

Weekend Walks 2014 // Request for Expressions of Interest

If you are interested in organizing and hosting a Weekend Walk in your neighborhood, please complete the Expression of Interest form (pp. 3–4). Doing so does not bind you or your organization to any particular proposal for any particular date, but will mark the starting point in a dialogue with DOT to develop a successful plan.

Background

Weekend Walks are multi-block, multi-day community street events on commercial corridors. Businesses and community groups in all five boroughs host Weekend Walks on roads that are temporarily closed to motor vehicles and opened to walking and various activities. To see photos, and learn more about the Weekend Walks program, please visit www.nyc.gov/weekendwalks. DOT established Weekend Walks in 2008 to help further Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC goal of expanding the amount of open space available to New Yorkers and to help meet our commitment to creating world-class streets and a more attractive public realm.



Dance class at *Weekend Walks*, East 204th Street, Bronx.



Giant Scrabble game at *Williamsburg Walks*, Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn.

Weekend Walks are conceived, planned, organized, and executed by BIDs, local merchants’ associations, and/or community-based groups. If your application is selected, DOT will provide technical assistance with City permitting processes; help coordinate with relevant City agencies; and connect you with other Weekend Walks organizers to share best practices. DOT does not provide an event planner for these events or any enforcement (e.g., towing of vehicles).

Guiding Principles

What a Weekend Walk Is

- A temporarily pedestrianized street
- Multi-block
- Multi-day: it occurs on regularly recurring dates (e.g., every Sunday in July or every Saturday over the winter holidays). This schedule creates a regular public space, which is the aim of the program
- Led or co-sponsored by a local merchants association, Business Improvement District, Community Board, or civic group, with a general local consensus in favor of the plan
- Supported by the local Community Board and NYPD precinct
- Engaged with local businesses and organizations
- Held in an area such as a commercial main street or another area that connects sites frequented by pedestrians, where existing uses and activities could be positively enhanced by more space for walking and outdoor activity and the temporary suspension of motor vehicle access.



Summer Plazas on Fifth Avenue, Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

What a Weekend Walk Is Not

- A street fair with vending in the streets
- An event on a side street or residential street
- A block party – i.e., a one-day/one-block event
- A group walk to raise funds for charities or causes
- A race or other sporting event requiring public participants to pre-register
- A parade that fills the space vacated by motor traffic

What Works

- Building support in merchant and residential communities
- Engaging local merchants, community-based organizations, artists, and musicians to provide programming
- Communicating regularly with your NYPD precinct
- Marketing the event
- Meeting regularly with your partners and DOT to refine the event



Summer Space, Montague Street, Brooklyn.

Weekend Walks Expression of Interest

Please complete the following form with as much of the requested information as possible. This form is not binding – if your site is selected your answers will be considered as a starting point for further developing your program. First priority will be given to proposals outside of the Manhattan core (i.e., north of 110th Street). DOT will call to explore your proposal with you further. If you need additional space for description please attach more sheets to this form.

Please send your completed form by email (weekendwalks@dot.nyc.gov) or fax (212 839 2740) by **close of business Monday, December 9, 2013** (this is an extension of the original deadline).

First name:

Last name:

Organization:

Title:

Street Address:

Borough:

Zip:

Phone:

Email Address:

Proposed dates of the Weekend Walk (tentative):

Proposed Location of the Weekend Walk (tentative)

First Choice

Street:

From (street):

To (street):

Second Choice

Street:

From (street):

To (street):

Third Choice

Street:

From (street):

To (street):

Please describe the character of the proposed site and indicate if it is mostly commercial, residential, or mixed (two–three sentences):

Please explain why you think this would be a good site for a temporary pedestrian street (two–four sentences):

Are there any potential challenges to selecting this site? For example, are there bus routes, hospitals, fire houses, etc.? If so, please list them. (These challenges do not disqualify your site, but are helpful to take into account during pre-planning.):

Have you or your organization ever planned any events in your community before? If so, please describe; if not, please explain other experience you believe is relevant to organizing a temporary pedestrian street:

Please list and describe any potential organizing or programming partners here (optional):

Is there anything else you wish to share about your proposed Weekend Walk?

Signed: _____

Dated: _____