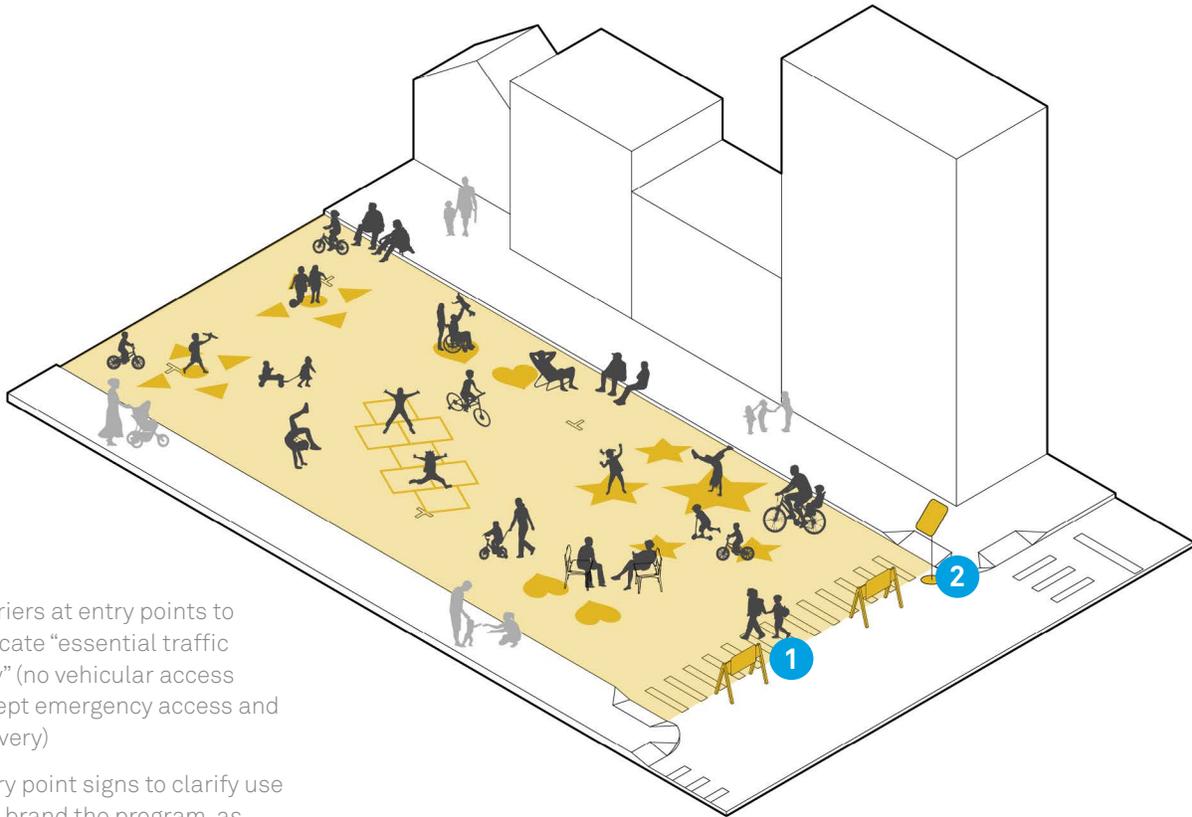


OPEN/PLAY STREETS



- 1 Barriers at entry points to indicate “essential traffic only” (no vehicular access except emergency access and delivery)
- 2 Entry point signs to clarify use and brand the program, as well as offer traffic control or guidance to motorists

Provide safe space for physical activity, play, distant socializing, etc.

CONTEXT

- Parkway or waterfront corridors with few intersections.
- Low-volume residential streets.
- Commercial streets with local restaurant/retail clusters and no transit.

KEY STEPS

- Install temporary traffic barriers and “Emergency Vehicle/Delivery Only” signs at intersections.
- Establish grid of entry points into local streets where barricades should be installed.

TIMELINE: One week.

DURATION: Time of day, day of week, weekends, or ongoing (weeks, months).



Credit: Bryan Thomas/Getty Images

Brooklyn, NY, USA

Open streets in Brooklyn and other boroughs of New York City provide space for pedestrians to gather and stay active.

Planning

- Identify a single corridor or a network of streets that can be closed to vehicular traffic during select hours of the day or days of the week, or permanently.
- Unlike Slow Streets, on-street vehicular parking should be disallowed over the duration.
- Examine proposed neighborhood greenways, bike boulevards, or routes that await implementation. Where full closures are difficult, consider Slow Streets instead.
- Where resources are constrained, prioritize one- to two-block Play Streets adjacent to closed or inadequate playgrounds and schoolyards.
- Ensure that programs and activities support safe physical distancing.

Engagement

- Reach out to resident associations, business districts, community organizations, bike/walk and health coalitions, schools, and mutual aid organizations.
- Partner with stakeholders and advocates to place flyers or safely contact local residents.
- Connect with community groups to identify obstacles or issues affecting design or length.

Design + Implementation

- Identify corridors to fully close to through traffic and target times of day or week. Partial closures can preserve local access but prevent most through-movements.
- Consider open/play streets at a corridor scale to move people safely to essential services (medical care, grocery stores, pharmacies, transit).
- Use temporary “Road Closed” signs, which can be attached to barricades or A-frames if necessary; adding pedestrian or bicycle warning signs is optional.

Monitoring

- Key criteria: number and percent change in overall demand during specific hours.
 - Use automated devices, such as a camera or tube counter, to gather bike volume and short (15-minute to one-hour) sample pedestrian or user type counts (younger and older children, elderly people, etc.) if practical.
 - Use counts or conduct surveys to determine adjustments, if necessary.
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Credit: Natalia Bomtempo



Credit: DPA

Brasilia, Brazil

Brasilia opens its streets for pedestrians and cyclists on Sundays.

Berlin, Germany

Berlin prohibits vehicles on several streets to create space for play and gathering.