



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 seventh of seven tactics:



Whimsicalize and Gamify

Add imaginative and sometimes quirky features or illustrations to signify game play to encourage activity in neighbourhood spaces. Play in a public space with some easy changes and other more organized ways to encourage play. Here are a few ideas to get started:

1. Hopscotch Board

Easy and inexpensive, **hopscotch boards** on your local pavement are a great way to engage with your neighbours and bring some play and whimsy to your community! Leave a chalk box out with free chalk and a sign to encourage creativity. Make the boxes large for those using a wheelchair.



Picture (girls playing hopscotch) T. Glover

Source: little boy and girl playing hopscotch together 2010, by Ilya Haykinson, CC-BY-SA-2.0 https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Toddler_hopscotch.jpg

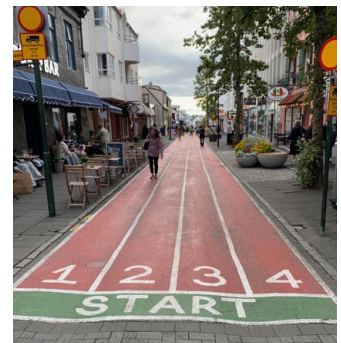


Picture: C. Costas

2. Racetrack

Using cornstarch paint or chalk, add a racetrack on the streets in your neighbourhood. This example is from Copenhagen and every person who came upon it ran or wheeled down the lanes!

Source: C. Costas



3. Eye Bombers (googly eyes on inanimate objects)

Bring your neighbourhood to life. **Place googly eyes where you least expect them** to get your neighbours talking and laughing together!



Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BF8Q6ATQ62U/>



4. Plan an unexpected Scavenger Hunt

In Downtown Charlottetown, PEI, nine bronze statues were installed as part of the “Eckhart the Mouse Scavenger Hunt”. Residents of all ages were encouraged to find the statues by following clues to find the mice at different historical sites.



Source: <https://www.nsfm.ca/1598-ns-main-streets-initiative-community-workbook-june-2020/file.html>

5. Draw a Labyrinth

Tired of hopscotch? Consider creating a labyrinth as a change of pace. Walking or wheeling through a labyrinth is a form of active meditation that is challenging for the brain and an ancient practice of centering oneself. You can use low-cost materials like tape, paint or chalk to easily create the circular path, or for a more permanent creation you can use stones.



Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T7xrXDn8sbl&ab_channel=DiscoverLabyrinths

6. Water Games

Water games are a fun, competitive and low-cost way to cool down in the summer heat. Bring some **water pistols** to a public space with willing participants of all ages and abilities to get some physical activity in while cooling down. Be sure to select a place near a water source and be mindful of those who don't want to join in!



Water battle in Parc Angrignon, Montreal, Canada, by Eric Samson, Early Action, 2007

7. It's a Mystery (or romance or adventure) to me!

Create a walking novel in your neighbourhood, using signs and a bit of creativity. Or get a few copies of a children's book and set up a **StoryWalk®** for the kids in your neighbourhood!



Source: <https://www.vancouverbiennale.com/artworks/vancouver-novel/>

Here's more:

- Decorate local trees with lights and ornaments.
- Place musical instruments such as drums, a xylophone or chimes along a trail system.
- Designate an area in your yard for a painted rock exchange (leave one and/or take one).
- Set up a sheet to record the number of a particular item or decoration seen on a hike/walk (e.g., ladybugs, fairies).

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