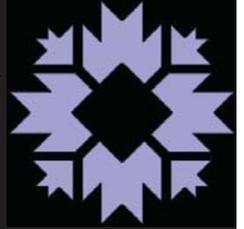




The Planning Post

The Newsletter of the City of Bloomington Planning Department



City of Bloomington Planning Department

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Switchyard Park Master Plan

Two conceptual plans have been revealed for the future 28-acre Switchyard Park along the B-Line Trail between W. Grimes Lane and W. Country Club Dr. Both plans include many of the same uses but in different arrangements. Proposed uses may include an event area, a dog park, community gardens, a skate park, a water play feature, picnic shelters, space for food vendors, automobile parking, and bocce, pickleball, and basketball courts. The plans also showed potential bicycle and pedestrian access points to the park from the east and west.

The two plans will be evaluated and merged into one master plan, which will represent the best ideas from each concept. The consultants will also estimate costs, identify funding sources, and provide a phasing plan for the park. The final master plan is expected to be presented to the Parks Board in September. For further information about the plan, visit <http://switchyardpark.org>



Bike Month 2012:

Bigger and Better than Ever

Bike Month is an annual national celebration of bicycling organized by the League of American Bicyclists each May. This year, following City Council approval of the Platinum Biking Task Force report, "Breaking Away: Journey to Platinum", staff saw an opportunity to implement two of the recommendations of the report during Bike Month. The first was the recommendation to hold an annual Platinum Bike Summit to evaluate efforts towards becoming a Platinum Bicycle Friendly Community (see story on page 2). The second recommendation was to increase the number of events and the number of people participating in Bikes Week. Several new events were added this year including Art by Bike, Wapehani Trail Building Night, and a Market to Bloomington Area Birth Services (BABS) Fun Ride.

One important component of Bikes Week is teaching children and adults about bicycling and bicycling safety. Over 150 children participated in Bicycle Rodeos, free events designed to entertain and educate children on bicycling safety and the importance of wearing bike helmets. Twenty children were taught how to ride bikes during Learn to Ride classes. Additionally, a Bike Commuter 101 class was held to teach adults pointers for biking around town for transportation as well as tips and tricks to make bike riding safer and more fun. Topics covered included everything from route selection to riding in various types of weather.

Several other fun bike rides and events were held during the week. The Women's Bike Ride was a short ride to get more women out and comfortable riding on city streets. The Art by Bike ride combined bicycling and a tour of local art installations. Participants in the Wapehani Trail Building Night learned how mountain biking trails are built using sustainable methods and worked on about 100 feet of trail. Lastly, the Market to BABS Ride

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Over 100 Submissions Received for First Annual Eco-Hero Awards



In April, the City's Environmental Commission conducted the first ever Annual Eco-Hero Award Contest to spread the word about and to honor the great things youth do for the environment. The goal of the competition was not only to encourage

youth to build positive lifelong behaviors, but also to remind adults of the importance of thinking long-term for the environment and future generations. Participants included students from grades kindergarten through twelve, who submitted essays and art with the theme, "What I Do for the Environment." Submissions ranged from paintings and songs to sculptures and essays. The Environmental Commission was excited to receive over 100 submissions for the inaugural year of the contest.

Submissions highlighted the wide variety of activities youth do for the environment, including organizing an ecology club, greening the prom, making their own clothes from second-hand clothing, using water saving shower heads, growing watermelons, building animal shelters, picking up litter, and recycling. Both the art and winning essays were displayed in the Atrium of City Hall throughout the month of April.

An awards ceremony was held on April 18 at City Hall. Winners received a certificate of recognition from Mayor Mark Kruzan, and Environmental Commission Chair Carrie Albright handed out prizes from locally owned businesses that support the environment. Sponsors for the event included: the City of Bloomington Environmental Commission, Bikesmiths, Bloomingfoods, Chocolate Moose, Cynthia Moriarty Catering, Eco Logic, Game Preserve, Global Gifts, Hoosier Heights, IU Auditorium, Kid Kazooey, Laughing Planet, Mother Bear's Pizza, Plato's Closet, Scholar's Inn Bakehouse, Soma Coffeehouse and Juicebar, Taylors' Par 3 Golf Course, TIS Bookstore, Twisted Limb Paperwork, Upland Brewery, WonderLab, World Wide Auto, the Office of the Mayor, and the Planning Department.

The Environmental Commission is looking forward to organizing the Eco-Hero Award Contest again next year.



Mayor Mark Kruzan presents an Eco-Hero certificate to a student

Second Annual Platinum Bike Summit

On May 10, Deputy Mayor Maria Heslin welcomed the Bloomington bicycling community to the second annual Platinum Bike Summit. The goal of the summit was to evaluate efforts towards becoming a Platinum Bicycle Friendly Community, share experiences, and bridge gaps between various community and City initiatives. First, four concurrent breakout sessions were held: Shifting Gears - The Making of Bikes Week 2013; A Vehicle for Change - Bicycling and Community Empowerment; Town & Gown Synergy - A Bicycle Friendly IU; and Gateway Trail System - A Vision for Mountain Biking in Bloomington.



Each breakout session brought together various community groups working on bike issues. After the breakout sessions, Jeff Olson, principal of Alta Planning and Design, gave a keynote presentation that provided context from other Bicycle Friendly Communities and what they are doing to become more bicycle friendly. Finally, the City's "Bikeways Implementation Plan" for 24 on-street bicycle facilities, including 2 neighborhood greenways, was unveiled.

Construction Buzz

South Highland Avenue is “abuzz” with construction activity this summer. Options for Better Living’s project at 1825 S. Highland, which features two new duplexes and one group home, was highlighted in Construction Buzz last issue. Here are two additional projects currently being built along Highland Avenue.

1 1835 S. Highland Bloomington Montessori School

Bloomington Montessori School is constructing a 5,900 square-foot building for new classrooms. The building will allow up to 7 new teachers and approximately 63 new students.



Bloomington Montessori School's future classroom building

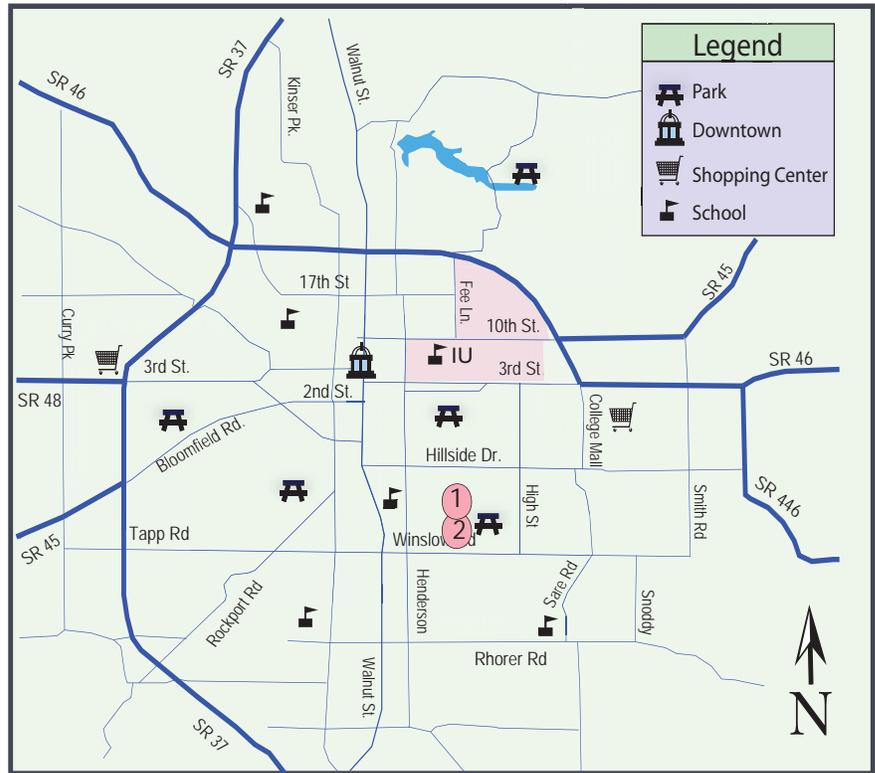
2 1917 S. Highland Monroe County YMCA

The Monroe County YMCA has begun building a 7,475 square-foot new recreation facility to house their gymnastics program.



YMCA's future gymnastics building

Construction Buzz Location Map



Bike Month (continued)

demonstrated how riding bikes can be fun for the whole family. The ride began at the Farmers’ Market Plaza and traveled the B-Line Trail to Bloomington Area Birth Services (BABS), where participants learned tips for riding with small children.

The Friday of Bikes Week was National Bike to Work Day. Over 150 bicyclists registered with the Parks and Recreation Department to win prizes for biking to work on Bike to Work Day. Bloomington Bagel Company offered a free bagel and drink to bicycle commuters. Additionally, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Commission organized a free breakfast station in the new Allen Street Neighborhood Greenway refuge island. The Commission wanted to highlight this newly created space for pedestrians and bicyclists within Walnut Street on Bike to Work Day. The refuge helps ensure the safe crossing of Walnut Street by bicyclists and pedestrians on the Allen Street Neighborhood Greenway.

To end the day, Bloomingsfoods organized a Bike Anywhere Day Celebration at its Near West Side store. Over 100 people attended the event which also included sponsors and vendors from Bicycle Indiana, Bikesmiths, Revolution Bike and Bean, J.L. Waters, Upland Brewery, Bicycle Garage, The Chocolate Moose, and the Planning Department. Bloomingsfoods offered a variety of food while Councilmember Andy Ruff’s band, the Dew Daddies, provided live music. The event was a great way to celebrate bicycling and encourage people to bike – anywhere.

