

Bike Walk Wichita



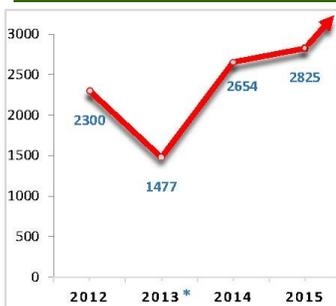
2015 Review / 2016 Snapshot

What an amazing year

2015 Bike/Pedestrian Count results show:

- A 23% increase in people who ride bike and walk from 2012 to 2015!
- 35 count locations are spread across Wichita and the County as outlined by national standards.
- Volunteers count people at each location twice during the week.
- Without volunteers like you, this data would not be captured as a resource for everyone to use!

The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization oversees the annual count.



*The number of people walking and riding a bicycle by year. *Less count locations, volunteers, and weather contributed to the low counts in 2013.*

2015 has been an amazing year of progress filled with fun events, new programs, diversified outreach, and major infrastructure improvements that are transforming and connecting our city and region! The **23%** increase in the number of people biking and walking confirms that more people are out riding and walking locally. This is not news to any of us who are out using our paths and bike lanes.

It is quite exciting and fulfilling to be a part of our local movement. An energetic, growing movement supported by a variety of people, community partners, businesses, and local decision makers all engaging in their own unique ways. This wide web of partners are charging forward and creating the momentum we see and feel every day. 2016 is sure to be filled with more exciting changes and improvements!

There have been a few large bumps in the road this year, which is why your voice and engagement is crucial in 2016. Sedgwick County Commissioners chose to cut their portion of funds that support the work of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department. A loss of \$150,000 that supports many projects, including the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plans (which included input from more than 4,000 residents).

A great way to improve your outdoor biking and walking adventures is to get involved in the movement in whatever you desire. Research shows that the more people out biking and walking increases safety and builds community, making it better for everyone.

So, grab a friend and join us around town in 2016. The calendar of events and activities are filling up with a wide array of activities!

**For a full list of 2015 events, initiatives, and ways to get involved, check out our website.*

Message from the President

I recently listened to a TedTalk on the many benefits of charity and volunteering. How individuals can gain physical, mental and spiritual benefits from simple acts of kindness and getting involved in community efforts. A moving presentation that reiterated what I've learned from my personal adventures in volunteering locally.

Your involvement can make a huge difference or at the very least help us make one more step forward in the bike/ped movement. BWW is 100% volunteer led & driven. There are opportunities for all levels and types of involvement, from literally getting your hands dirty with our ReCycle program, assisting with Bike Valet Parking at community events that encourages riding in a fun, useful way, to shaping events and workshops with your ideas. Your skills and time are crucial to making Wichita a safer and more fun place to live, work and play!

Happy trails in 2016! Kim Neufeld



2015 Events, Initiatives & Movement

Being a truly grassroots, 100% volunteer led and driven organization brings many benefits and a few challenges for Bike Walk Wichita. The benefits from having our volunteers, friends, and community members provide their ideas, energy and excitement on every project has proven a winning strategy (even though it may seem messy at times). The diverse backgrounds of our friends helps generate new and innovative ideas, several which you will read about below.



Thank you to all of our volunteers, friends, and partners who continue to transform our community and introduce the joys of biking and walking to residents every day. Your commitment, passion, and energy are contagious!

Extra special thanks to all of volunteers who helped repair dozens of children's bikes that were delivered just in time for the Toys for Tots event; a great way to end the year!

Bike Outreach in 2015

"Providing bikes to girls allows them freedom to travel wherever they need to go without having to exchange favors or needing assistance from a stranger. Learning how to maintain the bike empowers and teaches them new skills."

When Alan Kailer retired back to Wichita, he knew he wanted to be involved in something meaningful. By helping to repair bikes for the homeless and others in need, he was able share his passion as well as provide a vital service. He's at United Methodist Urban Ministries most Wednesdays, along with a growing group of volunteers and people with bikes to be repaired.

Geoff Kisch had been volunteering with Bike Walk Wichita for a while when he heard about the OZ (Opportunity Zone) Program of the

Wichita Children's Home, which provides services for at risk youth. One of their programs matches homeless teens with bikes for needed transportation, as well as teaches them how to maintain them and ride safely.

Wichita police Officer Nate Schweithale leads HOT (Homeless Outreach Team) and was looking for a way to provide bicycles as transportation to the people they work with. We now partner with HOT by repairing and donating bikes that have been given to us.

Building Community



It seems as though we are nearing the tipping point for truly transforming our city into a more bicycle and pedestrian friendly community. The local people-powered movement is filled with the most interesting characters and fun people that you will ever encounter!

Meeting, volunteering, and

playing with new friends enriches your life and provides plenty of walking and riding buddies! These connections have many positive benefits.

We strive to make our events and programs fun because we understand the importance of building a sense of community among the movement.

If you are looking for a good time and to meet new people that share the love of outdoor spaces, join us at one of our many events or meetings.

Advocacy Alerts & Updates

One pillar of our mission is to be advocates for people who bike and walk. More than that, we urge our supporters to be advocates themselves. To this end, we send carefully crafted Advocacy Alerts through the year to keep you informed to act. These emails detail the issue at hand and show how people can get directly provide their own input. Often, these are calls to show up at a public meeting or to contact elected representatives. We provide email addresses and phone



numbers, meeting locations, date and times, to help you get your voice heard in the most effective manner. We've had an effect - attendance at public meetings has greatly increased and many representatives have

told us they know when we've sent word out as they've heard loud and clear from constituents!

You can sign up for all of our emails or just the Advocacy Alerts. These are important, and we urge you to act on them as soon as you receive an Advocacy Alert. There will be several issues coming up in 2016 that will need your voice.

Wichita and all of the surrounding cities are making their outdoor spaces and streets more efficient, safer and more user friendly for all by making bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

2015 projects were completed or are in progress throughout our region:

- Wichita**
- Andover/Augusta**
- Derby**
- Newton/Valley Center**
- Sedgwick County**

Local government organizations and partners are also completing several Rails to Trails projects and improvements to expand regional connections!

Educational Opportunities



Wichita now has 11 League Cycling Instructors that have been certified by the League of American Bicyclists! Bike Walk Wichita partnered with several organizations and bike shops to host bike safety classes during 2015. Classes included information on riding in traffic safely, several crash avoidance techniques, and rules of the road. Most classes also included riding time to practice riding safely with traffic.

Additionally, BWW volunteers use every event and outreach opportunity to provide tips and educational resources. There are classes for all level of skills and types of riding. If you are looking for videos and information, check out our website for the latest resources. All classes are posted on our calendar and on Facebook.

Community Collaborations

None of the success and progress we are witnessing locally would be possible without all of the amazing community partners and businesses that continue to help plan and implement events and projects.

Two month-long campaigns

filled with events, activities and media promotion continue to be supported by a collaborative planning team of individuals and partners.

If you are interested in helping plan or have ideas for Bike Month or Walktober, please let us know! These campaigns



help us build awareness and inform the community. Planning meetings and info can be found on the Bike Walk Wichita website and Facebook.



2016 Strategic Plan

On Thursday, November 19, 2015, Dr. Greg Meissen and Eric Richardson, Ph.D. candidate, from Wichita State University's Community Psychology program facilitated BWW's 2016 strategic planning process.



30 individuals representing a wide array of interests attended the session and provided ideas and input. All of the current activities and new ideas have been compiled into a draft 2016 Strategic Plan for review and edits by the various workgroups, community partners, and general public.

Many of the projects and initiatives listed in the document depend on collaborations with various partners, therefore this document will be shared publicly to better engage new and unusual partners and increase outcomes.

BWW is 100% volunteer planned, led, driven and evaluated. Thank you all of the amazing experts and community partners that keep our standards high!

Educational Opportunities

Upcoming Classes and Events:

- **Biking for Fitness**
- **Ready to Roll? Bike Maintenance 101**
- **Learn to Commute**
- **Bike Backpacking**

The 2016 calendar is going to be filled with a variety of fun, educational workshops, rides, and events. Our volunteers and League Cycling Instructors are making plans to host classes to fit your needs. We asked what you wanted and numerous requests and ideas flowed in.

Are you interested in learning how to commute? Want to

practice some crash avoidance skills that will help all levels of riders prevent or reduce the impact of falls? We are always looking for class ideas!

Plans are also underway to host a series of rides and workshops on bike backpacking that will culminate with a self-supported camping trip outside of town this year.

Volunteers will also continue to provide safety activities and resources geared towards children and families.

All events are promoted in our e-newsletters, on our website calendar, and on Facebook. Videos, tips, and resources are updated frequently on the Bike Walk Wichita website.

WomenBikeICT



The ladies of Bike Walk Wichita will continue to uphold their reputation for hosting fun, creative events and workshops for local women and girls!

Mark your calendar for the 3rd annual Bike Beautiful fashion show, which will be held on March 31, 2016. Additional plans include events on biking for fitness, exploring bike camping, outfitting your bike on any budget, and

so much more! We are also excited to partner with the Girl Scouts this year to develop a bike program that can be replicated by troops throughout the area.

Join our conversation and find out about meetings and events on the new Facebook Group for women only.

Facebook/women bike ict

Pedestrian Efforts

It is exciting to see the number of local pedestrians increasing so dramatically! They are out pacing the bike growth by leaps and bounds. Many young professionals, families, and seniors are realizing that Wichita has many pedestrian friendly areas and paths that are great for recreation and running simple errands.

While we understand the close connection between biking and walking (most of us have to get

off the bike at some point—just joking); they are two very different activities that need to support all people, including those using mobility assistance.

2016 Goals include:

- Promoting walking as a great form of recreation, exercise, and transportation
- Plan and host walking-related events for a variety of people
- Provide support and guidance for Walktober

Efforts will continue to focus on children; as we partner with the SafeKids Coalition, USD 259, and others to provide educational activities and fun events at more than 40 local schools several times throughout each school year.

Check out the Bike Walk Wichita calendar online or on Facebook for meeting and event details.

64%
of the individuals counted during the 2015 Annual Bicycle and Pedestrian Count were pedestrians!

WALKTOBER

ReCycle: Bike Repair & Outreach

Bikes destined for the dump or collecting dust in garages are being brought back to life and given away to those in need. Donated bicycles are repaired by volunteers or stripped for parts to supply our outreach efforts. In return, several people who received bikes have become regular volunteers and are helping shape our efforts!

The ReCycle workgroup will be building our newest program and hosting bike repair days regularly. More bikes in use + less trash + more happy people = win, win, win!

Our ReCycle program accepts bikes in any condition, bike parts and cash to provide reliable transportation to people who need a bike.



Imagine a community bike program where you can learn how to maintain a bike while helping repair bikes for those in need! A friendly space with all the tools and resources available. That's our vision for ReCycle Wichita - we're not there yet, but are taking steps to move in that direction.

Right now you can volunteer to work on bikes and donate bikes or parts to be given to people who need a bike. The rest will come over time, we're building the community that will be needed to make the larger vision sustainable. We want to ensure this program is well supported and built to

meet the diverse needs of our community.

Interested in helping build and shape this program? Stop in during bike repair days at our BWW headquarters or contact us anytime!



Connect with us on:



Bike Walk Wichita

131 S. Laura

Wichita, KS 67211

Phone: 316-530-2990

Email: info@bikewalkwichita.org

Visit our website for events, updates and resources

BikeWalkWichita.org

Stay up to date by signing up for our e-newsletter on our website!



Bike Walk Wichita meetings are open to everyone! Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month from 5:30pm to 7:00pm at our Bike Walk Wichita headquarters.

Monthly meetings are a great way to find out the latest news, discuss ongoing projects, and develop new ideas. Please join us, we have new guests every meeting and always welcome new input and ideas!

Visit our new space located near Douglas and Washington!

Join us for our *Celebrate 131* open house on January 31st!



Support the Movement

There are many ways to get involved. One is to simply bike and walk more, and let people know about Bike Walk Wichita or some part of the movement that will peak their interests. "You walk, you bike, you live in Wichita, you're already one of us!"

Another effective but easy way to help is to sign up for rewards programs. Simply go online and designate BWV. Dillon's will automatically donate a percentage of your purchases...and it doesn't affect your fuel points! Please take a few minutes to direct these donations towards the local movement.

www.dillons.com/communityrewards

Amazon Smile also allows their customers to designate a non-profit of their choice.

<http://smile.amazon.com/about>

These two simple ways help generate funds that support the local bike/pedestrian movement.

If you want to help directly, either donate online

<http://bikewalkwichita.org/donate>

or sign up to volunteer at

<http://bikewalkwichita.org/volunteer>.

Volunteer opportunities such as bike valet, movies, Bike Beautiful come up through the year, and our ReCycle bike repair is most every Saturday and Thursday - check the volunteer page or calendar for dates and times.

However you help, getting involved will make Wichita and the region a safer and better place to walk, ride and play for everyone!

