



The Tactical Guide contains dozens of ideas to help you re-imagine, re-think and re-purpose neighbourhood spaces to support and encourage physical activity and social connectedness. Here, we look at the fifth of seven tactical strategies:



Aestheticize

Public art attracts attention and creates cultural energy that can transform a community. Use art in its variety of forms to beautify any neighbourhood space and encourage greater activity and connection among residents. Here are a few ideas to get started:

1. Yarn bombing

Try this relaxing activity and beautify your neighbourhood by **yarn bombing** some nearby trees! Use environmental friendly textiles whenever possible!



Source: The Mandala Trees, managed by Diny Slamet and crocheted by members of the best yarn society, by: Dianne Walker, <https://www.instagram.com/p/Ccu6anrvo3q/>

2. Furnish your space

Seats can be used for rest, physical activity (think tricep dips), and connecting with others. **One bench at a time**, you can come together with others or help others use space comfortably. You can even add a side table, lantern, and carpet to finish the look!



Source: Soap Street, Manchester, by: Westport 1946 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/91968926@N08/13227975543>

3. Turn Trash into Treasure

Turn your local garbage can into a work of art! Let your creativity, family history and culture, and sense of humor shine! Learn more at upcycleart.info and [Mosaic Tile Trash Cans](#) for more upcycled art info in public space.



Source: Trash can makeover by Old Oakland Neighbors, By Juan Lopez, New World Mosaics, <https://newworldmosaics.com/>

4. Beautify alleyways and fences with art

Try painting some artwork on a fence to brighten your neighbourhood space and express the local culture.



Source: Siobhan Joseph Art, Squamish Arts Council Mural Walk, photo by Our Squamish, <https://www.downtownsquish.com/squamish-mural-walk/>



5. Fairy trail

Spark your own and your kids' imaginations by creating your very own fairy trail through the forest. Post a treasure map for others to find the fairy houses and do some magic in your neighbourhood.



Source: Fairy trail, By Emily Faber of Sinclair Broadcast Group, 2020] <https://abc6onyourside.com/news/offbeat/follow-this-new-york-city-fairy-trail-for-a-magical-and-miniature-scamper-hunt>

6. Rock the trails

Placing painted rocks along trails is a great way to engage people of all ages and abilities and can be used as art, as part of a scavenger hunt or to encourage play. Another idea: bring a smile to the faces of your neighbours with a simple, quirky signboard!



Photos: C. Costas

7. Painted Roads

Get a neighbourhood group together to plan and execute some street art that can last until the next rainstorm! **Corn starch paint** is inexpensive, temporary and easy to apply, and has the added benefits of enlivening your space and potentially calming traffic.



Source: C. Costas

Here's more:

- Install trail and park art.
- Organize an art scavenger hunt that is accessible to everyone.
- Host holiday decorating contests (e.g., holiday home tours) to encourage neighbourhood walks/wheels in the winter.
- Decorate the trees in your front yard, leave the lights up all winter and encourage your neighbours to do the same.
- Knit a big scarf or other object and wrap it around the house or trees of refugee families as a welcome.
- Build a "gnome home" on the boulevard.

For more information about how to Activate Your Neighbourhood, visit activateyourneighbourhood.ca.