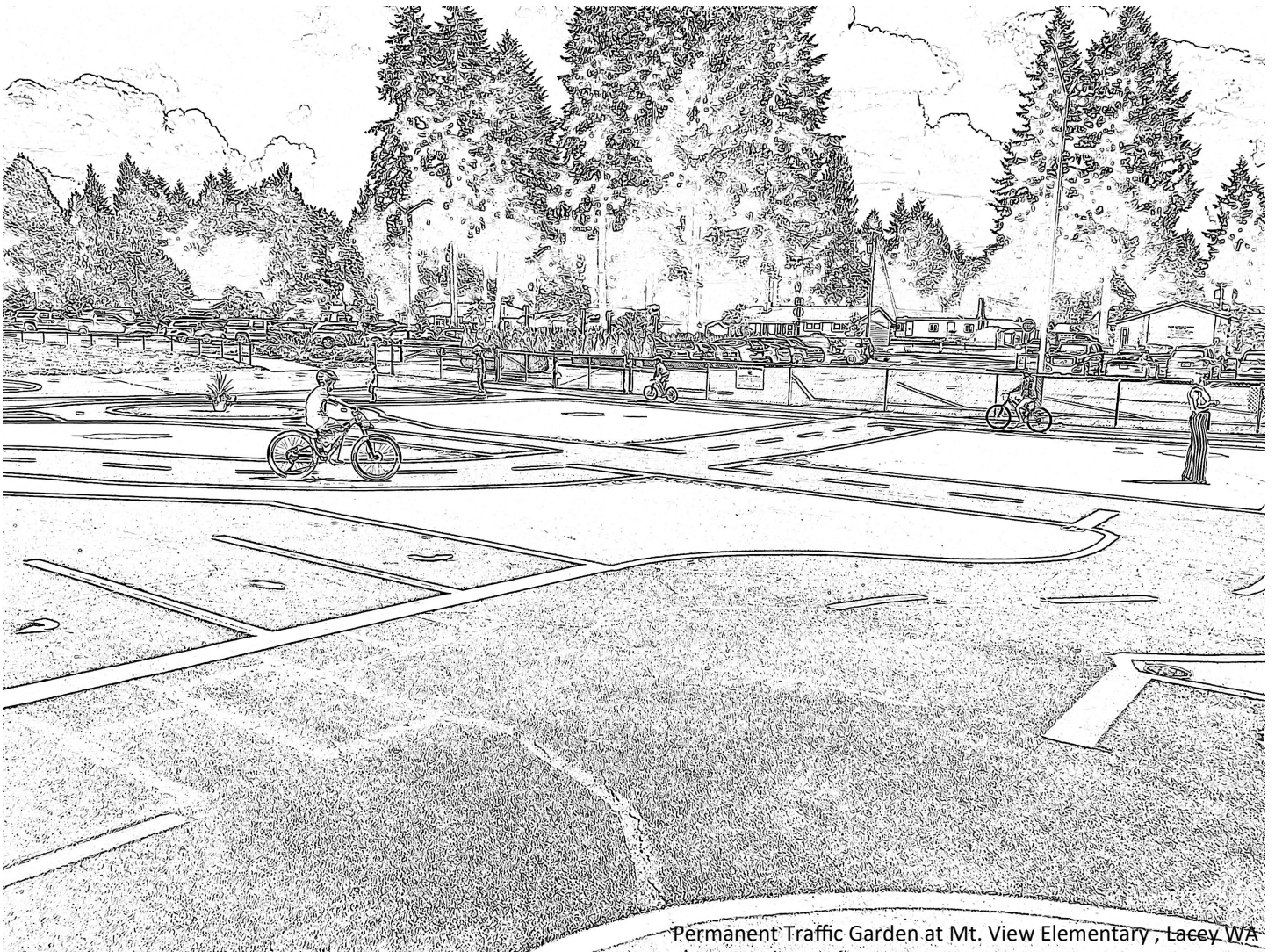


Safe Kids Washington Traffic Garden Toolkit

Permanent and Pop-Up Resources



Permanent Traffic Garden at Mt. View Elementary, Lacey WA

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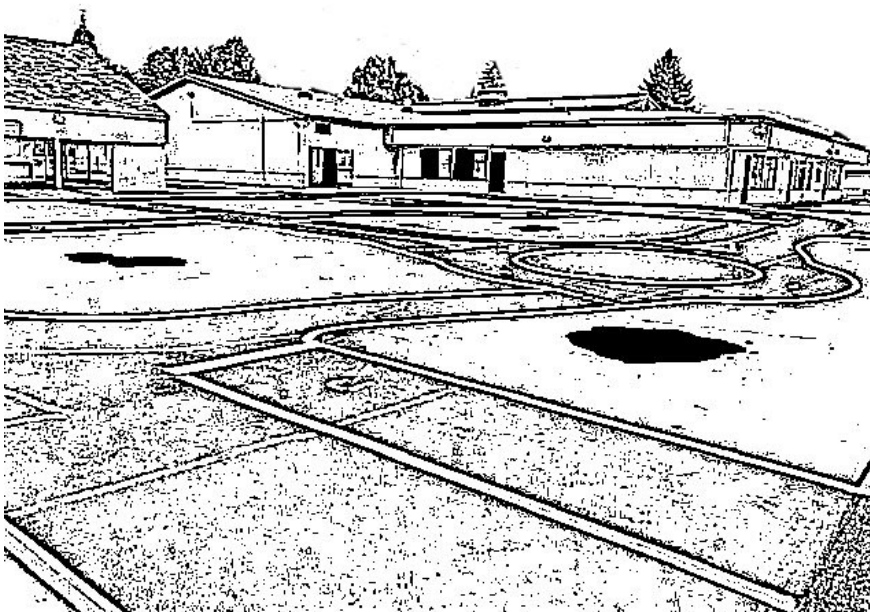


What is the Purpose of a Traffic Garden?

Walking and biking provides great transportation options and health benefits for children and students, particularly in areas with a safe school zone with walking and biking infrastructure. Children need a safe environment to learn and practice biking and walking skills. Children who learn to navigate roads as pedestrians and cyclists become drivers who watch for and respect the pedestrians and cyclists that share the road. Many child cyclists do not know the rules of the road. Resulting in unintentional pedestrian injuries. A leading cause of injury-related death in the United States for children ages 5 to 19.*

Traffic Garden Concepts

A traffic garden is a small version of roadways painted onto a paved surface in a park, closed off street, or school yard. Providing a safe place to practice the rules of the road. Evidence shows that, along with parent-initiated training, school-based training programs, and a bit of fun can yield promising results in behaviors and retention. These concepts, along with the purpose, are important elements when working with partners or potential funders.



Permanent Traffic Garden at Mt. View Elementary, Lacey WA

Traffic Garden Partnerships

A traffic garden creates a much-needed safe, outdoor public space for children to participate in active learning. It also can be viewed as a public recreational site and a public art installation. These traffic gardens can be Permanent or “Pop up” – which are made with temporary chalk or paint to be installed temporarily. Make sure you check with property owners for consent and any permitting, coding, and/or enforcement you might need to address.

It takes a village to make a community traffic garden!

- School Districts
- City or County Parks / Planning
- Transportation Organizations
- Safe Kids Coalitions
- Fire Departments
- Public Works Departments
- Injury Prevention Organizations
- Health Departments
- Hospitals
- Law Enforcement
- Target Zero
- Arts Organizations can help with aesthetics
- Insurance Agencies and Pediatric Offices can provide bike and other wheeled sports helmets
 - Other Local Businesses can help make ribbon cutting ceremonies fun, community events
 - Bike Rodeo Organizers can partner for annual events

Permanent Traffic Gardens

Successful permanent traffic gardens rely on four components – community engagement and environment, design, and installation. An in depth “Traffic Playground Toolkit” from Metro Portland can be found online.

Community and Environment

Ask yourself—what community could best benefit from a traffic garden?

Great Sites have multiple layers of Community to consider:

- Safe routes to walk, bike, or scoot to the garden, including being on a transportation line
- Community access during the day, evening and weekends
- Parents and Caregivers feel safe to visit
- Site safely allows for usage without supervision
- Size and space available (example Small 20' x 20' / Large 100' x 100')

Community Engagement

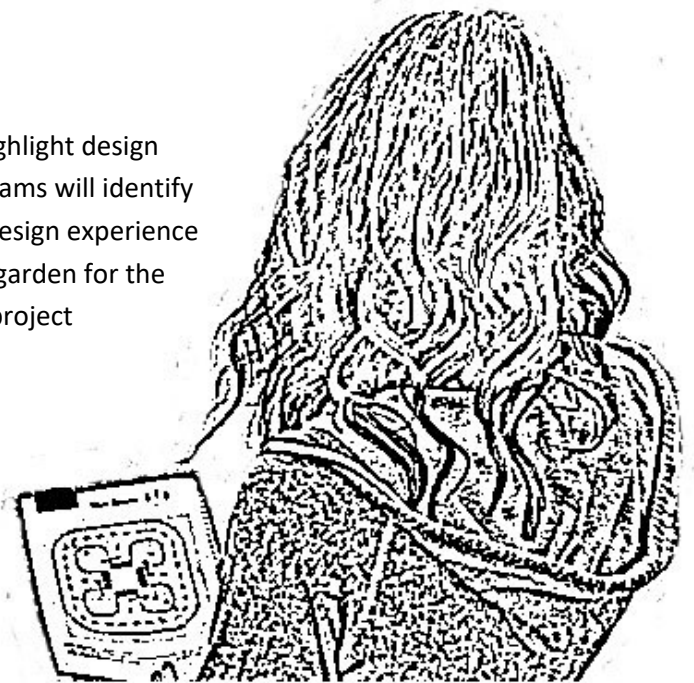
Once you've established a good community based plan to host the permanent traffic garden, you will want to establish a traffic garden core team to include stakeholders from your partners and additional community members to supervise all elements of the project. A shared vision will inform and bring the project plan to life. Ensure the project plan and resource allocation, aligned with known transportation trends. The team can leverage local resources to provide assistance, leads, and/or donations of expertise, supplies, and funds to complete the overall project.

Design

The core team then develops design criteria. The criteria will highlight design purposes (goals) and address equitable access. The best core teams will identify a local engineer to work with (preferable with traffic and CAD design experience and access) and then provide a conceptual layout of the traffic garden for the space provided. The core team will provide insight and overall project supervision.

Installation

Core team members and volunteers will install the chalk design and final paint work. Paint Parties are fun! If the site needs asphalt or asphalt sealing, make sure this has been allotted for in the budget—it needs to be done by a professional and can be expensive!



Reviewing the design to use for a Pop Up Traffic Garden at Garfield Elementary, Olympia WA

Weather

Remember to plan around the weather! It is hard to host a painting party or chalk a design in the rain. Use Fall, Winter, and early Spring months for procuring funding and doing all the preliminary work involved and saving the actual install for late Spring and Summer months.

Permanent Traffic Garden Supply List

Chalk—Lots of white and yellow chalk for the temporary design

Chalk Line—Pick a color that will show up on the asphalt surface you are working on

String

Measuring tape

Masking tape

Arc Marker- (This can be a wood stub with a screw attached at the top and string tied to this to create the different sized arcs you will need for your curves

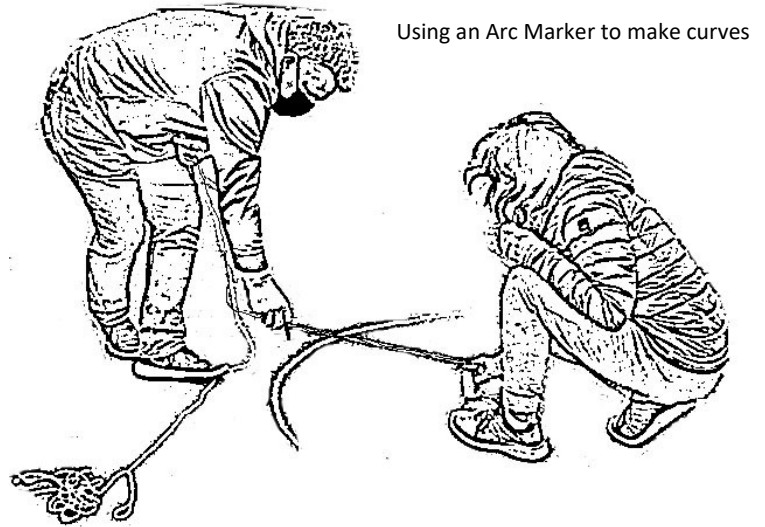
Spray bottle with water and a **scrub brush**- Hey, we all make mistakes, right?

Stencils- For stops, yields, and other signage and markings used for your traffic garden

Stencil box- This is great to protect your stencils from over spray

Paint- Use traffic paint or a good alternative

Plastic paint drop cloth- You will want to protect your car from paint and chalk



Paint Party List

Paint- You will probably need more than you estimate

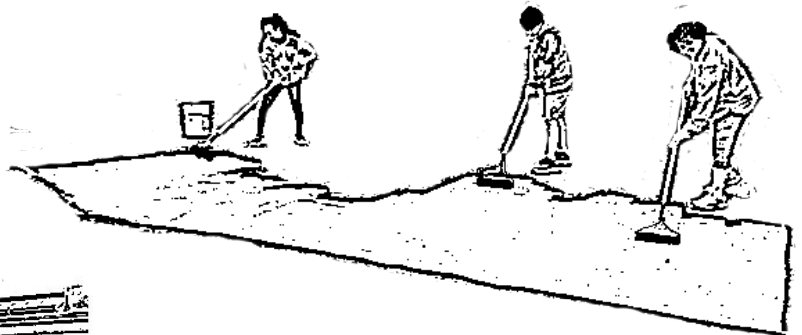
Paint rollers with long handles- Don't make your volunteers stoop to apply paint!

Wet wipes

Disposable gloves

Garbage bags- For any and all waste

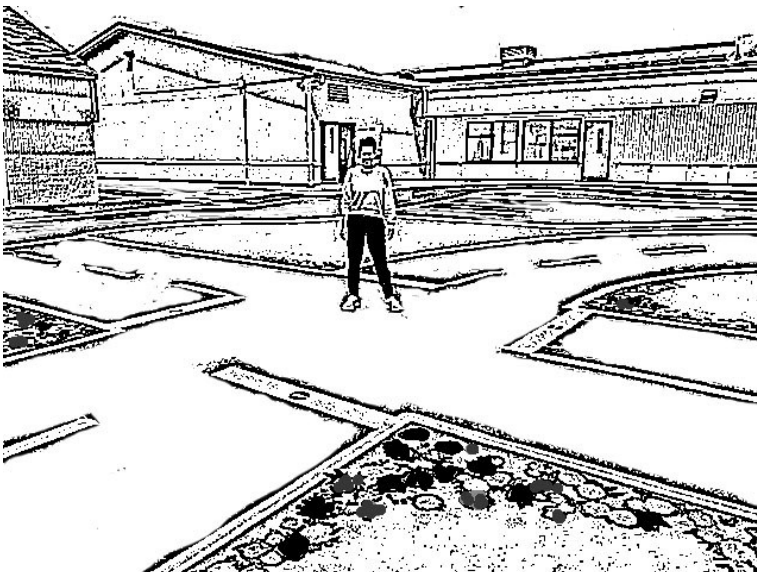
Music and a speaker- A little entertainment



Painting party! Painting the grass between the roads.

Budgeting?

See Appendix B for Permanent & Pop-Up Traffic Garden Budget Templates



Permanent Traffic Garden at Mt. View Elementary, Lacey WA

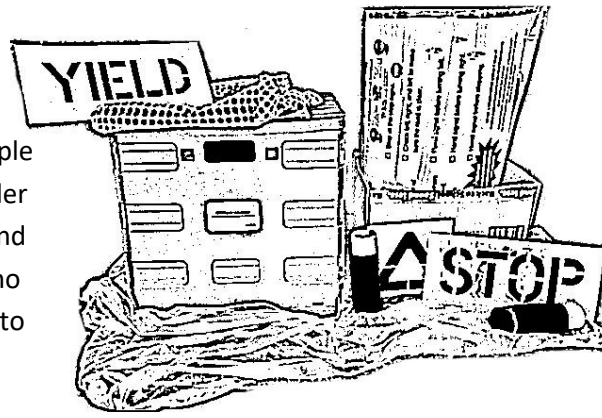
Spray Chalk Tip

Pop Up Traffic Gardens will use a lot of the same supplies as Permanent Traffic Gardens but use spray chalk instead of paint.

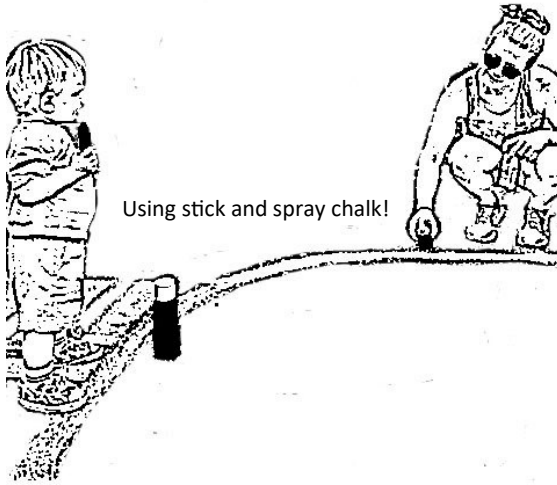
Buy larger sized cans of spray chalk—12 oz. chalk tips spray wider than their 6 oz. counterparts. Make sure the spray chalk is truly temporary—many landscaping and utility marking chalks will last for a long time!

Pop-Up Traffic Gardens

Pop Up Traffic Garden are quick, simple road-scapes that can be made in under three hours and will last on the ground until it rains or is scuffed enough to no longer be seen well. These are great to introduce communities to the traffic garden concept.



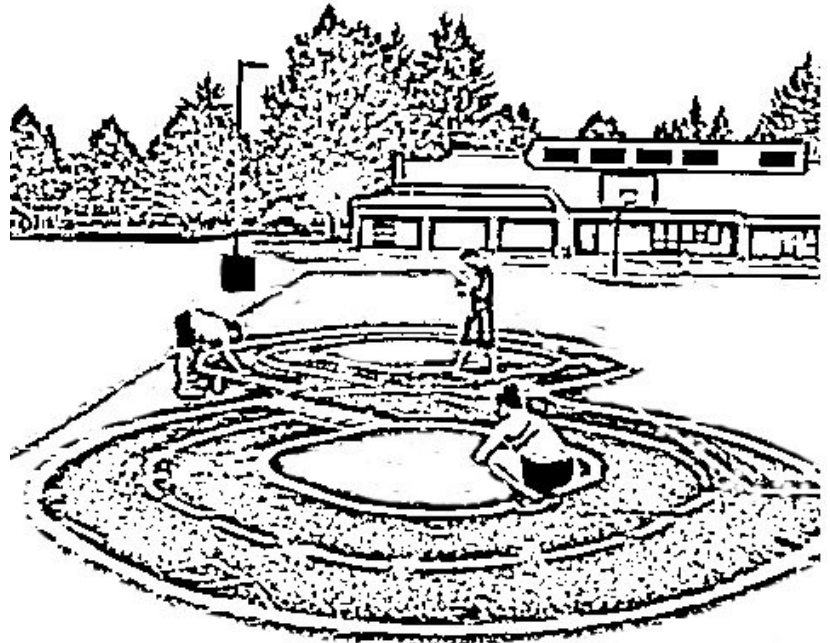
They can be implemented at bike rodeos, community safety fairs, summer camps, and at schools teaching bike and/or pedestrian safety skills. They typically use temporary spray chalk instead of paint.



Using stick and spray chalk!

A great resource, *Do-It-Yourself Traffic Garden Fun*, can be found at TrafficGardens.com. You can also order stencils to help complete your pop up traffic garden from this site and stay on top of traffic garden news. This booklet offers tips, several designs, and lists of supplies needed. It also shows you how to use an arc marker and how to make a stencil box.

Installing Double Diamond design



Pop Up Traffic Garden at Roosevelt Elementary, Olympia WA

We utilized *Do-It-Yourself Traffic Garden Fun* to construct the **Town Square** design and a **Double Diamond Design**, two of the easier designs in the booklet.

A **Town Square** design can be created in 2 hours with 4 volunteers grouped in pairs. The total workspace we used was 36 ft x 36 ft. The space required 60 oz of white chalk and 12 oz of yellow chalk. Crosswalks can be taped before spraying or, to save time, a stencil can be used.

The **Double Diamond** design can be created in 2 hours with 4 volunteers grouped in pairs, too. The total workspace we used was 24 ft x 50 ft. The space required 42 oz of white chalk and 24 oz of yellow chalk. We had google figure out some of the math for the diagonal of each inner square (roughly 17 ft) and the intersection space from one square in the other (8.5 ft.).

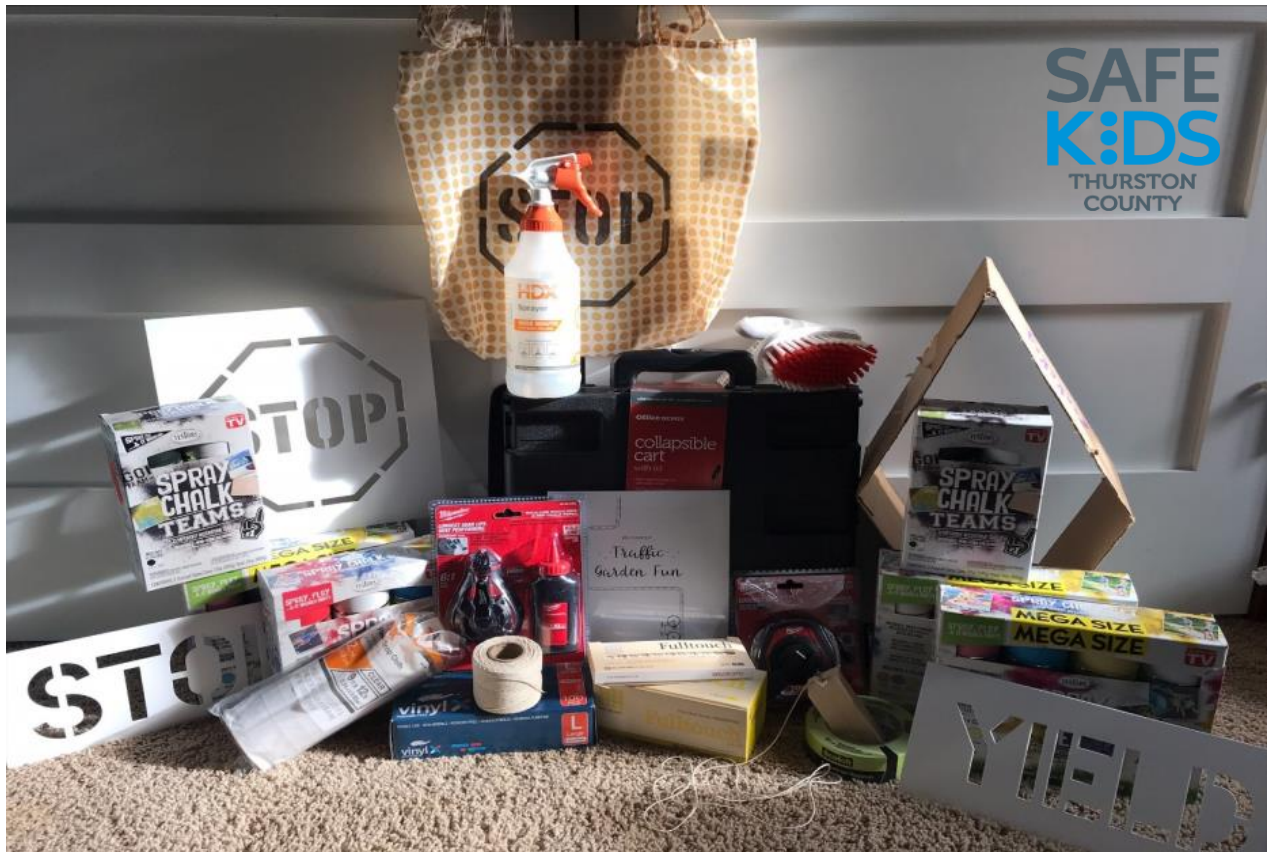
In both cases, we had lots of other color spray chalk available to create arrows to the traffic garden signage and fun designs such as bushes and flowers in the negative spaces and along the outside of the traffic gardens. These extra designs really made the traffic gardens stand out—making it easier to find and offering another element for joining in (children can add more flowers and other doodles in the non-road spaces)!

Appendix A

Let's Get Started! Worksheet

Funders	Who may be interested in sponsoring?		The Ask	Purpose and Concept (with local data) for the funder	
Location	Where is this needed?			Who owns this and are there any potential needs (permits, etc.)?	
Partners	Who should you partner with for design and installation?			Who can you get to volunteer (paint parties, etc.)?	

Items for Start Up-Pop Up Traffic Garden Kit



Appendix B

Permanent & Pop-Up Traffic Garden Supply List and Budget

Budget Template with items to purchase and use to figure out the funding you will need for a Permanent & Pop Up Traffic Garden. Budgets will vary depending on supply chains and what discounts you may get and/or volunteer expertise. Many items, both painting and layout supplies can be used over again so your next Traffic Garden will cost less!

Estimates	
Payroll Expenses	
Traffic Engineer (This could be a knowledgeable volunteer, stipend, or hourly rate)	
CAD Designers (This could also be a volunteer, volunteer or paid student with a stipend or hourly rate)	
Programs Expenses	
Asphalt Sealing Surface (if needed)	
Paint (Permanent) / Chalk (Pop-Pp)	
Paint Supplies (Permanent)	
	Brushes (per painter)
	Gloves
	Garbage Bags
	Plastic Drop Cloths (to protect your car)
	Rollers (per painter)
	Long Roller Handles (per roller painter)
	Wet Wipes
Layout Supplies	
	Arc Marker (you can make this yourself)
	Bucket or Wheeled Bin for Storage/Transportation
	Chalk
	Chalk Line 100 ft.
	Masking Tape 100 ft.
	Measuring Tape 100 ft
	PPE (masks, hand sanitizer, etc.)
	Spray Bottle and Scrub Brush
	Stencil Box (you can make this yourself)
	Stencils (arrows, crosswalks, etc.)
	Stencils from TrafficGardens.com
	String/Twine
	"Traffic Playground Toolkit" from Metro Portland
Signage	
Food and Supplies for volunteers	
Ceremony (if applicable)	
Totals	Permanent - \$5 to \$15k Pop Up - \$300 to \$800

Appendix C

Event Name

(Example)

Traffic gardens are fun and a great place to learn and practice bicycle safety skills. While you ride in the traffic garden, practice each of the skills below. Check-off the skills you complete.

Wear a properly fitted helmet.



Stop at the stop signs.

Look left, right, and left to make sure the road is clear.

Hand signal before turning left.

Hand signal before turning right.

Hand signal before stopping.



Send your completed traffic garden check-list to abc@xxxxxxxxxx.com by xxxx and we will mail you a prize. Send us a photo of yourself riding in the traffic garden for a bonus prize! By sending a photo, you give us permission to use the photo for promotion.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Appendix D

Helmet and Hand Signals

When riding your bike, you should always wear a properly fitted helmet. Before you ride, follow these steps to make sure your helmet fits properly.

1



Eyes: Put the helmet on your head. Look up. You should see the bottom rim of the helmet.

2



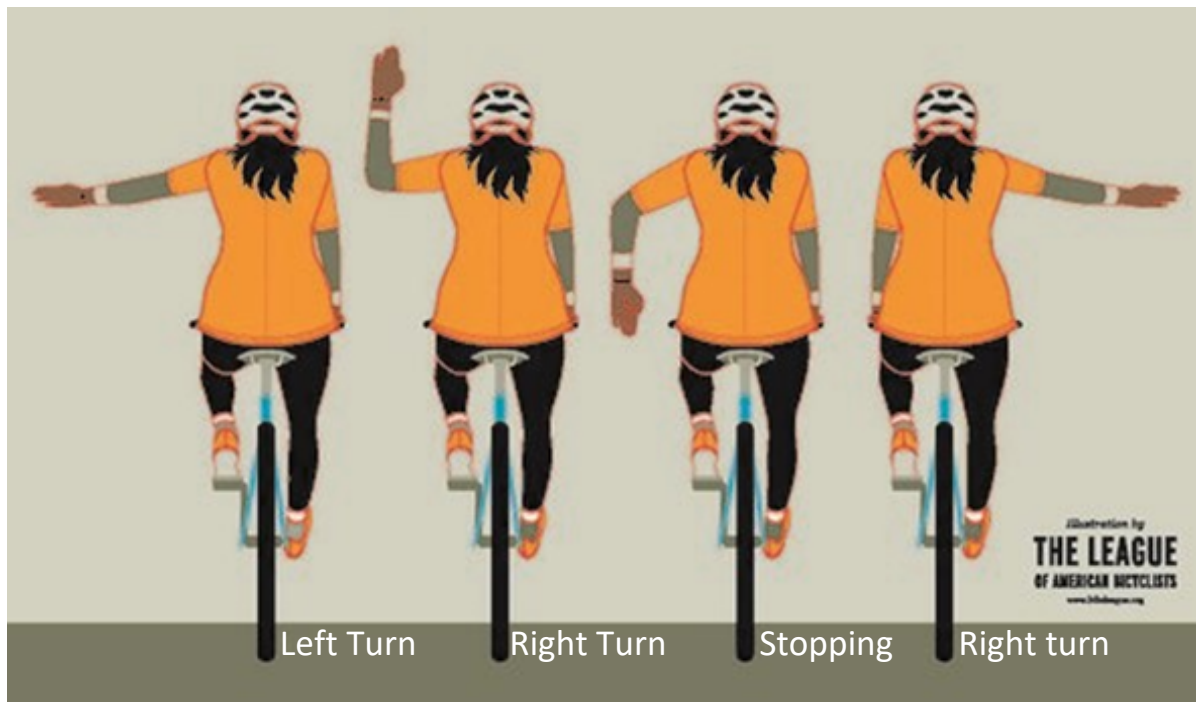
Ears: Make sure the straps form a 'V' under your ears when buckled. The straps should be a little tight but comfortable.

3



Mouth: Open your mouth as wide as you can. Does the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten the straps.

Bicyclists use hand signals to communicate to drivers and other road users. You should signal before you turn left, turn right, or stop. There are two different hand signals for a right turn; you can practice using both.



Appendix E

Traffic Garden Photos

Permanent Traffic Garden Examples



Pop-Up Traffic Garden Examples



Appendix F

Signage and Other Ideas

Your signage is a great way to introduce the traffic garden concept to the community. Provide a few tips and safety reminders and acknowledge any funders who made the traffic garden possible.

- Be creative!
- Paint mascots and landscapes or buildings into the negative spaces between the roads in your traffic gardens! Add benches for those needing a place to rest and provide shade for cover from the hot sun or rain!
- How-to-Use tips and safety reminders are helpful
- A liability waiver is always a good idea
- It's important to recognize all who helped to make your traffic garden possible
- Above all—traffic gardens are FUN so have fun creating them!

Take a look at the example below!

Great School Traffic Garden

Welcome to the Great School Traffic Garden!

Use this miniature streetscape as a place to learn and practice bicycle and pedestrian safety skills.



Practice using the traffic garden as a pedestrian, on your bike, or on a scooter.



Stop and check left-right-left for others before entering or crossing a street.



Ride in a straight line, single file, in the same direction as traffic.



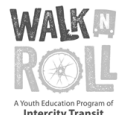
Practice using hand signals when turning right, left, and stopping.



Wear a bike or scooter helmet



Obey all traffic signs and signals.



By using the Traffic Garden you agree to use at your own risk