Build a Winterscape?**

- Beautify your neighbourhood
- Make your community hall or gathering location a fun place to be
- A fun way to spend time with friends, family, and colleagues



- Be active outdoors
- Start a new family tradition!

For complete details, please visit our website: [edmonton.ca/winterscapes](http://edmonton.ca/winterscapes).

Submitted photos may be added to our online gallery for public viewing.

### Categories:

- Winter Garden: These natural-looking Winterscapes feature landscaped yards with visible plants, snow, ice, and wildlife-friendly features. Yards may also include garden decorations, accessories, colour, and lights.
- Winter Art: These yards may feature creative winter scenes and snow/ice sculptures. Add plant materials, colour, lights, and use your vivid imagination to create an artistic Winterscape!
- Winter Play: These fun and kid-friendly Winterscapes have playful features, and may include snow slides, snow forts, colourful snow/ice art, tree ornaments, lights, and much more.

Please remember to stay safe, and keep adjacent walkways maintained and shoveled for letter carriers, visitors, and passers-by who want to stop and admire your amazing winter creations!

You can nominate your own winterscape, or a friend's or neighbour's winterscape. Individuals and groups alike are invited to submit nominations.

### Weekly Prize Draw

Each week, names of those who submitted nominations will be entered into a weekly random prize draw for a chance to win some cool prizes.

### Additional Information

- This information package contains fun Winterscape ideas and suggestions. You can also visit our website for additional information: [edmonton.ca/Winterscapes](http://edmonton.ca/Winterscapes)
- Nominations submitted online will be mailed an official letter and Winterscapes nomination sign that can be displayed in the front yard of your Winterscape (signs are double-sided dark purple with punch hole at top for hanging onto tree, railing, mailbox, or simply placed into your creation)
- Winterscapes Award recipients will be determined and notified in March, and will be recognized at the Edmonton in Bloom Awards ceremonies in late summer of 2018.



## *In this Package:*

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## ***Snow Fun! Winterscapes Ideas & Activity Suggestions***

### **Ideas for Your Unique Winterscape**

#### ***Inspired By Nature***

Take a walk and look for as many shapes, colours, and textures as you can find. Seeing the ways that nature has created beautiful winterscapes out of natural items may provide you with some ideas for creating a beautiful and unique winterscape in your own yard.

At the same time, you can help us celebrate Winter Walk Day with Walkable Edmonton on Wednesday February 7, 2018.

Go for a walk for health and wellness!

<http://shapeab.com/programmevents/winter-walk-day/>, visit

Winter Walk Day on Facebook or @Winterwalkday on Twitter.

Perhaps a pile of snow in your yard reminds you of a shape. By adding plant materials and shaping snow and ice to make it look like the object you pictured in your mind can be a great way to build on what features already exist.



For example, this snow piled against a tree reminded someone of a snowshoe hare, so they carved away snow with a branch, added extra snow for the back legs, and used berries, a leaf, and branches for the eyes, nose, and whiskers!

Go on a walk around your neighbourhood, and see what kind of natural items (berries, spruce cones, stones, twigs or branches) you can collect and use for your winterscape. Please remember:

- Be kind to nature. Do not cut, break, or pull items off living plants from the ground.
- Be kind to your neighbours. Do not trespass on private property to collect items (or ask neighbours for permission before collecting).
- Only collect natural items from public places and parks where collection is allowed.



### ***Make Snow Animals and Snowmen***

Sculpt animals out of snow, and use plant materials (branches, berries, pine needles) to decorate your creations. You can also make variations of snowmen (snow robots, snow creatures, an upside-down snowman), and decorate them with craft supplies or reusable household items.

Tip: If the snow isn't very sticky, try adding some warm water to powdery snow to help it stick together, so you can build with it.

### ***Wildlife-Friendly Features and Feeders***

Why should humans have all the fun? Hanging a feeder or two in your yard, adding a birdhouse or heated bird bath, or creating some shelter and hiding places might attract birds, squirrels, hares, and more to your Winterscape. Some examples include:

#### ***A) Make Food Decorations***

String plain cereal (like Cheerios), nuts, seeds, and dried fruit onto nylon thread, and decorate your trees while providing birds and squirrels a tasty treat.

#### ***B) Create Natural Feeders***

Hollow out an orange, use branches and twine to hang it up, and fill with birdseed.

(From *20+ Fun Activities to do in the Snow*. A. Kingloff and L. DeBellis. Parents Magazine, <http://www.parents.com/fun/activities/outdoor/snow-activities-kids/>)



#### ***C) Wildlife Shelters***

Leave naturally-occurring openings created by snowbanks, trees, and bushes that provide some shelter for small animals.





## ***Build a "Home" Away from Home***

This can be a great team-building opportunity for families, youth, community groups, and co-workers. Youth and adults can try making a quinzee out of snow, or a multi-coloured igloo out of ice blocks (using milk cartons as molds).



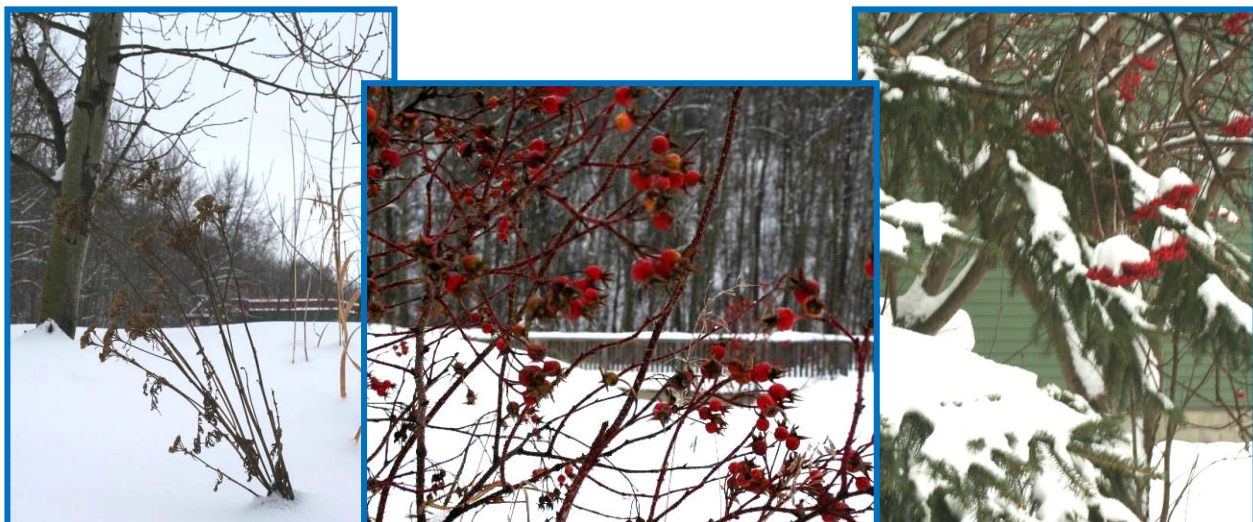
Get out your summer sand and garden play items (shovels, rakes, buckets, molds) and build a snow fort, a castle, or a house! Consider decorating your creation with:

- household items
- plant materials (branches and leaves can be used to create a mini-landscape around your fort or castle)
- coloured ice shapes
- fun things (paper snowflakes, pinwheels, wind chimes, and more)

## ***All Season Gardens: Growing and adding plants with winter interest***

Many plants, trees and shrubs look great year-round and provide a food source for birds if seeds and fruits remain through winter. These can include:

- Evergreens (spruce, pine, cedar, juniper)
- Plants that retain their fruits and seeds/seedheads (mountain ash, maple, prickly rose, blanket flower, cone flower, goldenrod)
- Ornamental grasses
- Trees/shrubs with interesting bark (dogwood, birch)





Here's an article with information about plants that create winter interest:

<http://www.canadiangardening.com/plants/trees-and-shrubs/pairing-plants-for-stunning-winter-garden-visuals/a/1604>

You can also collect and arrange dried plants to create art:



### ***Snow Art / Snow Painting / Snow Graffiti***

Express your creative side! Mix food colouring with water (you can also use no-sugar Kool-Aid powder), and pour into spray bottles or squeeze bottles. You can paint pictures in the snow or add some colour to your snow creations.

*Note: food colouring can stain clothes. Darker clothing, including gloves/mittens are recommended. You may wish to have young children wear smocks or old clothes. If you do get food colouring on your clothes, rinse in cold water as soon as you can, and apply some laundry detergent or pre-treatment into the stain, and launder as usual.*



***Lights***



Nature Lanterns (from <http://www.themaqiconions.com/>)

Materials:

- A small balloon
- Tissue paper (we chose white for the winter snow)
- Glue
- Nature bits
- Scissors
- Bendable wire

1. Tear the tissue paper into small strips. Squeeze glue into a recycled dish (we used an old yogurt tub and put it in the recycling bin when we were done with it). Dilute the glue with a little water (you want the glue/water mix to be the consistency of light cream). Dip a tissue paper strip into the glue and wrap it around the round end of your balloon. Continue until the round end of your balloon is covered in a layer of tissue paper...
2. Stick your winter 'nature bits' to your tissue papered balloon and cover with another layer of gluey tissue paper. This layer seals your 'nature bits' into your lantern.
3. Set your gluey tissue papered balloon in the sun to dry. As it dries, the glue hardens, making the tissue paper firm and sturdy. When the tissue paper is completely dry, pop the balloon with a pin.
4. As the balloon pops, it comes away from the hardened tissue paper, leaving a lovely round lantern.
5. Cut a length of wire, about 20 inches long, for your lantern's handle. Poke one end through one side of the tissue paper and twist to fix in place. Repeat with the other side. Voila! You have a delightful winter lantern.



You can put in a battery-powered tea light and hang these in your yard in the evening.

### *Fruit Lights*

Hollow out a few lemons or oranges, and place a battery-powered tea light (or bright LED light) inside. Use these to decorate your yard or walkway in the evening.







*Glowing Snow* (From <http://www.simplefunforkids.com/snow-glow-sticks.html/>)

Materials:

- Snow (fresh or sculpted)
- Glow sticks

Toss the glow sticks into the snow to make glowing patterns or for lighting. You can also use them to line your pathways, or use them as decorations for sculptures (e.g., eyes for your snowman).

### ***Icy Accents***

*Ice Suncatchers* (<http://magicalchildhood.wordpress.com/2010/02/02/giant-ice-suncatchers/>)

"Freeze coloured water in an ice cube tray and then fill a round cake pan half full of water. Insert a paper cup that's filled with water in it. Freeze for an hour and then put in the colored ice cubes and finish freezing (they'll melt too much if the water is not already really cold). When it's fully frozen, unmold it and pop out the cup. Tie some ribbon in the hole and hang outside."



### *Snowflake Suncatchers*

Cut out a snowflake pattern from colourful cloth or coloured paper. Immerse in water in a shallow dish or cake pan, and insert a paper cup at one end that's half full of water. Freeze until solid.

You may need to weigh the snowflake down during the freezing process if it floats, or freeze a second thin layer of water on top of the first layer. When it's fully frozen, unmold it and pop out the cup. Tie some ribbon in the hole and hang outside.



### Coloured "Glass"

(<http://hurrayic.blogspot.ca/2008/02/colored-glass-tutorial-for-kids.html>)

#### Materials:

- Water balloons
- Food coloring
- Plastic bag(s)
- Cookie sheet with sides
- Newspapers or old towels
- Scissors
- Old clothing that you don't mind getting dirty

**WORD OF CAUTION: This is a messy craft!** Food coloring will stain, so do this with newspaper or towels and/or clean up spills right away, wear old clothes you don't mind getting dirty and make sure you wipe your hands before touching those clean walls! Or better yet, do parts of this outside in the cold.

Put 1 drop of food coloring into a balloon. 1 drop is enough. More than that and it gets messier.

Carefully fill the balloon with water. Follow the directions on the package. (You may have to squeeze the water down into the balloon with one hand while the other hand is holding the top of the balloon against the end of the spigot (faucet). Carefully remove and tie off. Repeat. Place in plastic bag(s) and freeze. (You don't have to put them into plastic bags, but it's a precaution against freezer spills.)

Next day: Put on old clothes. Place towels or newspaper down for protecting surfaces. (If doing outside, then you probably can skip this part). Have an adult cut the balloon. The kids can peel it off. Careful - there might be some colored liquid that falls out. Wearing gloves at this point is good to keep your hands from becoming icicles. Put the colored glass onto the cookie sheet (this helps to catch drips)."

#### *Ice Containers and Decorations*

Freeze nature items (leaves, berries, branches) into containers or trays of ice for decoration.

(photo from:

<http://artful-kids.com/blog/tag/land-art/>)





*Ice Sculpture Blocks*

(From <http://www.artfulparent.com/2012/11/colored-ice-sculptures-outdoor-winter-art-for-kids.html>)

Freeze coloured water into household containers of various shapes and sizes. Build sculptures and towers with your ice blocks.





### *Snow Sculpting*

(From 20+ Fun Activities to do in the Snow. A. Kingloff and L. DeBellis. Parents Magazine, <http://www.parents.com/fun/activities/outdoor/snow-activities-kids/>)

Use cake pans and molds to create different shapes. Use them to build crystal fairy castles or to create cakes for a cold-weather "buffet."

### *Tree Art.*

Pack snow onto a tree trunk. Sculpt and decorate it to create faces, creatures, and more.



## ***Outdoor Snow Games Ideas***

Stay warm and active outdoors with friends and family with these fun and easy games!

See (From 20+ Fun Activities to do in the Snow. A. Kingloff and L. DeBellis. Parents Magazine, <http://www.parents.com/fun/activities/outdoor/snow-activities-kids/>)

### ***Snowball Toss***

Use food colouring or a stick to draw a circle or a bullseye in the snow (you can also use hula hoops). Have a contest to see who can score the most points.

### ***Winter Scavenger Hunts***



a) Freeze colored water into ice cubes, and then hide them around the yard for a wintertime scavenger hunt.

b) Create a winter scavenger hunt or bingo sheet for things that can be found around your community hall or neighbourhood. Hand these out with markers at your next event, and award prizes for those that return their completed sheets. Visit [edmonton.ca/Winterscapes](http://edmonton.ca/Winterscapes) for a couple of examples. Some theme ideas for a nature scavenger hunt:

- Shapes, colours and textures
- Plants and animals
- Using your senses
- Signs of winter

### ***Snow mini-golf course***

Bury plastic cups and see if you can get a hole in one. If you don't have a golf club or hitting the ball is too hard, try rolling the ball in. You can mark the cups with mini flags or garden stakes.

### ***Play Follow the Leader***

Attempt to skip, run and hop in the snow with kids behind you, doing the same things. For an added challenge, have older kids try to follow in your footsteps without making new tracks.

### ***Ice Bubbles***

Take bubble solution outside (option: add a couple of drops of food colouring). Blow bubbles and watch them freeze.

### ***Hula Hoop Challenge***

Bring some hula hoops outside and see who can hula hoop the longest. It's a lot harder when you're all bundled up!

### ***Play Fox and Geese Game***

Stomp out a large circle in the snow with an "X" through the middle. Assign one child to be the "fox" and the rest of the players are the "geese." The fox then chases the geese around trying to tag them. All players can only run within the stomped tracks, around the outside of the circle or across the X. When the fox tags a goose, that player becomes the new fox. The old fox is now a goose and the game continues!





The "playing area" of this game could be expanded for more players. With a large enough field of snow you could stomp out an asterisk within the circle or even concentric circles, to give more avenues for running through."

### ***Play Freeze Tag***

One or two children are "it", and must try to tag the other players. Anyone who is tagged must "freeze" in place until another player "thaws" you and sets you free. Once all the players have been tagged, choose someone else to be "it."

### ***Look for Animal Tracks in Fresh Snow***

Try to guess what kind of animal made them, based on how big they are, where they are, and how far apart they are.

### ***Pin the Nose on the Snowman!***

It's the same idea as Pin the Tail on the Donkey.

### ***Play Tic-Tac-Toe in the Snow***

All you need is some fresh snow and a stick to draw the playing board. You can use pine cones and rocks for the X's and O's.

### ***Create a Maze***

Stomp out a maze in the snow. See how long it takes your friends to find their way to the end of the maze.

## ***Indoor Snow Play Ideas***

Too cold to go outside? Is the snow too dry and powdery to make snowmen? Bring a taste of winter indoors at your next community get-together with these cool and fun hands-on activities, compiled from a number of sources:

### ***Snowman in a Bag***

<http://www.teachpreschool.org/2013/01/snowman-in-a-bag/>

Students can observe what happens over time when a snowman melts.

#### Materials:

- Medium ziploc freezer bag (1 per student or group)
- Orange craft foam



- Buttons (2 large for eyes, 5 small for mouth)
- Snow

Place a couple of large spoonfuls of snow in the bag and then lay the bag flat. Press and pack the snow so it stays flat, then arrange your button eyes and nose on the snow to make a snowman face. Press the buttons and nose firmly into the snow...

Tape the snowman in a bag to a window so it can get some sunlight and let the melting begin...



On a sunny day, your snowman may melt within 2 hrs or so. This is a very simple way to explore the melting of snow, and have students record their observations during the day. Some questions to ask your students:

- Did you notice that bag seems much less full with the snow melted than before?
- Did you notice that the nose floats but the buttons sink?
- Did you notice that snowman moved down the bag as it melted?
- Did you notice that all that is left of the snowman body is a bag of water?

The Teach Preschool site has a printable that can be printed and used for students to record their observations.

### ***Make Snow Slime***

(Info & Instructions posted at <http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2012/12/slime28.html>)

*"This snow slime is icy cold to the touch and sparkly white, making it a sure win as far as snow play goes with the little ones. Kids can make OOZING snowmen and stretch and pull this faux snow in ways the real stuff could never allow. This is a simple recipe for play, too..... which mama always loves."*

#### Recipe

Step 1: Combine in a small bowl:

- 2 cups of white school glue (you could also use silver glitter glue)
- 1 & 1/2 cups of very warm water
- Iridescent glitter
- Optional: a few drops of peppermint extract to give the snow slime a fresh and clean scent

Step 2: Combine in a second bowl:



- 3/4 teaspoons of borax
- 1 & 1/3 cups very warm water

Mix the ingredients of both bowls well and then combine both bowls. Mix the ingredients with your hands for a few minutes. As the ingredients are mixed the snow slime will form.

### ***Make Shivery Snow Rice***

(Info & Instructions posted at <http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2013/11/snow-rice-sensory-play.html>)

*"This snow rice was easy to create and oh so fun for the kids!"*

#### Materials:

- Frozen white rice
- Iridescent glitter or artificial snow
- Peppermint extract
- Optional additions: snowflakes, polar bear figurines, snow plows, scoopers, etc

Begin by placing the desired amount of rice in a zip seal bag and popping it in the freezer overnight. The next day your rice will be delightfully COLD. Frozen rice really feels AMAZING! Just before playtime pull the rice from the freezer, open the bag, and add a few drops of peppermint extract. Seal the bag and shake it up a bit. Then pour the rice into a sensory bin, tray, or container. Sprinkle in glitter and add whatever other wintry items you desire."





### ***Indoor Snowball Fight Game***

(Info & Instructions posted at <http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2014/01/indoor-snowball-fight-diy-kit.html> )

*“The whole family has had fun with this simple game/toy. Snowball fights are even more fun when warm in cozy indoors if you ask me. The snowball fight kit cleans up and stores easily, too!”*

#### Materials

- An empty white container or bin (preferably white)
- Black & orange craft foam
- Glue
- Scissors
- White socks



“To make our kit I purchased a white storage bin from the Dollar Tree. I cut snowman face shapes (coal eyes from black foam, orange carrot nose from orange foam) from the craft foam and glued them to the bin. The only other thing I had to do was take white socks and roll them tightly into balls. I purchased ten new one dollar pairs for our kit, but you could use socks you already have. Rolled socks make perfect indoor snowballs.”



### **Snowman Slam Game**

*“This game is fun for the whole family, and you likely have most of the materials to make it already on hand.”*



#### Materials

- White cups
- Black & orange craft foam or construction paper
- White socks
- Glue
- Scissors

To make our snowmen I decorated six white cups using black and orange craft foam. To make the snowballs I tightly balled up three white socks. That's it! This game was so easy to make, and the girls have been having so much fun with it. The idea is simple; toss the snowballs to knock down the snowmen.

### **Make Your Own Fake Snow**

(Info & Instructions posted at [growingajeweledrose.com](http://growingajeweledrose.com))

*“It is the best sensory snow we have ever tried. It is naturally cold, making it the most realistic as well. It is fluffy and powdery and clean smelling and AMAZING! “*

#### Materials:

- 1 box of baking soda
- 1 can of shaving cream
- 1 spray bottle of vinegar





- “In a sensory bin or container, add the desired amount of baking soda, then, slowly mix in shaving cream. I used one large box of baking soda and almost a full can of shaving foam. As you slowly mix in the shaving cream you will discover a fantastic mold-able snow. The snow is super soft, silky smooth, and smells so clean and fresh. It is also naturally cold. I am not sure why exactly but it is! It feels just like fresh fallen powder in your hands.

Playing with the snow just like this is LOTS of FUN! You can add glitter just for fun but it isn't necessary of course. You can make snow balls and snow men with it.

For an extra surprise, you can make foamy snow with a spray bottle of vinegar. Simply spray your creations with the vinegar, and watch them grow puffy.”

### ***Make Snow Cookies / Snow Cakes***

(Info and instructions posted at <http://www.blogmemom.com/snow-activities/>)

Bring some snow inside for cool wintry fun. Once they're done, perhaps your snowman would like one of these snowy treats?

#### Materials needed for snow cookies:

- clean snow
- wax paper
- cookie cutters and cookie trays
- spoons and spatulas for flattening the snow
- food colouring and water in squeeze bottles

Give each person some snow on a piece of wax paper. This is the "cookie dough". Flatten the snow with a spoon or spatula and use the cutters to cut shapes out of the snow. Carefully transfer them to a cookie sheet and decorate with beads, buttons, ribbon, and more! Use the food colouring like "icing" to complete decorating your cookies.

#### Materials needed for snow cakes:

- clean snow
- muffin tins
- craft supplies for decorating (buttons, ribbon, beads)
- spoons for scooping the snow
- food colouring and water in squeeze bottles: add water to squeeze bottles, and several drops of food colouring to each bottle (more food colouring will increase the intensity of the colour)

Scoop snow into muffin tins. This is the "cookie dough". Decorate the tops of the snow cakes with beads, buttons, ribbon, and more! Use the food colouring like "icing" to complete decorating your cookies.



## ***More Winterscaping Info & Resources***

The internet is a great place to look for ideas. Some of these websites have been cited above. There are also two books which you can purchase, or borrow from Edmonton Public Libraries:

Ralston, Birgitta. ***Snow Play: How to make forts & slides & winter campfires, plus the coolest Loch Ness monster, and 23 other brilliant projects in the snow.*** New York: Workman Publishing Co, 2010. 111 pp.

Cole, Peter, Frankie Frankeny, and Leslie Jonath. ***Snowmen: snow creatures, crafts, and other winter projects.*** San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1999. 79 pp.

Also... 20+ Fun Activities to do in the Snow. A. Kingloff and L. DeBellis. Parents Magazine, <http://www.parents.com/parents-magazine/>