

COMPTON PARK COMMUNITY TOOLKIT



WHAT'S INSIDE

Explore ideas, resources, and programs to help you connect with your neighbours and grow community in Compton Park!

Strong communities are built through everyday moments and shared experiences. From conversations over a fence and borrowed tools to a garden work bee, block parties, movie nights, and music festivals, every connection helps create a neighbourhood where people feel they belong, support one another, and love where they live.

Start Where You Are

Whether you've lived in your neighbourhood for decades or just moved in, there's always a place to start and new people to meet. The ideas below move from simple first steps to deeper levels of connection. The important thing is to start where you feel comfortable.

Start with Hello!

- Say hello to a neighbour
- Take a moment to learn a neighbour's name
- Start a conversation: *How long have you lived here? Where is your favourite spot for a coffee?* Need more conversation starters? Try [these](#)
- Leave a note of welcome

Share Something

- Drop off flowers from your garden, baking, a meal
- Lend a neighbour a tool
- Offer to shovel a driveway, collect mail or water plants

Gather Together

- Go for coffee
- Start a walking, knitting or book club
- Hosting a "Soup on a Stoop" or a stoop-style soup party is a cozy, low-stress way to gather with neighbours. Keep it simple by having guests bring their own bowl and spoon.

You provide a soup and you eat it on your stoop (or porch stairs, or lawn chairs).

Work Together

- Plan a plant or garage sale
- Volunteer in the community garden (email comptonparkgarden@gmail.com) or for the Compton Park Music Festival
- Gather to make emergency plans for the neighbourhood ie: extreme heat, flood preparedness
- Set up a group chat and check in on one another, especially seniors and students

MEET YOUR
STREET:

PLAN A BLOCK PARTY



Block parties are one of the most enjoyable ways to build community. They create space for neighbours to meet, children to play, stories to be shared, and connections to grow. Whether you're hosting a potluck, organizing games, sharing music, or simply gathering outdoors, a block party can help transform a street into a more connected, caring, and resilient neighbourhood.

In Kingston, approved block parties receive **\$500 in funding!** They are smaller gatherings of fewer than 250 people, primarily intended for people who live on the street or in the surrounding neighbourhood (if your “block party” is in a park and not on an actual block). Applications are accepted year-round on a rolling basis, until available funding is fully allocated.

BLOCK PARTY CHECKLIST	STATUS
Apply to the <u>Neighbourhood Activation Fund</u> 3 months in advance	☐
ONCE YOUR APPLICANCE IS APPROVED:	
Talk to your neighbours! The city requires a record that show 65% of households on your block support having a block party	☐
Get Insurance. The city requires a minimum of \$5 million general liability insurance naming the City of Kingston as an additional insurer	☐
Create a traffic control plan or road closure sketch	☐
Rent road barriers and signage from a third-party supplier	☐
Apply for a Temporary Right-of-Way Occupancy Permit	☐
The city's Community Development Coordinator will work with you to outline which costs are covered for your event. Eligible costs may include • Insurance • Licensing • Facility or park bookings • Road closure signage Equipment (example: movie screen rental)	

BLOCK PARTY IDEAS

Games

- All ages sport tournament
- Corn hole
- Ring toss
- Set up basketball nets
- Road hockey
- Capture the Flag
- Potato sack races
- Talent show
- Music circle

Food

- Potluck
- Snack table
- BBQ
- picnic

Art

- Chalk your block. Use the street as an art gallery and give chalk for people to decorate the street
- Outdoor paint night
- Nature crafts

Connection

- Community Treasure Hunt
- Story sharing
- Set up tables and spaces for conversations while playing board games, chess or cards.
- Stay warm in the winter by setting up a portable firepit on your driveway and roast marshmallows.

Over time we may be able to build up a “games package” through donation and creation that we store in the park for people to take out when hosting an event.

[Community Treasure Hunt](https://edenprojectcommunities.com) - from edenprojectcommunities.com

“This is a simple icebreaker that gets everyone in your party involved, and gets people finding out more about each other. It’s also a good one to play indoors and doesn’t require any running around.

What to do: Create a list of questions and hand a copy to everyone. The aim is to try and find someone who fits the bill for each question. You only need a couple to get the conversation started. The winner is whoever has answers for the most questions. Give your number one neighbourhood scavenger a little prize Ideas for your neighbourhood treasure hunt.”

Who has lived in the street the longest?

Who moved in most recently?

Who’s the oldest resident?

Who’s the youngest resident?

Who has the quirkiest pet?

Who has the longest name?

Who was born the furthest away?

Who has the most people living in their home?



SHARE, CARE AND EXPLORE: RESOURCES AND MORE

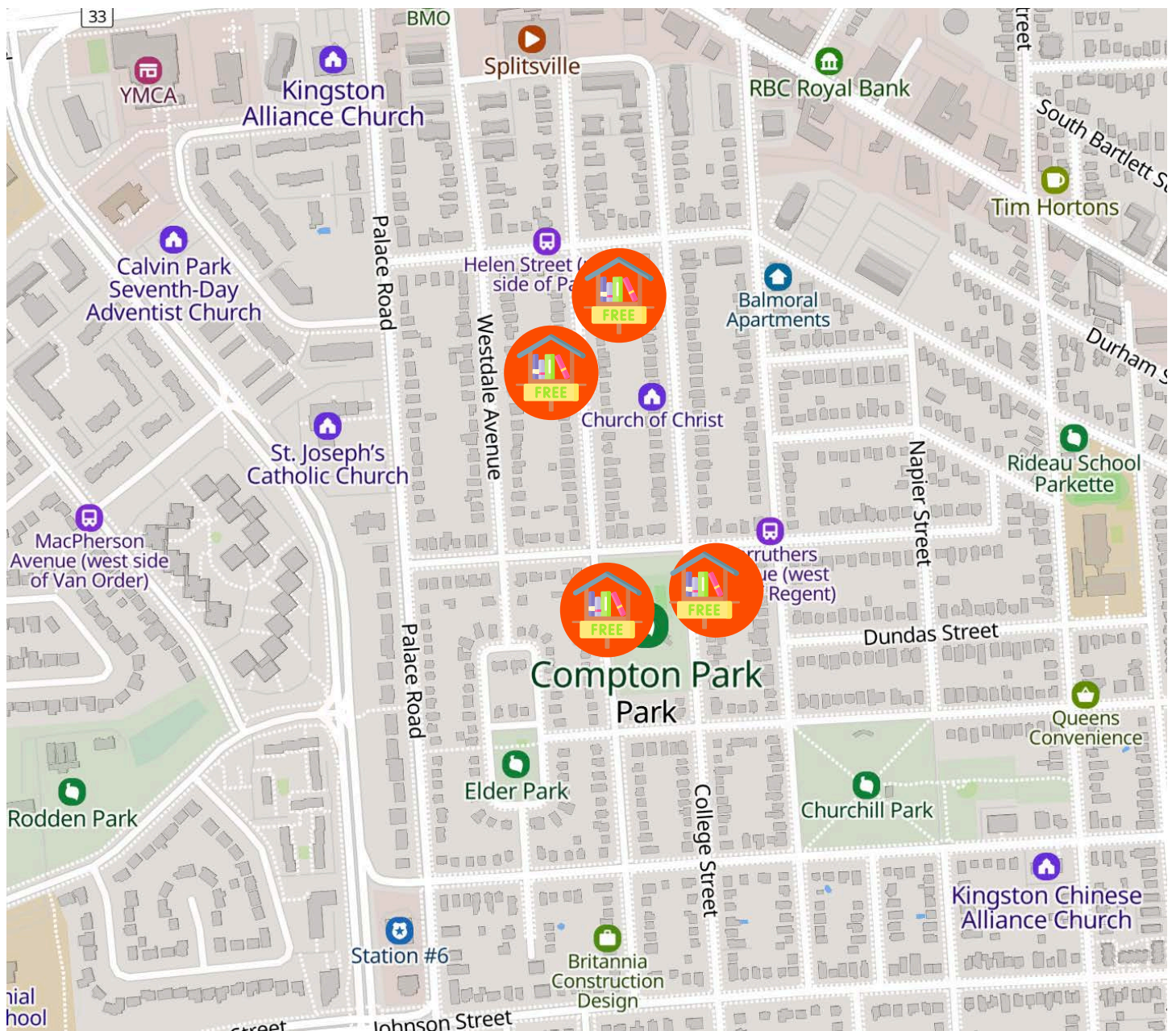


Share:

Free Little Libraries:

A little library is more than a box of books—it's a place to share stories, spark conversations, and build community one book at a time. Enjoy some quiet reading in the park or take a book home to enjoy.

Below is a map of Little libraries that have popped up around Compton Park and some tips on etiquette.



Be a Great Little Library Neighbour

Little Free Libraries work best when everyone contributes thoughtfully. Here are a few simple tips to help keep the library welcoming and useful for everyone.

Share books you'd be happy to receive

Before donating a book, ask yourself:

"Would I be excited to find this in a Little Free Library?"

Choose books that are in good condition, clean, and ready for a new reader.

Quality over quantity

A few great books are better than a large box of unwanted ones. Please avoid using the library to empty basements, storage rooms, or old book collections all at once.

Skip outdated materials

Please avoid:

- Outdated textbooks
- Old manuals and technical guides
- Damaged or mouldy books
- Magazines that are years out of date
- Materials that no longer have practical value

Leave room for others

If the library is already full, consider taking your donations to another Little Free Library or a local charity that accepts books.

Take a book, leave a book (if you can)

You don't have to leave a book to take one. The library is here to be enjoyed by everyone.

Share books for all ages

Children's books, novels, mysteries, cookbooks, gardening books, local history, and current non-fiction are often especially popular.

Help keep the library tidy

If you notice books have become wet, damaged, or excessively worn, consider helping to tidy the shelves or remove items that can no longer be enjoyed. The Little Library in Compton Park is supported and maintained by Compton Park Garden volunteers. If you need to connect with them, email **comptonparkgarden@gmail.com**.

Care:

[Good Neighbour Guide](#)

The Good Neighbour Guide has been created to give community members a better understanding of how the City of Kingston operates, what services and opportunities are available, and how residents can help improve their neighbourhoods. At the heart of a strong, vibrant community is a simple idea: we are all neighbours. Whether you have just moved in or have called Kingston home for years, community members have a shared responsibility to help shape a welcome, respectful and inclusive community.

The Good Neighbour Guide offers an overview of City services, bylaws, information and opportunities available to residents. This guide is not intended to solve all issues which may arise but offers assistance and information to best assist with certain significant issues based on the City's bylaws and services, with a goal of promoting a healthy, safe and vibrant community for all. This guide is also for property owners, developers and contractors who are starting a construction project. By following the requirements, best practices and communication tips in this guide, construction projects can contribute positively to the vibrancy of the community without negatively impacting neighbours.

[Snow Angels](#)

Winters in Kingston can bring a lot of snow and ice. Offering to help a neighbour by shovelling their driveway and walkway is one way to show we care about one another. Teens in highschool who need volunteer hours can use snow shoveling to complete their 40 hours of service. And don't forget one of the greatest things about our neighbourhood is that it is very walkable!! Don't forget to shovel your sidewalk so our neighbours who commute to school or work on foot can do so more easily and safely.

Those who are looking to volunteer as a Snow Angel to shovel for someone or to register for assistance for yourself or others can sign up online through the Snow Angels Canada website only. Click on the link above to take you there.

[Emergency, Mental Health Resources and Crisis Line](#)

Sometimes neighbours need more than a helping hand. You may encounter someone who is struggling with their mental health, experiencing a crisis, facing homelessness, or in need of urgent or emergency support. While none of us can solve these challenges alone, we can learn how to respond with compassion and know where to turn for help.

This section provides information about local crisis lines, emergency services, and community resources that can support neighbours in need. If someone is in immediate danger or requires urgent medical assistance, call 911.

[Emergency Services and Public Health Resources](#) from the City of Kingston



ADMHS KFLA 24/7 Crisis Line	613.544.4229 Toll free 1.866.616.6005
Kingston Police non urgent line	613-549-4660 TTY: 613-549-8792
Online reporting system	https://www.kingstonpolice.ca/en/services-and-reporting/non-emergency-reporting.aspx
Emergency	911
Fire and Rescue - admin line	613-548-4001 ext. 5156
Sexual Assault Centre	1-877-544-6424
Utilities Kingston emergency line	613-546-1181
City of Kingston By-Law Enforcement	613-546-4291 ext.3135
Vincent Cinanni - City Counsellor	Phone: 613-217-3593 Email: vcinanni@cityofkingston.ca

Explore

[Library Passes](#)

Discover local [conservation areas](#) and [museums](#) located in Kingston, Frontenac, Ottawa and Toronto by using a pass you can get from the Calvin Park Library.

Passes can be borrowed for one week and must be reserved through the library catalogue.

Recreation Bags & Play Street Bags (stay tuned to see when these will be available)

Borrow equipment for games, sports, and neighbourhood events.

[Kingston Gets Active](#)

Find free and low-cost opportunities to stay active and connected.

[Active Pass](#)

The Grade 5 and 9 ActivPass gives students **FREE** access to recreation facilities at designated times.

[Sports Equipment Lockers](#) at Compton Park

Located on the chainlink fence surrounding the tennis courts and close to the basket ball courts, you'll find a sports locker with three basketballs that are free to use! Click on the link above to find out how to access them

Neighbourhood Preparedness

Resources for emergency planning, extreme heat, and community resilience

[Extreme Heat Preparedness Resource](#): outlines how to prepare as a community and has links to Canadian resources on the topic.

[Residential Air Conditioner Support Program](#) - City of Kingston

[Warm Up and Cool Down locations](#) - City of Kingston

[Emergency Preparedness](#) - City of Kingston

[Resilient Streets Toolkit](#) -resilientneighbourhoods.ca



FAQs

1. What are some anticipated questions from the employees?
2. Add them here together with the answers to lessen the need for clarification.

Didn't find what you're looking for? Reach out to our team via hello@reallygreatsite.com, and we'll help you!

Useful Resources

From the [City of Kingston](#) :

- [Newcomers resources](#)
- [Municiple Fee Assistance Program](#)
- [Accessibility Supports](#)
- [Older adult services](#)
- [Urban Indigenous Resources](#)
- [Housing and Homelessness](#)
- [Community Supports and Wellbeing](#)
- [Childcare and Early Years Support](#)
- [Open Air Fire Permits](#)
- [Affordable Recreation - Spark pass](#)
- [Better Homes Kingston](#) - make your home climate friendly
- [Homemaking Services](#) - designed to help elderly people remain in their homes
- [Garbage and Recycling](#)