

# Outdoor Winter Opportunities

Get Outdoors Safely This Winter

## Keep Neighbouring this Winter by Staying Physically Distanced

Connecting with Neighbours from a Distance

- Check-in on a neighbour or senior with a neighbourly [postcard](#) or holiday card while respecting COVID-19 safety protocols
- Lend a hand with snow shovelling or ask your neighbours for help with shovelling. You could shovel snow at the same time but always at a safe distance!
- Invite neighbours to set up lawn chairs on their own front lawn or driveway while you do the same on yours. Visiting outdoors at a distance over a cup of hot chocolate can really warm up the neighbourhood (each providing their own hot chocolate, of course!) Be sure to check [current guidelines for gatherings](#)
- Ask a neighbour if they would like snow people in their yard. Members of your household can make them while your neighbours watch from the comfort of their own residence,
- String lights to light up your block for your neighbours to appreciate as they walk by.



NEIGHBOURHOOD  
SERVICES

Edmonton



# Explore your Neighbourhood and Be Active



## Parks and Nature

There is more green space in Edmonton than in *any* other city in Canada - something to be proud of! Edmonton has over 875 park areas, open to the public between 5:00 am and 11:00 pm daily. Outdoor enjoyment individually or with members of your household continues year round, even after the snow flies. Check out Edmonton's [Neighbourhood Parks](#) and [River Valley Parks](#).

Check out the [free Urban BioKit](#), a colourful workbook full of activities to explore the wonders of nature in Edmonton and learn about our exciting local natural area parks.

## Winter Picnics

Warm up around a campfire, roast marshmallows, enjoy cocoa outdoors, or go for a winter picnic with members of your household! Please ensure you are following [current gathering restrictions](#).

## Walking

Walking is FREE, fun and good for you and members of your household. Walking can also help build community. While out walking, say hello to your neighbours from a safe distance, get some exercise, visit local shops and enjoy public spaces while following [current gathering restrictions](#). You also become the “eyes on the street” that enhance safety and reduce crime.

The [Community Walking Map](#) series includes over 35 maps that cover more than 100 neighbourhoods across Edmonton. Each map shows measured walking routes, shared-use paths, schools, stores and other places in your neighbourhood to explore.

Create your own neighbourhood adventure with a [self-guided orienteering map](#).



## River Valley Trails

The City of Edmonton has over [150 kilometres of trails](#) in the river valley. You may find you have closer access than you thought when you explore the river valley trail maps.

Pro tip: when it's icy, try walking with poles and slip-on snow cleats for your boots.



## Dog Off-Leash Sites

Visit one of Edmonton's 40 sites where your dog can run and play without a leash. Some [off-leash areas](#) are in river valley parks, some are on undeveloped land and others are in neighbourhood parks. Before going, please check to see if off-leash sites are included in [current COVID-19 restrictions](#).



## Geocaching

Geocaching can be done anytime of the year but can be especially fun in the winter. It is a great way to explore new neighbourhoods and be outside! There are many websites and apps that list existing locations across Edmonton. Just search and see which one works best for you. Remember to bring your hand sanitizer to use before and after finding a cache or, better yet, just take a photo and post on social media to prove you found it!

## Outdoor Rinks

Outdoor ice surfaces are found in various locations across Edmonton. Some of these are City-operated while others are community-operated. Other locations, however, are not allowed due to safety concerns.

Please check the [current COVID-19 restrictions](#) before visiting and follow all posted signs while on-site.

### City-Operated Rinks

City-operated ice surfaces are maintained and monitored on a daily basis. Ice surfaces will be closed if conditions are unsafe for users. [Link to Outdoor Skating and Ice Rinks](#)

### Community-Operated Rinks

Enjoy skating in your own neighbourhood! Skating is FREE with a community league membership - just remember to wear your skate tag. To become a member, connect with your neighbourhood community league or visit <https://efcl.org/membership-purchase/>.

Please check with your local community league regarding availability and restrictions relating to COVID-19



### Stormwater Lakes are Prohibited Locations

The City of Edmonton Bylaw 16200 prohibits skating on stormwater lakes. [EPCOR reminds Edmontonians](#) that stormwater facilities aren't safe for any type of recreation because inlet and outlet pipes keep water continuously flowing beneath the frozen top layer. Choose a safer alternative and skate on a safe rink this winter.

## Tobogganing/Sledding

The City maintains toboggan/sledding hills at several locations with safe run-outs, safety signage and reduced hazards. [Link to the FREE hills](#) that are maintained by the City of Edmonton for safe sliding. Please check the [current COVID-19 restrictions](#) before visiting and follow all posted signs while on-site.

### Toboggan Safety:

- Ensure the path is clear before sliding
- Helmets are recommended
- Walk up the hill outside of the sledding area
- Do not dig holes, build ramps or jumps on the hill
- Parents/Guardians are responsible for children
- Always sit face-forward on your sled
- Tobogganing is not recommended after dark
- Always maintain 2-metre physical distancing and follow any restrictions relating to outdoor recreation.



Your safety is our concern, but your responsibility. Slide at your own risk.

## Cross Country Skiing

Edmonton is home to some of the most scenic (and FREE) [cross-country ski trails](#) in Alberta. The City of Edmonton and its community partners groom over 40 kilometres of trails for skate and classic skiing and you can ski your own ungroomed tracks into ravines, open areas and parks.



## Snowshoeing

Most [City trails](#) are packed down, so snowshoes perform best in areas that are open, after a good snowfall and off the beaten track.

## Stargaze

[Aurora Watch](#) - get email notifications from the U of A on the nights when the conditions for northern lights (aurora borealis) are most likely.

## Outdoor Public Art

The City of Edmonton Public Art Collection contains more than 200 art works, many of which are located outdoors. Explore the interactive [public art](#) map in Edmonton to find out where these gems are!

# Be Creative in Your Neighbourhood

## Winterscape Your Yard

Winter in Edmonton can be fun and beautiful at the same time! The Winterscapes photo contest is a great place to showcase gardens, art and play in the winter. A winterscape is a way of decorating your wintry yards and landscapes using things like snow, ice, natural objects, and lights. You can create a winterscape in your front yard, community hall, office/business building or school. Here is your chance to spread the winter cheer to your neighbors by participating in the [Front Yards in Bloom: Winterscapes](#) contest in 2021: January 18 - February 28.



## Birds in Nature

Learn about birds in your backyard and participate in the annual [Winter Bird Count](#) on December 20, 2020! Build a simple bird feeder and hang it in a tree.

## Maze

Set up an obstacle course or maze in your backyard made of snow and other objects. Have members of your household go through the course or maze.

## Snow Painting

Use spray bottles or squirt bottles, fill them with water and food colouring. Build snow sculptures and then use the coloured water to paint them.

## Ice Bowling

Bowling with frozen water balloons - Fill balloons with water (option to colour the water), let them freeze, option to use with balloon still on or pop pull the balloon off, use frozen balls for outdoor bowling.

## Snow Lantern

To build a snow lantern, you pile snowballs into the shape of a hollow cone and place a light inside. This is a holiday tradition in Sweden, Finland and Norway. Never heard of it? You can find examples of it online.

