



Dog loving and tree swinging

High school students designing and building pop-up installations for downtown park

TORONTO, August 11, 2017 – What do doggie bags and a tree swing have in common? They are both part of the two projects that a group of youth will build at a park this summer.

10 high school students from across the GTA have been part of the 1UPToronto Summer Pilot Project this summer, where they have spent four Saturdays together learning about public spaces and urban design. They surveyed users of St. Andrew’s Playground and studied the usage of the park. (Fun fact: There once stood one of the first three indoor markets of the city at this urban park, located on Adelaide west of Spadina). The students found that while there is a dog park and a children’s playground, there are few amenities for the dog owners themselves, as well as things to do for teenagers and adults.

After many rounds of brainstorming and prototyping, the group designed a doggie bag dispenser for any forgetful dog walkers, and a tree swing big enough for those who may feel they are just a bit too old for the children’s playground.

With donated materials and tools, and a woodworking workshop under their belts, the students are ready to bring these ideas to life. On Sunday, August 19th, the group will be assembling the installations and wrapping up the program with a celebratory picnic at the park. They hope that these temporary installations will inject more fun and playfulness into our city’s public spaces, and demonstrate their capability as young city builders.

The public, including dogs, are welcome to join the picnic at 1PM and witness the creativity and thoughtfulness of these students. The event is free and light refreshments will be provided.

1UPToronto Summer Pilot Project is organized by Urban Minds, a Toronto-based start-up with a mission to educate and empower youth in the city-building process. For more information, visit www.urbanminds.co.

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