

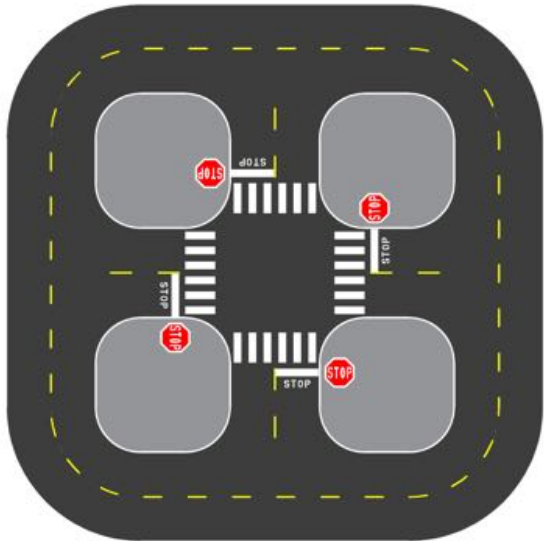
All About Traffic Gardens



July 27, 2023

Traffic Garden (def.):

- Mini-worlds of reduced-sized streets and scaled-down traffic elements
- Facilitate active play and development of biking and roadway safety skills



Current Resurgence in Traffic Gardens as a Tool

ARLINGTON'S FIRST TRAFFIC GARDEN IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD



This temporary installation features miniature streets with traffic lanes, crosswalks, stop signs, and other features where children can learn bike skills away from car traffic and faster riders. Practice riding or stopping within the lane, turning, stopping, signaling, and even coasting around a cool roundabout!

The traffic garden is expected to stay in place through the end of December. Stop by the Women's Club of Arlington parking lot (706 S. Burkhead St) to check it out!

Please wear a helmet, wear a mask, stay 6' from others, and practice safe riding skills. And if you take down the chain across the parking lot entrance, please be sure to get it back up before you leave. From all those who are in the project, please the Women's Club of Arlington traffic garden experts Formula-Gummi and Cheryl Denney, the team at Phoenix Bikes, and volunteers like Sara Foster at School and the Arlington community. We hope you enjoy!



DIY Traffic Gardens

A How To Guide



VISIT A LOCAL TRAFFIC GARDEN

These community gardens offer an opportunity for adults and children to learn to ride their bikes in a safe, fun, and social setting.



Local Traffic Gardens
Arlington Traffic Garden, 706 S. Burkhead St, Arlington, VA 22204
Arlington Traffic Garden, 1000 S. 1st St, Arlington, VA 22204
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Safety Towns + Traffic Gardens





- Clontarf Traffic School alum, 1970s
- Came to US as newly-minted engineer
- Worked in bike & pedestrian design
- Biking & design advocate
- Junior Engineer-in-Training program



- Visited Portsmouth Safety Town, VA
- Created business to facilitate projects
- Structured process so children learn design ideas too

Traffic Garden Types



Neighborhood
Traffic Garden



Pop-up
Traffic Garden



Temporary
Traffic Garden



Permanent
Traffic Garden
(painted streets)



Permanent
Traffic Garden
(streets with
curbs)

PLANNING + IMPLEMENTATION + COSTS + UTILITY + MAINTENANCE

Traffic Gardens are Community Projects



Shift of Traffic Gardens to School Grounds



Comfortable & Safe Spaces for Experiential Learning

- Fun and play
- Skills building
- Confidence building
- Everyday lessons
- Learning interactions
- Roadway safety education







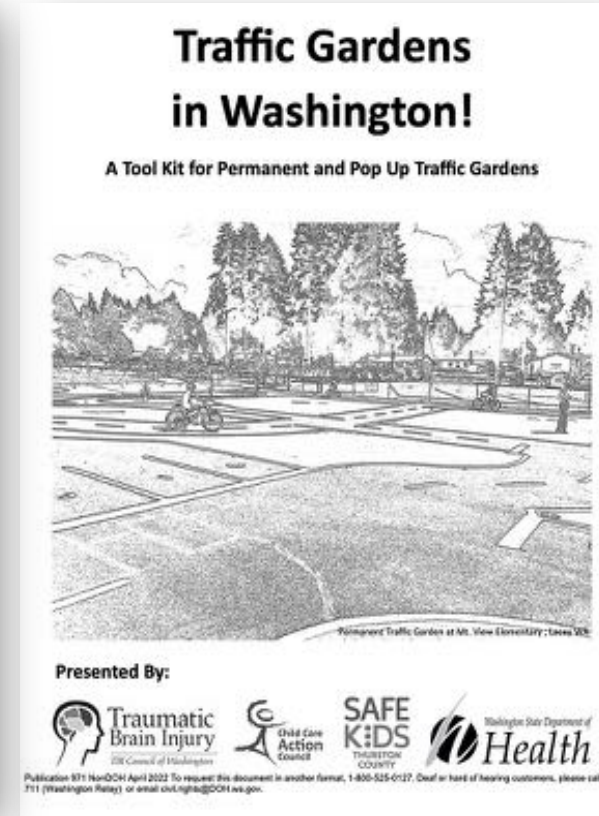
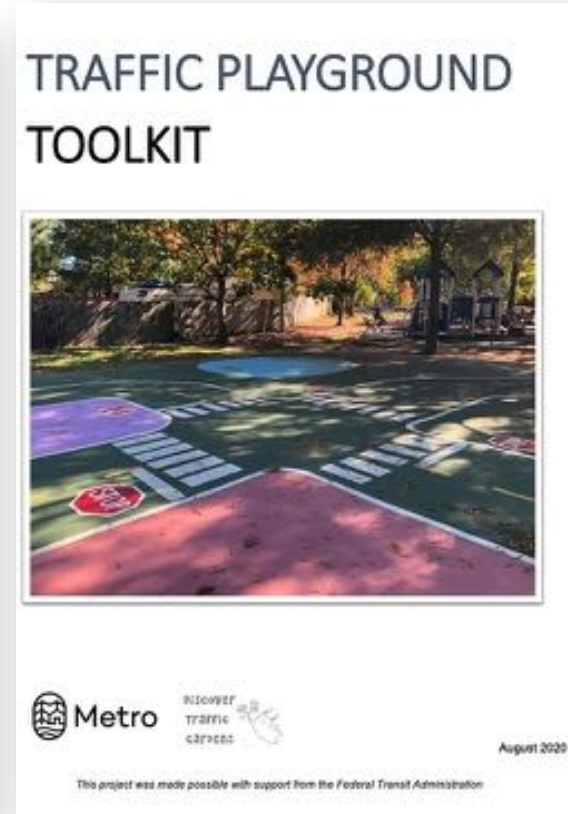
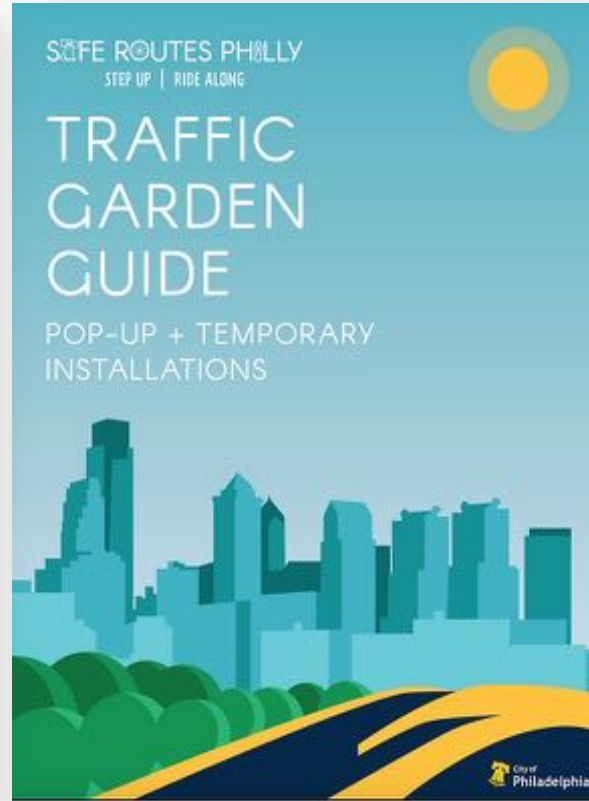
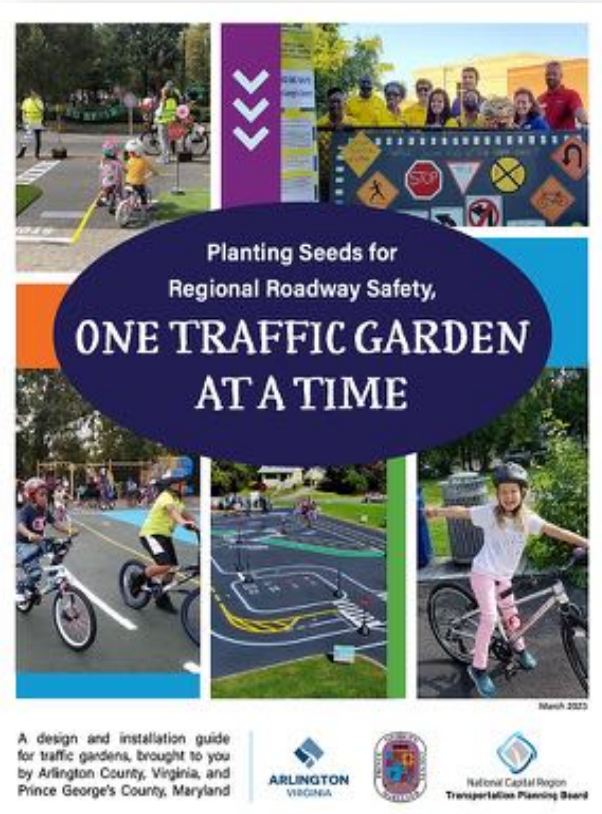








Lots of Planning & Design Resources Available*



* more in the works

Build Team + Take Action



Getting Projects Done through Partnerships



School Administration
DOT staff
SRTS Officials
Parks & Recreation
Biking Organization
MPO
TDM group
Public Works
Facilities Dept.
Local University &
Researchers
Child Health NPs
Sponsors & Funders




Traffic Gardens Site Possibilities Throughout Community

- Abandoned sites
- Partnerships
- Seasonal spots
- Weekend/weekday uses
- Restoration/covering up
- Revitalization
- Leftover segments
- Underused spaces
- Distant ends of sites

- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Parking lots
- Places of worship overflow parking
- Recreation centers
- Elementary and preschools
- Day cares
- Fairgrounds

- Colleges and universities
- Sports court surrounds
- Next to playgrounds
- Next to regional trails
- Shuttered shopping centers
- Under highways



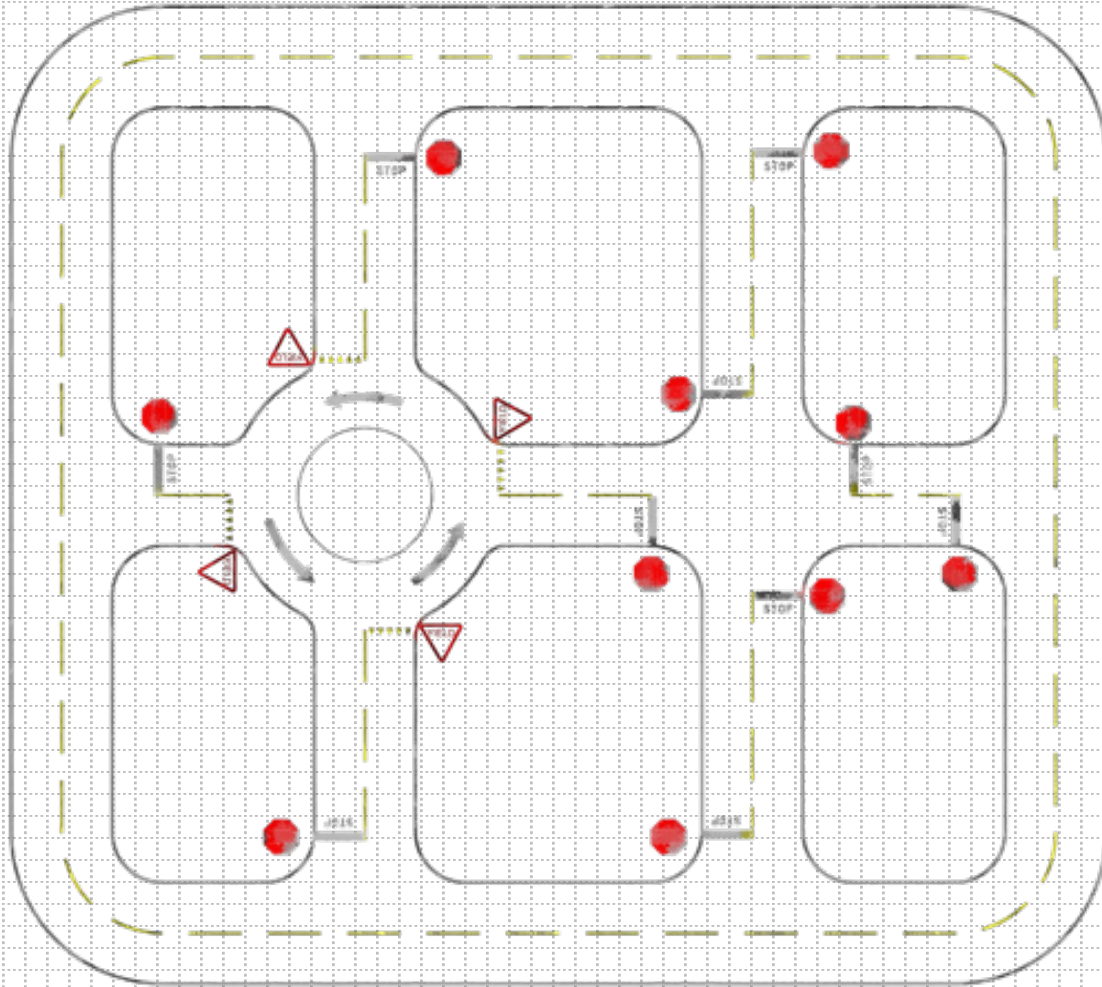
Pop-ups work as part of festivals, street events and fairs too!



BEFORE



AFTER



Traffic garden is planned based on factors like:

- Site size and geometry
- Program plans
- Future activities







Permanent Traffic Garden Timeline

Here is an example project timeline for installing a permanent traffic garden on an existing site using a contractor. You can customize this to fit your project's unique needs.

DATE	TASK
MONTH 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop project vision <input type="checkbox"/> Identify funding <input type="checkbox"/> Assemble team <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare work plan
MONTH 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold planning meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Have open communication <input type="checkbox"/> Identify possible sites <input type="checkbox"/> Identify stakeholders
MONTH 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Identify partners <input type="checkbox"/> Visit & learn about sites <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate sites
MONTH 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Select site location <input type="checkbox"/> Secure site permissions <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule team field visit <input type="checkbox"/> Plan programming
MONTH 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Capture site information <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare base drawing <input type="checkbox"/> Test layouts <input type="checkbox"/> Hold community engagement meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Comment on plan <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange for site repairs <input type="checkbox"/> Identify possible contractors
MONTH 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Finalize layout & additional details <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare supplies & equipment list <input type="checkbox"/> Finalize installation package <input type="checkbox"/> Price custom items
MONTH 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> Seek quotes & bids <input type="checkbox"/> Select contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Make plans with a contractor
MONTH 10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> Gather other supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule installation <input type="checkbox"/> Notify all parties <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the site prior to installation
MONTH 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean site <input type="checkbox"/> Watch weather <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct installation <input type="checkbox"/> Document installation <input type="checkbox"/> Inform site owner <input type="checkbox"/> Send thanks & photos
Month 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan celebratory event <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare media information <input type="checkbox"/> Invite speakers & dignitaries <input type="checkbox"/> Hold ribbon-cutting event <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with media after event

Table 9. Portable kit supplies and equipment

Portable Kit Element	Description
 Kit Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • storage bins • duffel bags • rolling storage bins
 Loading/Unloading the Device	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hand truck • folding hand truck • utility cart (folding)
 Measuring Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measuring tape and wheel • other items to assist with easy setup and layout spacing (for instance, spacers or templates)
 Laminated Layouts & Stand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • diagrams to show traffic garden layout(s) • stand to hold layout diagrams during the layout process
 Mobile Kit Binder & Clipboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • instructions for the program leader, including instructions for setup, break-down, and packing into storage. • list of all elements and sizing • program instructional materials • templates for printables • clipboard for use during activities
 Additional Supplies Toolbox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scissors • packing tape • duct tape • marking tape • sidewalk chalk • markers and pens • cleaning wipes or similar for wiping down kit elements
 Portable Traffic Signs	<p>Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced-size sign set with base • folds or comes apart <p>Option 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • handheld signs <p>Option 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cones plus sign toppers <p>Suggested Signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Stop" (2 to 4) • "Yield" (2 to 3) • roundabout (1 to 2) • directional (1 to 2) • children/ped crossing (2)
 Welcome/Directional Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • welcome sign (multiple languages) • signs directing people to the traffic garden
 Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • labels for storage and all kit elements • packing instructions

TEMPORARY TRAFFIC GARDEN TIMELINE

Even for a short-term or small project, you will find that having a plan is helpful for figuring out the details of what needs to be done and staying on track.

Month 1

- Organize a team
- Pick site
- Get permissions
- Find funding



Month 3

- Finalize layout template
- Plan for installation
- Prepare supplies list



Month 5

- Prepare instructions
- Go over final details with team
- Monitor weather forecast
- Stage supplies and equipment



Month 2

- Prepare base drawing
- Prepare street layout template
- Add traffic details and features
- Select final layout
- Decide on materials and signs



Month 4

- Gather supplies and materials
- Locate equipment
- Make signs and banners
- Inform team and volunteers



Month 6

- Conduct installation
- Hold celebration
- Send thank you's and photos
- Monitor condition



POP-UP TRAFFIC GARDEN TIMELINE

Month 1

- Team with event
- Confirm site
- Conduct field visit
- Line up funds



Month 2

- Prepare base drawing
- Prepare street layout template
- Gather supplies and materials
- Recruit volunteers



Month 3

- Plan for installation event
- Mark and measure surface and install striping and other features
- Hold pop-up traffic garden event
- Remove materials and restore site
- Send thank you's



Create a project plan and timeline to complete the traffic garden, including planning, design, installation and supplies.



Traffic Garden Project	Source of Funding
Hillcrest Park Traffic Garden, Winterville, NC	AARP Community grant
Various Virginia elementary schools	State DOT SRTS grant
District of Columbia school system	School modernization process
Seattle school system	School modernization process
Bike Safe Play Court, Hagerstown, MD	Maryland Department of Health
Mountain View Elementary Traffic Garden, Lacey, WA	State Farm insurance plus community volunteer assistance
Two elementary school traffic gardens, District of Columbia	DDOT Vision Zero grant
Lil' Philly Safety Village, Philadelphia, PA	Play Everywhere grant
Montbello Bicycle Course, Denver, CO	SRTS Capital Improvement Program
Charlotte Bike Playground, Charlotte, NC	Knight Foundation community grant
Seven Oaks Traffic Garden, Odenton, MD	Community homeowner association
Westside Traffic Garden, Roanoke, VA	Department of Motor Vehicles safety grant

TRAFFIC GARDEN

STEM ACTIVITIES

Northgate Elementary
Educators Guide



People Walking + Rolling Printable Cut-outs

Please print on rigid paper. Only cut along the dashed lines.
Before gluing sides of figures together, fold out bottom rectangle to create a stand.

EXPLAINER 4: WHAT IS A TRAFFIC GARDEN?

Traffic gardens are a fun play and learning place created with scaled-down streets and featuring scaled-down elements that are painted onto a hard surface. Traffic gardens provide small worlds for active play and are a designed space for children to attend biking and roadway safety education programs. Traffic gardens introduce traffic rules and interactions to kids through this fun experience, children become more confident and safer users of the transportation system as they get older.



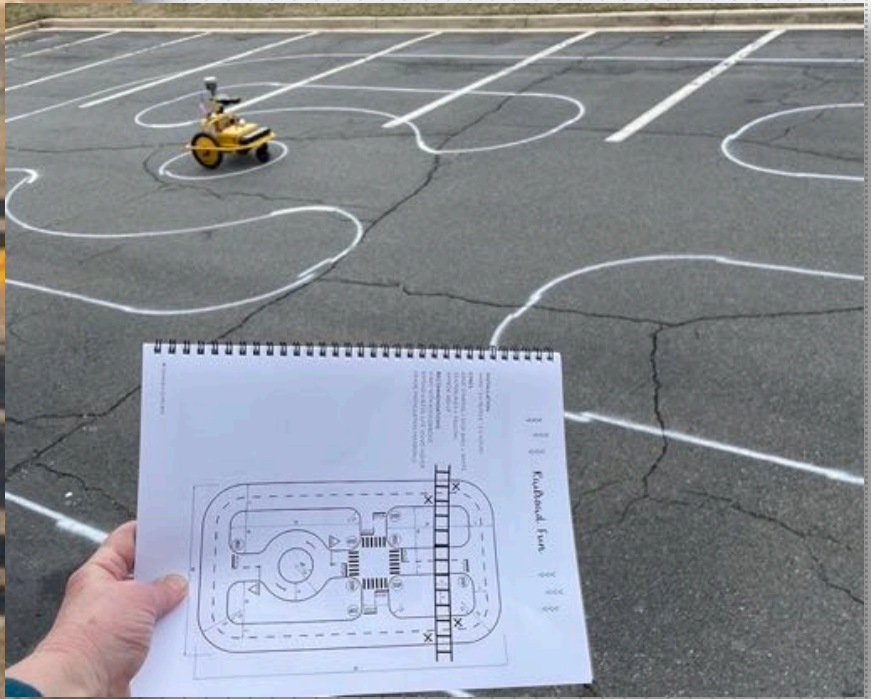
Companion STEM Box Kit for School





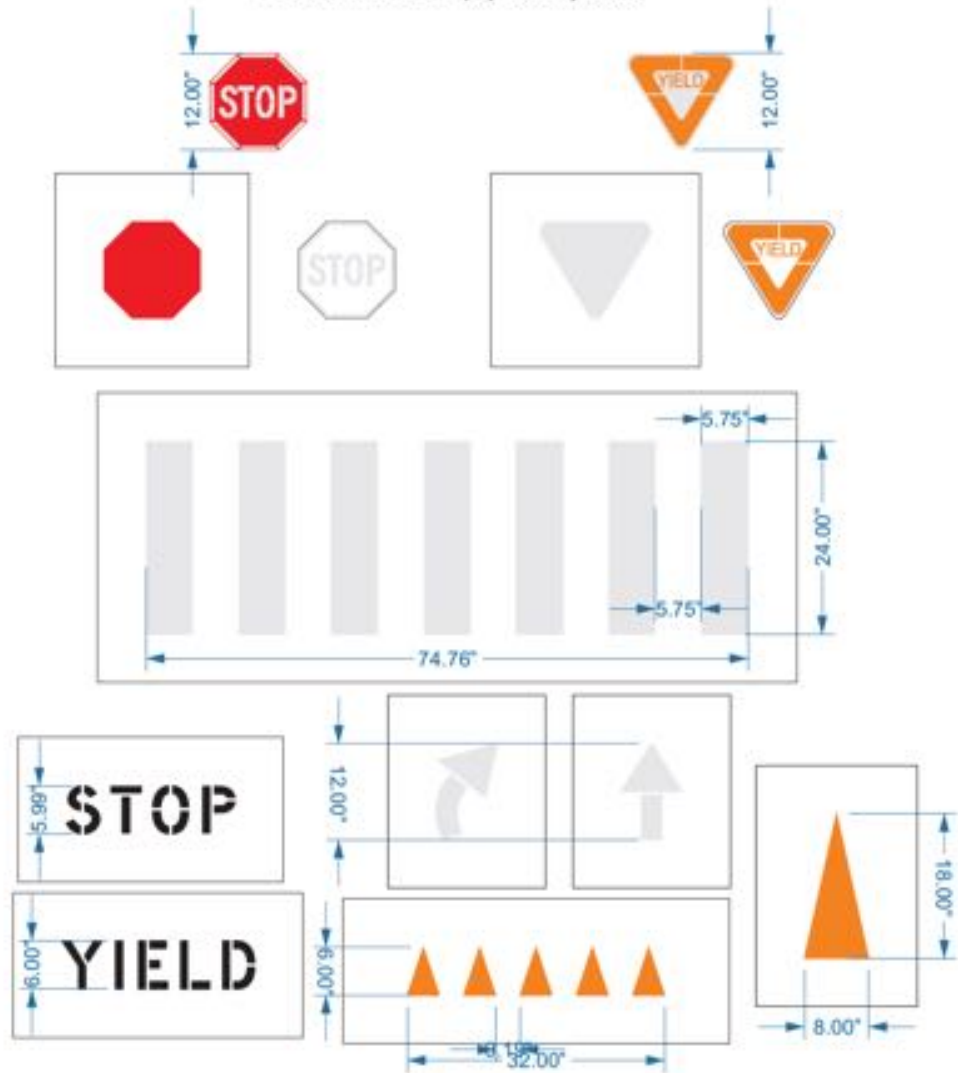


Installation



Basic Full Set

Each stencil has 6" of overspray all the way around!



Deluxe Set

Each stencil has 6" of overspray all the way around!

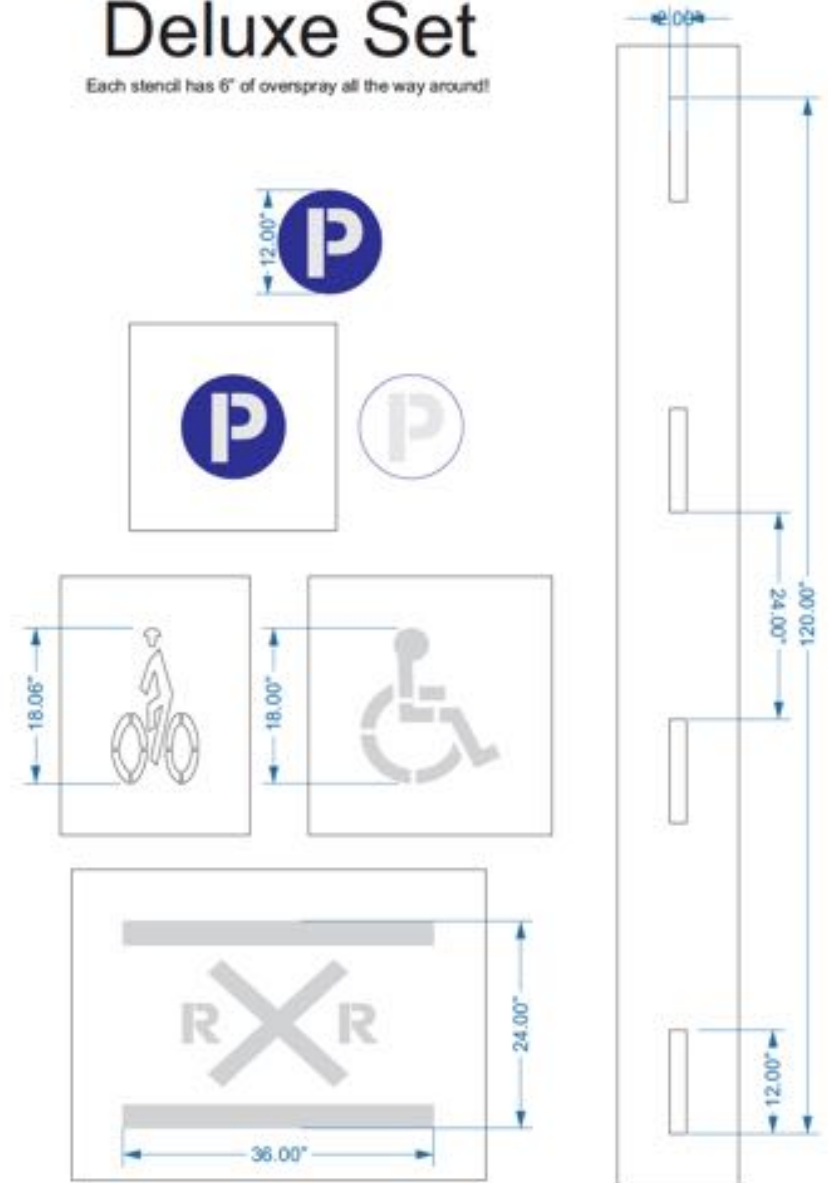




Table 19. Traffic garden reporting information

Information Type	Purpose	Considerations
Visual	This data explains the traffic garden as a concept and illustrates it in action. Show images of children having fun and learning. Illustrate varying uses for traffic gardens.	May need photo permission to take photos of the public. May need express permission from parents or guardians to take photos of children. While photos taken using personal phones are useful, it may be necessary to arrange for professional-quality photos for some uses, such as reports or media stories.
Data	This is fundamental to help form an understanding of what is taking place at the traffic garden.	Qualitative data captures what can be observed but not measured. Quantitative data is information about quantities and numbers. By having a specified time period and creating some metrics and performance measures to record the facility's use and success, the data will provide valuable information and insights into the value of the effort. Examining and interpreting the collected information is part of determining impacts and effectiveness.
Benchmarking	Tracking performance metrics on an annual basis enables progress toward longer-term goals. Documenting the facility operation annually allows agencies and the public to follow the progress and understand the impacts.	Benchmark reports are a valuable way to report on the collected information, data, and analysis, as well as to show photos of the facility in use. Such reports can be created as short brochures or lengthy reports. Someone needs to be charged with the project, as it may involve work throughout the year.

Measuring Success

- George Mason University research in progress
- Penn State University launching north American survey (200 installations)

Volunteers





@NEWS ON YOUR SIDE

> EXPLORING "TRAFFIC GARDENS"



QUESTIONS + Thank You

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