

Planning a Traffic Garden Launch Event



Launching a Traffic Garden is an exciting chance to bring the community together and celebrate the new learning space. Here are some suggestions for a successful event:

- Borrow lots of balance bikes and invite young attendees to ride after the ribbon is cut. (Local Parks and Recreation Department or YMCA may have a bike fleet to borrow.)
- Provide directions to the traffic garden location if it differs from the address. If visitors have to find the traffic garden they'll need to be directed.
- Invite representatives from local disability groups and provide adaptive equipment for testing the traffic garden.
- Borrow giant scissors from the the Mayor's Office or other local agency for the ribbon-cutting. Plastic versions available for purchase on line.
- Ask around the community for a portable podium with a built-in sound system.
- Involve children in the ribbon-cutting ceremony using the giant scissors.
- Stage a group photo of everyone involved in the project standing behind the ribbon before it is cut.
- Use the occasion to publicly honor and recognize community members and supporters of the traffic garden.
- Provide guests with colorful bike pins to wear, which add a fun touch to event photos.
- Hang colorful bunting and banners in key photo backdrops.
- Hire a professional photographer/videographer for the event.



Enhancing the Event

- Have children create a large traffic garden banner in advance, adding personal messages for display.
- Select and prepare some children for local TV news interviews, as the media loves featuring young participants.
- Decorate the event space with traffic and construction-themed décor to enhance the atmosphere.
- Arrange for custom traffic sign cookies as nibbles or takeaway souvenirs for guests.
- Arrange for volunteer helpers with checkered flags (or similar) to boost, encourage and manage the kids riding.
- Set up a display table/wall featuring the design drawings and photos documenting the project process.
- Host a slow bicycle race (even more fun with adults)
- Think about who else would like to be invited - elected officials, local biking organizations, children-focused non-profits.

Let's Talk About The Ribbon

- Choose a prominent location, such as the entrance or another key spot within the traffic garden, for the ribbon setup.
- Position portable traffic signs at an appropriate distance, ensuring stability to prevent tipping.
- Secure wide ribbon to the signs, keeping it taut with the flat side visible to the audience.
- Use duct tape to hold the ribbon in place until the ceremonial cut.
- Ensure the setup is visually appealing and ready for photos.
- Keep extra scissors ready in a bucket or similar container for easy distribution at the key moment.

Hands-on Crafting Tables

- Have kids design their own traffic gardens on a base drawing for display.
- Make and attach bike streamers.
- Set up a "Decorate Your Helmet" station with stickers and markers.
- Have kids create mini traffic signs to take home.

Purchase

- Length of brightly colored wide-ribbon
- Roll of duct tape
- Bunting and balloons

Borrow

- Giant scissors
- Podium
- Chairs & tables
- Tent

