



WHAT IS A TRAFFIC GARDEN?

Traffic Garden, also known as...

Safety Town, Safety City, Safety Village, Traffic Park, etc.

A Traffic Garden represents a miniature city made up of a network of small-sized streets, creating a safe space for children to learn the rules of the road and how to navigate the city safely. Children ride bikes, steer scooters, drive pedal cars, and walk around a small world of their own. They can practice interactions of everyday transportation in a space free of motor vehicles.

TG+P sees these as a community amenity, either within a park, school, community playground, or even a building. The charrette process with children and families creates ownership of the space and encourages people to speak up for what they want in their community. We truly believe that Traffic Gardens serve as a zone that will encourage fun and save lives--helping to create a better world, one child at a time.

Children explore and process the world through play, combining reality with imagination and fun. This enables children to sort through their thoughts and better understand their environment. Traffic Gardens serve as the stage for this form of cognitive development.¹

Children who begin biking or walking to school at an early age (grade 1) are more likely to stay a healthy weight during their early school years.²

More than 70 percent of all U.S. children age five to 14 ride a bicycle.³

Bicycling offers unique health benefits beyond other types of physical activity, reducing the rate of all-cause mortality by 10 percent.⁴

TG+P HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS



Fauquier Traffic Garden, Fauquier, VA

Torti Gallas + Partners, together with the Parks and Recreation Department of Fauquier County and Discover Traffic Gardens, worked to transform an underutilized basketball court into a surface painted Traffic Garden. To the north of the site is the Warrenton Branch Greenway, a Rails-to-Trails project. The Traffic Garden serves as a safe space for families to practice

biking and road safety awareness before using the trail and other bike networks in the area. Several local schools are expected to utilize the Traffic Garden, including the Fauquier Head Start and Elementary School. Payne's Parking Design of Fauquier donated the paint and labor to make this Traffic Garden possible.

DCPS Vision Zero Traffic Gardens

Torti Gallas + Partners was part of the George Mason University (Mason) team, with Discover Traffic Gardens, who received a Vision Zero grant from the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT). The Mayor's Vision Zero initiative focuses on reducing and ultimately eliminating transportation fatalities and serious injuries in the District.

The scope included: student concept design workshops with over 130 kids, design development of the two Traffic Gardens in Northeast DC, and a curriculum developed for and research study conducted by Mason for the Pre-K program. The Traffic Gardens are enhancements to DC Public School's (DCPS) *Biking in the Park* program where all 2nd graders in DCPS learn to ride a bike by following pedestrian and vehicular rules to create safe behaviors and roadway awareness. The final lesson is a 5-6 mile bike ride on city streets to a local park. These Traffic Gardens will be immensely useful in helping bridge the lessons learned at school with riding on the streets of DC.



Maude Aiton Elementary School

Maude Aiton Elementary School is located near several TG+P projects, including, the Nannie Helen at 4800, Deanwood Hills, Deanwood Town Center, and Providence Place.



Neval Thomas Elementary School

Neval Thomas Elementary School is immediately adjacent to TG+P's project Parkside, which includes Kenilworth and MetroTownes. This Traffic Garden will be open to the public for use outside of school hours, giving families a safe place to bring kids to play and learn how to bike safely.





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Mary Butcher mbutcher@tortigallas.com
 Rick Holt rholt2@gmu.edu
 Fionnuala Quinn finn@trafficgardens.com

¹ Whitebread, David, and Lisha O'Sullivan. "Preschool Children's Social Pretend." *International Journal of Play*, vol. 1, no. 2, 19 July 2012, pp. 197–213., doi:10.1080/21594937.2012.693384.

² Pabayo, Roman, et al. "Sustained Active Transportation Is Associated with a Favorable Body Mass Index Trajectory across the Early School Years: Findings from the Quebec Longitudinal Study of Child Development Birth Cohort." *Preventive Medicine*, vol. 50, 9 Sept. 2009, pp. 59–64., doi:10.1016/j.ypmed.2009.08.014.

³ Mehan, Tracy J, et al. "Bicycle-Related Injuries among Children and Adolescents in the United States." *Clinical Pediatrics*, vol. 48, no. 2, 2 Oct. 2009, pp. 166–173., doi:10.1177/0009922808324952.

⁴ Kelly, Paul, et al. "Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Reduction in All-Cause Mortality from Walking and Cycling and Shape of Dose Response Relationship." *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*, vol. 11, no. 132, 2014, doi:10.1186/s12966-014-0132-x.



Discover
Traffic
Gardens