

# 7. Your Winter Green Neighbourhood. Your Winter Green Community

The neighbourhood is where we live and where we spend leisure hours. A neighbourhood is also part of a larger community which includes other neighbourhoods networking together to make that community a vibrant place to live, work and play.

A community includes individuals, families, schools, recreational facilities, parks, shops, employment and entertainment areas. It's where we do business and it's where we practice our lifestyles.

Winter Green encourages individuals and families to contemplate and possibly change their lifestyle, from winter hibernation to being active in the outdoors in winter. To be feasible, it's also important to consider the infrastructure within neighbourhoods - the roads, the sidewalks, the lighting, the active transportation network.

People and neighbourhoods can cause change. Below are some ideas to get you started on a Winter Green experience!!

## Winter Green Your . . .

### Neighbourhood

Do you have an old pair of snowshoes that you never use? Does your neighbour have a pair of cross country skis that s/he doesn't need? Try having a swap in your neighbourhood of winter activity gear to get you inspired to get Winter Green and help the environment by making use of items that may otherwise end up in the landfill. For great ideas on neighbourhood winter activities please refer to the Get Winter Active Guide: Tips, Tools and Cool Ideas for Leaders. For tips on making yours a Winter Green event refer to the Making Your Event or Activity Winter Green.

### Workplace

Create incentives for employees to walk/cycle/car pool to work;

Have Christmas/winter-birthday celebrations with an outdoor theme like a sleigh ride or outdoor skating party;

Announce a no-work day when there are snow storms to allow employees to get out and

enjoy the snow, to decrease the need to get the snowplows out in a hurry and to keep cars at home for a day.

### Schools

Establish an Active and Safe Routes to School program in your area. Form a walking school bus as a way to get the kids in the neighbourhood moving this winter.

Incorporate a Winter Treasures program in your school to provide students with first hand information about the natural environment in the winter.

Introduce Winter Treasures in your school!

### Community Programmers

- Educate parents/grandparents about spending more time with kids outdoors.
- Create programs to encourage people to take seniors out for a walk.
- Develop an outdoor community rink.
- Refurbish the local tennis court into an outdoor rink or ball hockey area.
- Incorporate Winter Green activities into youth oriented programming such as the Scout/Guide events and the YM/YWCA?
- Create a snowball league, with rules like softball.
- Create places where people can be comfortable outside by planting wind breaks along pathways in parks, and near benches and bus stops where people of all ages can be sheltered outside in the winter.
- Encourage the use of trails and pathways for winter activities such as cross-country skiing, birding, hiking, snowshoeing, etc.

### Parks

Ask your local park director about offering winter programs for hiking, cross-country skiing, snow shoeing, ice climbing, skating etc. Some parks are not open because they're not aware that there is an interest. Some park operators have indicated they would open if there was a public interest.



Consider maintaining toilet facilities in parks year round.

Consider existing outdoor sport and recreation infrastructures such as ski slopes, trail systems, ice surfaces (particularly outdoor ones), snowmobile routes, ecotourism, tobogganing, hiking trails, and how to make them more environmentally-friendly, 'green' operations.

Consider utilizing community summer facilities such as tennis courts and golf courses in winter.

## Municipalities

Install solar lighting on trails and pathways around your community to provide a more secure environment or organize volunteer patrols. People will feel more comfortable going out in the dark evenings or mornings for walks/jogs before or after work or school.

- Make People a priority, not the car and plow the sidewalks first!
- Instead of tearing down that old arena turn it into another facility such as a greenhouse.
- Build more neighbourhood outdoor rinks.
- Build your own backyard rink.

