



Outdoor Play Canada March 2023 Newsletter

OPC projects and activities encompass all traditional territories of the Indigenous Nations of Turtle Island, within the land we now call Canada.

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Renew your OPC membership to save on your Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit registration!

All Outdoor Play Canada memberships are up for renewal as of January 1st, 2023! Please consider renewing your membership!

New this year, your OPC membership provides you with a discount to the [Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit](#) commensurate with your membership level (e.g., \$100 OPC Champions Membership = \$100 discount to the Summit!)

You can renew your membership here: <https://www.outdoorplaycanada.ca/#join-us>

Learn about other membership perks in the [member's portal, here!](#)

Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit Registration and Abstract Submission is live!

The Breath of Fresh Air Outdoor Play Summit is a three-day Outdoor Play Summit where thought leaders, practitioners, researchers, and policy makers can connect and share best practices, in the outdoors. The theme for the 2023 summit is 'Research, policy, and practice – their intersections for the promotion of outdoor play'. The summit will feature inspiring talks, hands-on workshops, and open conversations on how research, policy, and practice may promote and shape the future of outdoor play in Canada and abroad. [Learn more here.](#)

[Registration is live!](#) Early bird rates end April 14th!

[Our call for abstracts is also live](#) and also expires April 14th! Come share your latest and greatest outdoor play projects/initiatives/big ideas with 200 like-minded outdoor play stakeholders!

Spring Outdoor Learning Virtual Series

Outdoor Play Canada is proud to support the [Outdoor Learning Store's](#) (free!) Spring Outdoor Learning Virtual Workshops!

There is something for every educator at these 60 min virtual workshops featuring a diversity of presenters and topics. In addition to ideas & inspiration, you'll walk away with a certificate of attendance, discounts on outdoor learning resources & entry for some great prizes!

Sign-up here: <https://outdoorlearningstore.com/workshops>

Unpacking children's desires and wishes in outdoor play on playgrounds

If you were to visit your local playground and ask several children what they like about it, you would likely hear a common response repeated over and over again: *"It's so much fun!"*.

To further unpack and understand what this fun experience means and how other experiences contribute to fun playgrounds, Thomas Morgenthaler and co-authors conducted a scoping review of play experiences of children with and without disabilities to gain an understanding of how social and physical environmental qualities enable meaningful outdoor play experiences in community playgrounds.

[Read the full blog post here.](#)

Looking for Ananda

Young children's interactions with local spaces and features are often surprising – and entertaining – to adult observers. Whether it is in a three-year-old's serious conversation with a small stick; a six-year-olds' construction of forts under spindly trees between apartment buildings or in novel gymnastics moves executed on walkway railings; divergent and fresh perspectives are continually seen in the interactions between young children and their environments.

To investigate the influence of neighborhood environments on children's outdoor free play, Emily Gemmell and her co-authors conducted a systematic review of evidence across diverse urban contexts, cultures, and geographies.

[Read the full blog post here.](#)

Scoping Review of Adult-Oriented Outdoor Play Publications in Canada

A sibling paper to the [Scoping Review of Children's and Youth's Outdoor Play Publications in Canada](#), this scoping review sought to answer the question: 'how, and in what context, is adult-oriented outdoor play being studied in Canada?'. This project led Outdoor Play Canada's Dr. Louise de Lannoy and her co-authors down an exploratory rabbit hole of 'what counts' as outdoor play for adults, what areas are most studied, and where there are still gaps in evidence.

Among the most exciting things to come out of this project was the development of an online tool to help facilitate outdoor play researchers, advocates, policy makers, and practitioners looking to advance the Outdoor Play State of the Sector priorities using the most up-to-date evidence from Canada.

[Read the full blog post here.](#)

Outdoor Learning Resource Hub

Outdoor Play Canada is proud to support Take Me Outside's Outdoor Learning Resource Hub, a living document and comprehensive guide that highlights outdoor learning organizations throughout the country. Regardless of your experience or expertise in outdoor learning, you can explore this directory to learn more about what each of these featured organizations are up to, and how they contribute to extending learning beyond the four walls of a classroom.

Check out the Outdoor Learning Resource Hub here: <https://takemeoutside.ca/resource-hub/>.

Roots and Shoots

Roots & Shoots is an initiative by the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) – Canada that supports youth to take action on local sustainability issues in their community through a 4-step program: 1) Get Inspired, 2) Map Your Community, 3) Take Action, and 4) Celebrate Your Impact!

Roots & Shoots teaches young people how to design projects that tackle the intersection of biodiversity loss (animals), environmental inequity (people), and climate change (the environment). By signing up you get access to their online guide and available support from JGI Canada staff. Oh, it's also free!

Learn more about the program [here!](#)

Call for content on outdoor play among adults and older adults

Outdoor Play Canada's mission is to bring together outdoor play advocates, practitioners, researchers, and partner organizations to promote, protect, preserve access to play in nature and the outdoors for *all people* living in Canada, not just kids! While we have a wealth of resources and new stories on children and youth's outdoor play, we aim to support outdoor play for adults too! If you or a colleague have content related to outdoor play for grown-up kids, [share it with us](#) so we can add it to our next issue!

We welcome blog posts and summaries of relevant research studies for publication on the [OPC website](#). If you have any items that you think would be of interest to fellow OPC members, please contact info@outdoorplaycanada.ca. We respect the amount of unnecessary emails you receive so the plan is for a maximum of one OPC newsletter every other month. Your feedback and comments are always welcome.