

# Play Works Youth Friendly Community Application

## Benefits of Getting Involved

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### What are the Benefits of Getting Involved in the Youth Friendly Movement?

#### It's a win-win for everyone

A community where youth have the space, support and freedom to play tends to have less crime and more post-secondary graduates. Fewer people use social services and more people use bike paths. A community where opportunities for recreation, arts, culture and civic responsibility bloom is one that is healthy, competitive and artistic.

#### Attract younger generations

Being designated Youth Friendly signals your support of and commitment to the youth in your community, as [elected officials](#) from current Youth Friendly Communities attest.

You'll see benefits in return:

- Attract families by providing the kind of programs and services for their teenagers that say, "We like young people here!"
- Avoid the migration of young people to other communities by encouraging your youth to help guide the future of their own community.

#### Enhance your services for youth

Applying to be Youth Friendly helps communities realize their strong commitment to youth as they compile documentation illustrating the variety of available activities. The process of applying also helps identify possible gaps, as well as opportunities to become even more youth friendly.

#### Receive the recognition you deserve

The Youth Friendly Community Recognition Program acknowledges communities that are investing in youth play. With a Youth Friendly designation, your community will receive recognition through multiple channels:

- Formal presentation of your Youth Friendly Community status at a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum level at a distinguished event to which those who assisted with the community application are invited
- Communication to all municipalities in Ontario
- A news release to Ontario media
- Listing as a Youth Friendly Community on the Play Works website
- As a mentor to other communities wishing to become Youth Friendly

Being designated Youth Friendly enables your community to promote the designation by using the logo on resource materials, such as brochures, flyers, and websites, as well as on community billboards and signs.