



StreetPLAY



StreetPLAY Pilot Project

Dear resident of Markham Street and/or Follis Avenue,

Earth Day Canada is working in partnership with the City of Toronto to pilot a street play program to establish a local permitting process. Residents can apply for and implement regularly scheduled street closures (full or partial) for children's play and community engagement. By opening up local streets for children's play, we can transform neighbourhoods into vibrant community spaces.

There are several residents interested in participating in the pilot at this time and we are distributing a package of information to all residents of Markham St between Follis and Barton, and Follis Ave between Old Crookshank Lane and Karma Lane, about the program to get your input. **We have a community tea meeting March 26th at 779 Markham Street, 3:00 – 5:00 pm for your input. Please RSVP to danielle@earthday.ca.**

In this package you will find:

- An overview of the Toronto StreetPLAY Pilot Project and a link to a successful program operating in Seattle that is the inspiration for the Toronto pilot.
- A position paper published by ParticipACTION about the need and urgency for communities to support outdoor free play.
- A link to our website, which has a handbook for residents of Seattle about their street play program.
- A residential questionnaire seeking your input that can be filled out online at: earthday.ca/play/#street

The primary contacts for the project with Earth Day Canada are:

Deb Doncaster (deb@earthday.ca) and Danielle Lobo (danielle@earthday.ca):

The neighbourhood contacts for the proposed pilot on Markham and Follis are:

Julia Grozdonova, 779 Markham Street, franticpix@gmail.com, [647-241-6120](tel:647-241-6120)

Enza Gucciardi, 757 Markham Street, enzagucciardi@gmail.com, [416-722-3531](tel:416-722-3531)

[Julie Kerekes, 16 Follis Avenue, julieallegro@hotmail.com](mailto:julieallegro@hotmail.com), [647-201-7274](tel:647-201-7274)

StreetPLAY Pilot Program – Markham - Follis Residential Survey

Please go to our website earthday.ca/play/#street to participate in the online survey so you can have input into the pilot. The questions we ask on the survey are:

1. Have you heard of the Toronto StreetPLAY Pilot?
2. Do you have children under 16?
3. How old are your children?
4. Do you want more opportunities to engage with neighbours on your street?
5. Other cities such as Seattle have modeled street closures from 1/week to 7 days/week. How frequent would you like StreetPLAY to be?
6. During the StreetPLAY pilot, approximately May –November 2017, what day(s) of the week do you prefer for StreetPLAY?
7. The pilot is allowing residents to decide if they want full closure (no cars are allowed to park or drive through the street during play hours) or partial closure (only local street residents will be allowed to drive through and park). What is your preference?
8. The pilot months are going to focus on May-June 2017 and Sept-November 2017. Is summer of any interest for you to host StreetPLAY on your street?
9. The program requires that residents volunteer as a traffic warden for the street. Role: Ensure barricades are out; sit at the end of street in a lawn chair with a coffee chatting with a neighbour to make sure traffic is complying with street traffic choice. You don't have to be a parent to volunteer. Are you available for this role?
10. What activities would your children like to see on the street? e.g. skipping, manhunt, ball hockey
11. Are there broader street activities you would like to see if you don't have children? e.g. BBQ, cards, potluck
12. Photo Release Waiver for your child.

Markham Street and Follis Avenue - StreetPLAY Pilot

In 2016, the City of Toronto passed a motion to lift the ban on street play and requested a pilot for reoccurring street closure permits for the purposes of play. The Department of Transportation is working with EDC to implement the pilot.



Earth Day Canada received an Ontario Trillium Grant to develop and implement a StreetPLAY permit pilot project. The Toronto StreetPLAY Pilot (TSPP) will work with 6-8 residential streets, the City of Toronto Permitting Office, Councillors Joe Cressy and Mike Layton, the Toronto Free Play Co-Op, and Ryerson University to pilot the feasibility of bringing street play back to neighbourhood streets in urban centres.

It is widely recognized that the childhood physical and mental health crisis has coincided with urban intensification and increased street traffic, making casual neighbourhood outdoor play almost impossible without some form of additional support. By opening up local streets for play and creating a permit program for reoccurring street closures (full and/or partial), we can transform neighbourhoods into vibrant community play spaces. StreetPLAY on residential streets provides free, accessible and safe play spaces for children and youth of all ages, cultures and abilities. The physical, mental and social benefits that result from having safe, accessible play right outside our front doors cannot be underestimated.

StreetPLAY Pilot:

- Will involve 6-8 local streets in wards 19 and 20 interested to pilot regular permitted time for StreetPLAY between May 1 – October 31, 2017.
- Residents determine frequency (1/week, 3x/week, more?); who the volunteer wardens will be and if partial or full closures are desirable.
- The possibility exists of extending the permit to the full length of the street with floating road closure schedules between different sections of the street.
- In collaboration with Ryerson University, the TSPP will evaluate: i) the quality of play for the children and youth who live on the street; ii) the extent to which the program increases a sense of community for the children, youth and adults on the street; iii) issues or ideas that would strengthen the program, and, iv) the response of local commuters to the play hours.



Earth Day Canada Roles and Responsibilities:

- Earth Day Canada will pay for all associated permit fees and program costs
- We will liaise with residents to address concerns and ideas
- We will connect with local councillors and permit office to apply for the permit
- We will support all required public process requirements, as well as develop all program materials (signage, barricades, marketing and promotions).
- We will support the implementation of the Ryerson study
- We will support the launch of all participating streets

Residents' Responsibilities:

- Apply for the permit and send around requisite notification to neighbours
- Support the promotion of the pilot and encourage participation
- Serve as volunteer street wardens to staff the barricades during all street hours
- Volunteers are not responsible for the children, only staffing the barricades: ensure no cars drive through street, except local traffic who will be escorted in slowly if the street elects to do a partial closure
- Ensure volunteers put up barricades at each end of the street and take them down at the end of the play session
- Participate in and support the implementation of the Ryerson study.

StreetPLAY Launch Event:

- Pilot Launch of StreetPLAY on Pendrith Street Thursday, April 20th, 2017, 4 – 7 pm
- Special attendance by Councillor Mike Layton and hockey legend Ken Dryden
- More special guests to be announced for a ceremonial removal of Ball and Hockey Playing Prohibited sign
- Food sponsors for community meal with picnic tables and tent to socialize
- Fun prize giveaways for children who play
- Sponsored by Raleigh Canada (20 - 25 free bikes for children on the street who need one).



StreetPLAY Pilot Program Overview and Timeline

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
<p>Meeting With Street Leads/Organizer.</p> <p>Why is Street PLAY important + philosophy of program.</p> <p>Introduce pilot and timeline.</p> <p>Ryerson designs the Street PLAY research study.</p>	<p>Meeting with key champions on street to determine ideas/concerns for StreetPLAY and overall feasibility/ interest in participating in the pilot.</p> <p>Ryerson study circulated to key champions.</p>	<p>Broader street consultation to determine play schedule and traffic wardens, applicant.</p> <p>Street notification.</p> <p>Submit permit by Earth Day Canada.</p> <p>Ryerson study and survey available online.</p>	<p>Celebrating PLAY! StreetPLAY for Earth Day Pilot Launch on Pendrith Street, April 20th, 2017, 4 - 7pm.</p> <p>All streets involved in pilot will be invited.</p> <p>Ryerson will initiate the study.</p>	<p>April and May will support the set-up of the StreetPlay pilots: EDC web pages; applications, notifications, signage, promotion.</p> <p>Ryerson Study implementation continues.</p>
February- March	March	March- April	April 20 th	April-May
Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
<p>StreetPLAY Pilot to begin for all streets!</p> <p>June 1st until end of October, 2017.</p> <p>Ryerson Study implementation continues.</p>	<p>Implement StreetPLAY. EDC will regularly participate in and be on call to support local streets.</p> <p>EDC is available to address concerns of the street.</p> <p>Ryerson Study implementation continues.</p>	<p>Celebrate end of pilot program.</p> <p>Finalize StreetPLAY research study with residents and participating families.</p>	<p>Prepare report for residents and City of Toronto.</p>	<p>City to establish formal application process for StreetPLAY.</p>
June 1 st	July-October	October - November	November	December