



# Parkdale and Roncesvalles

Cool  
Community  
Plan

*A Community Climate Action Plan  
for the Villages of Parkdale and  
Roncesvalles in Ward 4, Toronto  
2018 - 2020*

## Our Vision

*Our vision is an affordable and vibrant community powered by people and passion, and with a strong and sustainable local economy that provides a high quality of life to all residents.*

*We see climate action as the way to make our community even greater: vibrant, caring, affordable, and complete.*

## About Us



Green Parkdale is an informal community group, made up of people who care for the future of both our community and our planet.

We live and/or work in Ward 14 Parkdale - High Park in Toronto.

## This is our Plan

This is our vision for our community, supported by ideas and activities that can be carried out by the groups and individuals that are part of our network.



Cool Parkdale is a pilot project for a new approach to tackling climate change. We start with a vision for our community, identify a community network and local priorities, then find solutions that support our community while also helping create a low-carbon future.

## CONSERVATION AND GREEN POWER

### *Just about everyone has a beef about energy.*

Our bills may be too high, our home too drafty in winter, or too hot in summer.

We can help. We can point you to the incentives for insulation and home renovations, free products and help for low-income families, and low-cost financing for homeowners on your property tax bill. As our community becomes more energy-conscious, we can even look at community energy projects and work together to reduce our energy bills even further.

**Our goal** is to help people save energy and money, and to make our community energy efficient and an energy producer.

### Energy Tips

1. **PLUG THE LEAKS** – draft-proofing and window insulation kits can keep homes snug in winter.
2. **INVEST IN SAVING** – if you are doing a reno, make sure you insulate well and use energy efficient doors and windows
3. **LOW INCOME SUPPORT** – check our website for information on free kits and services.
4. **GET AUDITED** – if you are not sure where to start, an energy audit will give you good advice (and more incentives).

Go to [www.greenparkdale](http://www.greenparkdale) for more energy saving tips and links to the latest incentives.





## GETTING AROUND

### *We're trail-blazers!*

You might not know it, but Parkdale is at the cutting edge of the transition to low-carbon mobility.

Look around. We have e-bikes, mobility scooters and electric cars. We have all kinds of cyclists, from kids to commuters. We have pedestrians with shopping bags, strollers, and dogs. We also have a growing number of residents who find they can save money and live comfortably without owning a car by using a combination of transit, car-sharing, rentals, and active transportation.

**Our goal** is a safe, clean, efficient and affordable mix of mobility options that serves the needs of our residents and local businesses.

### Mobility Tips

1. **DITCH THE CAR** – save thousands a year by using all the car-sharing, transit, and active transportation options available to us.
2. **GO ELECTRIC** – beat the price of gas by switching to an electric vehicle, e-scooter or e-bike.
3. **GET ACTIVE** – not just physically active (which is a great way to get around) but in advocating for and designing safe cycling and better transit.

Go to [www.greenparkdale](http://www.greenparkdale) for more transportation tips and links to the latest incentives.



## GOOD FOOD

*We know good food.  
No doubt about it.*

We have some of the best restaurants around, including Toronto's best Tibetan restaurants, an emerging vegan hub, and great places for great food and great company. We also have community gardens, farmers markets, the West End Food Coop, community kitchens and food banks, and all kinds of community programs that connect people with good, healthy food.

[Our goal](#) is to maintain a strong connection between our community and our food.

### Good Food Tips

1. GROW LOCAL – grow your own veggies in your backyard, on your balcony, or in a community garden. Plant fruit trees and shrubs.
2. EAT LOCAL – visit the farmer's markets, look for local foods in local stores, and eat foods that are in season.
3. ENJOY GOOD FOOD – make food a passion, whether it is growing and cooking your own, making preserves, enjoying local restaurants, or choosing organic, vegetarian, or vegan cuisine.

# GREENING AND GREENSPACE

## We meet and play in our parks.

Over 50,000 people share the parks and parkettes within our ward boundaries. They are the foundation of a healthy community. Fortunately, we have several “Park Friends” groups who are working to improve the quality of our greenspaces and the amenities they can provide to all residents.

Our streets and backyards are greenspaces as well, and the canopy of street trees is pleasure to behold as well as an essential part of our urban ecology

**Our goal** is to ensure our greenspace and green streets remain vibrant and a source of pleasure to all residents.

## What You Can Do

1. VOLUNTEER – help coach sports, build a hockey rink, create a community garden or help keep the parks tidy.
2. BECOME A PARK FRIEND – join a local Park Friends group.
3. THINK OUTSIDE THE PARK – start a project for other spaces that could use some greening (like alleyways)

See [www.greenparkdale.org](http://www.greenparkdale.org) for links to parks websites.



## ZERO WASTE

*An ocean of plastic starts with a piece of litter. Our litter.*

The City of Toronto has a goal to divert 70% of waste by 2026.

**Our goal** is zero waste. We want to design ways to make it easy for residents to create as little waste as possible.

We can get there with a Zero Waste Plan, a Creative Reuse Centre, 3Rs Ambassadors, zero waste businesses and products, a whole lot of creative ideas, and public support.

And we can start by making an effort to keep our streets, parks, and beaches clean of litter.

### Waste Tips

Look at your trash bin. Chances are, it's full of plastic.

1. **BRING YOUR OWN BAGS AND CONTAINERS** – make or buy your own bags, or wash and reuse plastic bags and baggies. Use your own containers at bulk food stores and save.
2. **SHOP SMART** – avoid disposable, single-use products (like plastic straws and cutlery) and non-recyclable containers.
3. **PASS IT ON** – don't just throw old clothes and junk out. Share it.

See [www.greenparkdale.org](http://www.greenparkdale.org) for links to websites for sharing or selling stuff.



Litter



Recycling

## CLIMATE READY

*It's 20 below and the power goes out. What do you do?*

We all need to be ready for emergencies in our homes, but we also need to be ready to step up as a community.

We already have organizations across our community that are helping people in need on a daily basis. How can we plan for a more resilient community that can handle both the everyday challenges and the major weather events?

**Our goal** is to help our community plan for resiliency and help educate residents on how to prepare for extreme weather events and extended blackouts.

### Blackout Tips

1. **BE PREPARED** – have an emergency kit or plan at home.
2. **HAVE BACKUP POWER** – for larger buildings, invest in a backup generator or battery storage.
3. **KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY** – know where emergency shelters and services are in the community.
4. **VOLUNTEER** – volunteer with groups that can help in emergencies
5. **ORGANIZE** – help create a community readiness plan.

# A COMPLETE COMMUNITY

## *We love our hoods.*

Our ward is a collection of several vibrant communities. We plan to keep it that way.

Change is part of life. If we don't adapt and reimagine our communities, they can become stagnant and run down. Our residents associations and other community groups are our eyes on the street, making sure that the ongoing development and redevelopment of our streets, buildings, homes and parks all support the overall health of our community. Get involved in planning our future!

**Our goal** is a complete, vibrant community, with opportunities and support for all its residents.

## Get Involved

1. **JOIN YOUR R.A.** – your resident association is the first stop for talking about what's happening and how we can plan for the future.
2. **STAY INFORMED** – get plugged in to Facebook community pages and the Councillor newsletter to know what's happening.
3. **BE ACTIVE** – join a local group or a city-wide group that will be a voice for our community. Participate in public consultations for development plans and budgets.
4. **MAKE OUR OWN PLANS** – like plans for a recreation centre, a land trust, or building the local economy. Why wait for someone else to lead?





## LET'S GET GOING

50,000 people and 100 organizations. We can do this!

**VOLUNTEER** – whether your passion is helping others or helping the environment, whether you have skills to offer or just a willing pair of hands, there are many opportunities to pitch in and help around the community.

**DONATE** – make community a priority for your charitable donations. Find a group in our network and make a contribution.

**CREATE** – come up with new project ideas, community campaigns, or ways to build on existing programs and services that will help meet our goals.

**SUPPORT** – help turn a community plan into reality! Government and foundation funding, and corporate sponsors are needed to support our community spirit!

See [www.greenparkdale.org](http://www.greenparkdale.org) for information on volunteer and sponsorship opportunities.