Idea 5
TEMPORARY PLAY STREETS

Closing a network of streets at regular intervals allows people of all ages to have a safe public space to play, meet, and be active.

Temporary closures are a step toward permanent solutions, which can be difficult to implement without first building citizen support. Temporary closures also give everyone a chance to breathe cleaner air, increasing motivation for more regular closures.

These events increase parental perception of safety, reducing their stress and allowing more outdoor play time for children, and more socialisation between neighbours.

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<th>At a glance...</th>
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<td><strong>COST</strong></td>
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**GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT**
- Social Services
- Education
- Health
- Parks
- Planning
- Transport

**MINIMUM SCALE**
Street

**EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION LEVEL**
Tested and implemented

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OUTCOME AREAS

- Increased time spent outdoors together by caregivers and children
- Increased exposure to nature
- Reduced caregiver stress and isolation
- Increased connectivity and trust between caregivers and children from different families
- Increased exercise
- Increased frequency and efficiency of public space usage
- Increased sense of safety
- Reduced crime
- Improved air quality
- Increased profits for local businesses

REAL WORLD EXAMPLES

- In Mexico City, LabCDMX is regularly closing streets in front of schools in some of the most deprived neighbourhoods to provide outdoor play opportunities.

- In Libreville, Gabon, Closing Streets for Children to Play creates a safe space for children to play where outdoor play space is lacking. It also fits into a broader tradition of reclaiming the streets for social events, such as weddings.

- New York City created a programme of closing streets adjacent to schools that lacked playgrounds during school break times. With teacher supervision and traffic signs, the streets are used as playgrounds.

- In Brazil, the city of Manaus has created a programme to close the streets during certain hours of the day and transform them into playground areas.

- In Santiago, Chile, the Paseo Bandera project turned a busy street in the centre into a pedestrianised thoroughfare, including facilities to rest, meet, and enjoy the colourful art by local artists. It also includes more green spaces. The tactical urbanism intervention is temporary and has been paid for by local business owners (USD 550,000).

RELATED IDEAS

1. Pop-up play
2. Opening public facilities out of hours
3. Storytelling in public
4. Design for play
5. Targeted air quality improvements
6. Children routes
7. Safe, interesting and playful transit
8. Traffic calming

RESOURCES

- Play Everywhere Playbook by KaBOOM
- Playing Out, UK
- The Play Street toolkit