



Safe Routes to School Library

Introduction

The Safe Routes to School library includes books donated to the school as part of the Safe Routes to School Curriculum, along with a collection of books available to borrow. This ensures that core titles can be reused each year as the curriculum continues, and lets schools across the City share the same books rather than each classroom purchasing copies they may only use once.

Contact Us

Safe Routes to School is an initiative through the City of Bloomington Planning and Transportation Department.

You can email the department at planning@bloomington.in.gov or call at 812-349-3423.

To stay informed about the City's planning work, visit the City's website at Bloomington.in.gov/planning



Curriculum Books (Donated)

The following books can be requested and will be donated to the school for the safe routes curriculum.

Grades K-2 Books

- ***Bobby and Mande's Street Smarts*** by Robert Kahn (*Lesson 1: Safe Crossing Basics*)
Children are at an increased risk for pedestrian injury and death. This is because the traffic rules and risks often are beyond their thinking, developmental, behavioral, physical, and sensory abilities. In addition, parents and caregivers often overestimate their child's traffic skills. Bobby and Mande's Be a Safe Pedestrian is an excellent resource to help kids easily learn the basics of pedestrian safety
- ***Tanya Takes the School Bus*** by Martha E. H. Rustad (*Lesson 2: Safe Passengers*)
The Susie & Sam series is a charming collection of illustrated stories about the new events and first experiences that most young children will encounter in everyday life. In Susie & Sam Learn About Road Safety the twins go with mum to the shop and on the way mum teaches them the principles of road safety. The story is presented in a helpful, positive and reassuring way with bright, fun pictures.
- ***The Car That Wanted to be a Bike*** by Lior Steinberg (*Lesson 3: Bike Safety*)
This book follows a car named Johnny who dreams of becoming a bicycle as his family's lifestyle shifts towards cycling, exploring themes of urban mobility, sustainability, and finding new purpose.
- ***Maisy Drives the Bus*** by Lucy Cousins (*Lesson 4: Bus Skills*)
A simple, cheerful picture book following Maisy as she picks up passengers and drops them at their destinations.
- ***Lucy in the City*** by Julie Dillemath (*Lesson 5: Speed, Health, and Safety*)
One night, Lucy the raccoon follows her family out of their den, headed for the best garbage bins in town. Distracted by a jar of peanut butter, she gets separated from her family. How will she ever find her way back to her family and her cozy den? Reading this book with your children will help them develop their own spatial thinking skills—how we think about and understand the world around us and use concepts of space for problem solving.



Grades 3-4 Books

- **Walking in the City with Jane** by Susan Hughes (*Lesson 1: Safe Crossings and Signs*)
From the time she was a young girl, Jane Jacobs' curious mind made her a keen observer of everything around her. When she grew up, she moved to New York City, a place full of new wonders for her to explore. It was there she realized that, just like in nature, a city is an ecosystem. "It is made of different parts — sidewalks, parks, stores, neighborhoods, City Hall . . . and people, of course. When they all work together, the city is healthy." So, when city planner Robert Moses proposed creating highways through the city that would destroy neighborhoods and much of what made New York great, Jane decided she couldn't let it happen.
- **Parker the Planner** by Madeline Peck (*Lesson 2: Visibility and Being Seen*)
Planning a city is a big project, but Parker is up for the challenge. He has all kinds of ideas about how to create a place that will benefit everyone. Part of a STEAM career-themed picture book series, Parker the Planner shows kids they can help create change in their own communities. Like Parker, they can use their passion and ideas to make the world a better place. Perfect for encouraging critical and creative thinking! Spatial analysis and critical thinking skills in K-12 students better prepare them for success, especially in science, engineering, and mathematics.
- **Major Taylor: World Cycling Champion** by Charles R. Smith (*Lesson 3: Bike Safety*)
One hundred years ago, one of the most popular spectator sports was bicycle racing, and the man to beat was Marshall "Major" Taylor, who set records in his teens and won his first world championship by age twenty. The first African American world champion in cycling and the second Black athlete to win a world championship in any sport, Major Taylor faced down challenge after challenge, not least the grueling Six-Day Race, a test of speed, strength, and endurance. With energy, heart, and pounding verse, Charles R. Smith Jr. evokes the excitement of the crowd at Madison Square Garden as Major powered through exhaustion, hallucinations, and racist abuse from fellow riders, who tried to crash his bike throughout the competition.
- **City of Neighbors** by Andrea Curtis (*Lesson 4: Transit*)
Neighborhoods where people look out for each other, eat together, make art and build community are healthier, happier, greener and cleaner. Journey around the world to discover how people have been dreaming up new ways to ensure their cities and neighbourhoods are creative, inclusive and environmentally sustainable.
- **Our Green City** by Tanya Lloyd Kyi (*Lesson 5: Speed, Health, and Safety*)
In this green city, neighbors take care of all living things: people, plants and animals, too! Many people choose a bicycle, scooter or their own two feet to get where they need to go. A family collects the rain to water their garden, while solar panels capture the energy from the sun; pipes gather heat from underground, and a windmill turns to power the community. Residents keep hens and hives in their yards, and care for flower beds that feed bees, birds and butterflies. Here, people all work together to make the city green. Can we do the same where we live?



Grades 5-6 Books

- **City of Neighbors** by Andrea Curtis (*Lesson 4: Transit*)
Neighborhoods where people look out for each other, eat together, make art and build community are healthier, happier, greener and cleaner. Journey around the world to discover how people have been dreaming up new ways to ensure their cities and neighbourhoods are creative, inclusive and environmentally sustainable.
- **The Playground Problem** by Ryan Lanclos & Matt Artz (*Lesson 2: Visibility and Maps*)
Emma and David find a chain and padlock across the local playground entrance. Where can they play? With help from neighbor Kayla and her dog Blazer, Emma and David set out to find a new place to play. But how will they know where a good location is? Kayla shows them how they can use basic mapping, distance, direction, spatial pattern analysis, and overlay skills to find the perfect location. And just when they do, they encounter more obstacles—all of them have to work together quickly to solve their playground problem!
- **Bicycle Book** by Gail Gibbons (*Lesson 3: Bike Safety*)
A brief history of bicycles, as well as information on the different kinds there are, how they work, and the different ways they are used. A list of safety tips for bike riders is included, as well as guidelines for bike maintenance.
- **City Streets Are for People** by Andrea Curtis (*Lesson 5: Transit and Transportation Skills*)
Congested city streets are noisy and thick with cars and trucks, while pedestrians and cyclists are squeezed to the dangerous edges—but does it have to be this way? Imagine a city where we aren't stuck in cars, where clean air makes it easier to breathe, and where transit is easy to access—and on time. Imagine a city where streets are for people! This fun, accessible and ultimately hopeful book explores sustainable transportation around the globe, including electric vehicles, public transit, bicycles, walking and more.
- **The Sunshine Project** by Uma Krishnaswami (*Lesson 6: Speed and Safety*)
Anil loves karate, his friends and the solar power project he has been championing in his community. He doesn't love having to speak up — as his karate sensei says, best fight, no fight. Still, Anil wishes his classmate Mohan would stop picking on him. Then Anil learns where the city is planning to build a new solar panel factory. More sustainable energy is good news — but this factory will threaten plant and animal species and force the village people who live on the land to move. Maybe staying quiet isn't an option anymore...



Elementary Safe Routes Library (Borrowed)

The following books can be requested and borrowed from the Safe Routes library. If you identify another books that may be good for safe routes to school programming, email us to request it.

- ***This is the Way We Go to School*** by Edith Baer' (Pre-K-K)
Children from around the world all travel different ways to school
- ***Red Light, Green Light*** by Yumi Heo (Pre-K-K)
A lift-the-flap board book all about the signs you see on the road!
- ***Cycle City*** by Alison Farrell (Pre-K-1)
When little Etta the Elephant goes to her Aunt Ellen's house, she takes a journey through bicycle – filled Cycle City, a town filled with bikes of all kinds!
- ***What a Map Can Do*** by Gabrielle Balkan (Pre-K-1)
A raccoon narrator embarks on a big adventure in this exciting exploration of maps for the youngest readers. Traditional maps of cities, roads, and parks are joined by some less conventional ones such as inside the body, each one methodically introduced with humor and clear explanation
- ***The Bus Is For Us*** by Michael Rosen (Pre-K-1)
Small children take great delight in rides—whether by bicycle, car, boat, or plane. But best of all is taking the bus, because the bus is for everyone! Complemented by beautiful artwork from Gillian Tyler, this playful rhyming narrative by Michael Rosen will rev up little listeners to join right in.
- ***My City Speaks*** by Darren Lebeuf (Pre-K-2)
A young girl, who is visually impaired, finds much to celebrate as she explores the city she loves. A young girl and her father spend a day in the city, her city, traveling to the places they go together: the playground, the community garden, the market, an outdoor concert. As they do, the girl describes what she senses in delightfully precise, poetic detail. Her city, she says, “rushes and stops, and waits and goes.” It “pitters and patters, and drips and drains.” It “echoes” and “trills,” and is both “smelly” and “sweet.” Her city also speaks, as it “dings and dongs, and rattles and roars.” And sometimes, maybe even some of the best times, it just listens
- ***Franklin Rides a Bike*** by Paulette Bourgeois (Pre-K-2)
Franklin is determined to ride his bike without training wheels, and he can't understand why it seems so easy for his friends or why it's so hard for him.
- ***Tanya Takes the School Bus*** by Martha E. H. Rustad (Pre-K-2)
Photographs and simple text follow a girl on her bus ride to school as she demonstrates the safe way to wait for, board, ride, and leave the bus.
- ***Lucy in the City*** by Julie Dilleuth (K-2)
One night, Lucy the raccoon follows her family out of their den, headed for the best garbage bins in town. Distracted by a jar of peanut butter, she gets separated from her family. How will she ever find her way back to her family and her cozy den? Reading this book with your children will help them develop their own spatial thinking skills—how we think about and understand the world around us and use concepts of space for problem solving.
- ***A Park Connects Us*** by Sarah Nelson (K-2)
This picture book excursion through a city park invites readers to discover how shared



green spaces bring us together. Lyrical, upbeat text illuminates the abundant gifts the park offers. Vibrant mixed-media illustrations show a diverse group of visitors as they explore this communal space. Children frolic; couples wander; flowers bloom and birds zoom; friends and families picnic and play ball or simply sink their toes peacefully into the present moment. Meanwhile, rolling hills and green trees enfold visitors in nature's beauty. Encouraged by the sense of unity the park creates, the visitors come together for a joyful dance party and a march for peace and equality. Spread by spread, we see how urban parks are for everyone—whoever we are.

- ***Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña (K-2)**
On Sundays, CJ and his nana ride the bus across town to their stop on Market Street. But today, CJ's not happy about it. Today, he's wondering out loud why they have to wait in the rain and why they don't have a car like his other friends. But it's Nana who opens young CJ's eyes and shows him the real beauty in the world around them—the spirit of the bustling city, the music in everyday life, and the magic of their often overlooked neighbors.
- ***Around the World in 80 Ways: The Fabulous Inventions that get us From Here to There* by DK (K-2)**
Every mode of transport is part of a charming scene. See how astronauts travel around space, watch surfers ride the waves at the beach, and race to an emergency with the firefighters. Illustrator Katy Halford's beautiful drawings brings the scenes to life and fun complementary facts will prompt discussion and laughter between readers. How would you choose to travel? Donkey, pedalo, moon buggy?
- ***Going Up!* by Sherry J. Lee (K-2)**
Playfully combining the excitement and anticipation of a party with children's universal love of riding in elevators, Sherry J. Lee's picture book story is ultimately about community and a sense of belonging. With characters from many cultural backgrounds, it showcases the everyday diversity that many urban children experience.
- ***My Day With Gong Gong* by Sennah Yee (K-2)**
With lighthearted, expressive illustrations by Elaine Chen, this charming debut expertly captures life in the city and shows how small, shared moments of patience and care—and a dumpling or two—can help a child and grandparent bridge the generational and cultural gaps between them.
- ***Violet's Victory* by Valerie Goldstein (K-2)**
This book not only teaches children about adaptive equipment, it also exemplifies perseverance and the kindness involved in accommodating all our friends with different and special needs.
- ***The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats (K-2)**
Peter has lots of fun out in the city, exploring parks, meeting friends, whacking trees with sticks, chalking sidewalks and twirling around lampposts.
- ***Everyone Can Learn to Ride a Bicycle* by Christopher Raschka (K-2)**
A father teaches his daughter all about bicycle riding, from selecting the right bike to trying again after a fall.
- ***Bicycle Book* by Gail Bibbons (K-2)**
A brief history of bicycles, as well as information on the different kinds there are, how



they work, and the different ways they are used. A list of safety tips for bike riders is included, as well as guidelines for bike maintenance.

- ***Rosa's Bus: The Ride to Civil Rights*** by Jo S. Kittinger (K-2)
Rosa Parks' story of bravery is effectively told in simple text and illustration.
- ***¡Vámonos! Lets Go!*** By René Colato Laínez (K-2)
From their window on the bus, a girl and a boy see a fire truck that goes woo-ooo-ooo, also known as a camión de bomberos–uuuah uuuah uuuah. They see a train, an ambulance and an airplane too! With this rollicking adaptation of “The Wheels on the Bus,” young people can sing out the names of their favorite vehicles and the sounds they make – in both English and Spanish.
- ***Together We Ride*** by Valerie Bolling (K-2)
Celebrate father-daughter love and the achievement of a childhood rite of passage. With a little courage, a guiding hand from her dad, and an enthusiastic bark from her pup, one brave girl quickly learns the freedom that comes from an afternoon spent outside on a bike.
- ***I am the Subway*** by Kim Kyo-eun (K-2)
Travel to Seoul, Korea to meet and experience its extensive subway system. True to a subway ride, all kinds of riders get on and off.
- ***I Am La Chiva!: The Colorful Bus of the Andes Book*** by Karol Hernández (K-2)
This joyful and rhyming picture book written by a debut author and illustrated by the beloved creator of Nightlights and Hicotea, follows the iconic bus, or chiva, as it navigates the rugged Andes mountains, celebrating the rich culture and landscape of Colombia that was so beautifully showcased in Disney's Encanto.
- ***If You Were a City*** by Kyo Maclear (K-2)
Just like people, there are so many ways a city can be. And this lively picture book explores all of them. From quiet and dreamy to bright and buzzing, the magnificent diversity of our world is celebrated by connecting the uniqueness of its places with the people who live in them.
- ***Bud Finds Her Gift*** By Robin Wall Kimmerer (K-2)
Infused with warmth, humor, and insight, and beautifully illustrated by Naoko Stoop, the first picture book by renowned author and Indigenous ecologist Robin Wall Kimmerer inspires readers to treasure nature's generosity and the gifts each one of us can share with the Earth.
- ***Bunnies on the Bus*** by Philip Ardagh (K-2)
There are bunnies on the bus, and they're causing mayhem in Sunny Town! Watch as they whiz past the bus stop, fly by the swings, and zoom over the crosswalk
- ***Follow That Map!: A First Book of Mapping Skills*** by Scot Ritchie (K-2)
Maps are about far more than getting from a to b. Maps can help children understand and explore both their everyday environment and faraway places. With an appealing search-and-find technique, Follow That Map! is an interactive picture book that explains and demonstrates key mapping concepts. Kids will enjoy following Sally and her friends as they search for Max and Ollie, a mischievous dog and cat on the lam from the backyard. Sally and friends take an imaginative trip through the neighborhood, city and country, around the world and beyond.
- ***City Shapes*** by Diana Murray (K-2)
Hunt for shapes of all kinds on this journey through a bustling city, illustrated by four-



time Caldecott Honoree Bryan Collier! From shimmering skyscrapers to fluttering kites to twinkling stars high in the sky, everyday scenes become extraordinary as a young girl walks through her neighborhood noticing exciting new shapes at every turn. Far more than a simple concept book, *City Shapes* is an explosion of life. Diana Murray's richly crafted yet playful verse encourages readers to discover shapes in the most surprising places, and Bryan Collier's dynamic collages add even more layers to each scene in this ode to city living. Hunt for shapes of all kinds on this journey through a bustling city, illustrated by four-time Caldecott Honoree Bryan Collier! From shimmering skyscrapers to fluttering kites to twinkling stars high in the sky, everyday scenes become extraordinary as a young girl walks through her neighborhood noticing exciting new shapes at every turn.

- ***Out of the Way! Out of the Way!*** By Uma Krishnaswami (K-2)
A young boy spots a baby tree growing in the middle of a dusty path in his village. He carefully places rocks around it as the local mango seller rushes past shouting, "Out of the way! Out of the way!" As the tree grows bigger, people and animals traverse the path until it becomes a lane, flowing like a river around the tree— getting out of its way. Over time, the lane becomes a road, and a young man crossing the road with his children remembers the baby tree from long ago. By the time he is an old man, the tree has become a giant. The city traffic continues to rattle past, noisier and busier than ever, but sometimes the great
- ***I Am Ruby Bridges*** by Ruby Bridges (K-3)
Ruby Bridges tells her story as never before and shares the events of the momentous day in 1960 when Ruby became the first Black child to integrate the all-white William Franz Elementary as a six year old.
- ***Walking Trees*** by Marie-Louise Gay (K-3)
A girl receives a tree for her birthday and brings it with her on walks through her neighborhood, gradually transforming her street as neighbors begin joining in. What starts as one tree becomes a traveling forest that changes how a community experiences its city.
- ***Night Walk*** by Sara O'Leary (K-3)
A child who can't sleep goes on a late-night walk with her father and discovers the quiet, glowing life of her neighborhood after dark. From lit apartment windows to calm city parks, she sees how many different lives are unfolding all around her.
- ***Sometimes I Feel Like a River*** by Danielle Daniel (K-3)
A series of poetic reflections from children who identify with elements of nature such as rivers, mountains, clouds, and forests. Each poem highlights emotional and spiritual connections between children and the natural world.
- ***Ruby Bridges: A Talk with My Teacher*** by Ruby Bridges (K-3)
When Ruby Bridges was only six years old, she made history by being the first Black child to integrate William Frantz Elementary School. She became best friends with her teacher. A love letter to teachers who hold the power to change lives, *Ruby Bridges: A Talk with My Teacher* illuminates the lasting impact that the best of teachers can have on the lives of their students.
- ***Everything Is Connected*** by Jason Gruhl (K-3)
Playful illustrations and funny, rhyming text show readers all of the many ways we are



linked to every big, small, hairy, slimy, snuggly, scaly, floppy, flappy, bristly, buzzy, beautiful creature on Earth.

- ***Before I Lived Here*** by Stacy S. Jensen (K-3)
In *Before I Lived Here*, a boy peels away each layer of the history of the land his house sits on. Follow along from the construction of the neighborhood back to the planning of it; from the ranchers and log cabins that predated it, back to the region's Indigenous people and their eviction from the land... all the way back to the time of the dinosaurs.
- ***How Cities Work*** by James Gulliver Hancock (K-3)
Explains roads, utilities, transit, and buildings through detailed illustrations. Helps students understand cities as systems designed by people.
- ***Look Where We Live!: A First Book of Community Building*** by Scot Ritchie (K-2)
In this engaging nonfiction picture book, five young friends — Nick, Yulee, Pedro, Sally and Martin — spend the day traveling around their neighborhood and participating in activities designed to raise money for their local library. Along the way, they learn about the people and places that make up their community and what it means to be a part of one. A map opens the story, with each of the places the children will be visiting labeled, including the gas station, retirement home, school, police station, soccer field, community garden and, of course, the library! Then each of the following spreads features a different location, detailed in a bright, busy illustration. Illustration captions expand the locations' connections to the concept of community. For example, when they stop at a yard sale, the caption reads, "Donating means you give something to help a good cause. You can donate money, things or your time." In some cases, readers are asked to find things or people within the illustrations, which adds an interactive experience.
- ***Miss Fox's Class Goes Green*** by Eileen Spinelli (K-2)
When Miss Fox shows up at school riding her bicycle, Mouse asks, "Do you have a flat tire?" "No," Miss Fox tells her students. "I am going green!" Soon everyone in the class is working to keep the earth healthy. Mouse takes shorter showers (and does her singing after!); Bunny brings a cloth bag to the supermarket; and Possum turns the lights off when he goes out. And Miss Fox's simple act has ripples even beyond her own students...soon the whole school starts riding their bikes—including the principal.
- ***Same, Same But Different*** by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw (K-2)
Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same. But different!
- ***Where To?: A Trip Around the Neighborhood*** by Magda Gargulakova (1-4)
Follows eight friends exploring urban life, featuring, places like the library, post office, and museum, while teaching about community helpers and fostering independence
- ***The Busiest Street in Town*** by Mara Rockliff (2-3)
Rushmore Boulevard is the busiest street in town—until Agatha May Walker decides to do something about it.
- ***My Footprints*** by Bao Phi (2-3)
Every child feels different in some way, but Thuy feels "double different." She is Vietnamese American and she has two moms. Thuy walks home one winter



afternoon, angry and lonely after a bully's taunts. Then a bird catches her attention and sets Thuy on an imaginary exploration.

- **Loop de Loop: Circular Solutions for a Waste-Free World** by Andrea Curtis (2-3)
Explore the ways that people everywhere are creating a loopier world: from growing building materials out of fungi to designing headphones (and cellphones!) that last, to producing vehicles that run on renewable energy. Plus, kids and families have a role to play, too. Loop de Loop introduces young readers to repair cafés, toy rentals, tool libraries and many more fun, innovative ways to build community and a more sustainable world.
- **Angel in Beijing** by Belle Yang (2-3)
Yang (Forget Sorrow) follows her young narrator as she cycles through Beijing looking for her cat, Kitty, who has been carried aloft on the tail of a Dragon Kite.
- **Walking in the City with Jane** by Susan Hughes (2-3)
A fictionalized biography of urban thinker Jane Jacobs, introducing her ideas about cities designed for people and the importance of community-centered urban life.
- **The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever** by H. Joseph Hopkins (2-4)
Katherine Olivia Sessions never thought she'd live in a place without trees. After all, Kate grew up among the towering pines and redwoods of Northern California. But after becoming the first woman to graduate from the University of California with a degree in science, she took a job as a teacher far south in the dry desert town of San Diego. Where there were almost no trees.
- **Camilla, Cartographer** by Julie Dillemut (K-3)
Wild boar Camilla loves maps. Old ones, new ones, she loves them all! She often imagines what it must have been like to explore and discover a new path for the first time. One morning, Camilla wakes up to a huge snow storm. Her porcupine neighbor Parsley can't find the path to the creek. But Camilla has her old map—which inspires her to make her own path and her own map!
- **Secret Gardeners: Growing a Community and Healing the Earth** by Lina Laurent (3-5)
When three children discover an overgrown city lot, they transform it into a thriving community garden with the help of a knowledgeable neighbor. As the space becomes full of plants, food, and shared care, the group faces a threat when the land is slated to become a parking lot, pushing them to rally their community to protect what they've built.
- **Small in the City** by Sydney Smith (K-2)
A small child navigates the overwhelming scale of a big city, noticing both its intimidating features and its quiet moments of kindness and safety. Through gentle guidance and observation, the child learns how to move through and understand the urban world.
- **Lindsey the GIS Professional** by Tyler Danielson (K-3)
Introduces geographic information systems (GIS) through a real-world career lens, showing how mapping and spatial data are used to understand and solve problems.
- **Sam the Landscape Architect** by Shannon Gapp (K-3)
Explains the role of landscape architects in designing parks and outdoor environments, combining creativity, planning, and environmental awareness.



- **Will the Civil Engineer** by Chadd Kahlsdorf (K-3)
Introduces civil engineering careers and shows how infrastructure like roads, bridges, and public works are designed and built.
- **Martin and the River** by Jon-Erik Lappano (3-5)
After moving from the countryside to the city, Martin struggles to leave behind his beloved river. Over time, he discovers a small stream in his new neighborhood and learns that his connection to nature can continue even in an urban environment.
- **Tokyo Digs a Garden** by Jon-Erik Lappano (3-5)
In a dense city surrounded by concrete and skyscrapers, a boy receives magical seeds that grow into an enormous forest. As nature overtakes the urban environment, the story explores whether this transformation is a disruption or a return to balance.
- **Through My Eyes** by Ruby Bridges (3-5)
Ruby Bridges recounts her experience as a six-year-old integrating an all-white school in New Orleans in 1960, offering a firsthand perspective on school desegregation and civil rights history.
- **A Forest in the City** by Andrea Curtis (3-5)
Examines how nature exists within urban environments and how green spaces, trees, and wildlife can thrive in cities.
- **City of Neighbors** by Andrea Curtis (3-5)
Focuses on community life in cities, showing how neighbors, shared spaces, and civic connection shape urban experiences.
- **The Sustainable School: A Journey through Time and Energy** by Erica Fyvie (3-5)
When students discover a time capsule from 1900 buried at their school, they explore how buildings and infrastructure have changed over time in areas like electricity, plumbing, construction, and transportation. The discoveries inspire predictions about future sustainability and energy use.
- **Major Taylor: World Cycling Champion** by Lesa Cline-Ransome (3-5)
Biography of pioneering Black cyclist Major Taylor, who overcame racism and discrimination to become a world champion, highlighting themes of perseverance, transportation history, and equity in public life.
- **Crunch** by Leslie Connor (4-6)
When a fuel shortage leaves families without gas, siblings must take over their bicycle repair shop, turning bicycles into essential transportation for their community.
- **The Story and Science of Hope** by Andrea Curtis (4-5)
Blends science, history, and storytelling to explore how hope functions as a psychological and social force that supports resilience and well-being.
- **Ruby Bridges and the Desegregation of American Schools** by Tom Head and Duchess Harris (4-5)
Explains Ruby Bridges' role in school integration and the broader civil rights movement, connecting her experience to the history of desegregation in the United States.
- **This Is Your Time** by Ruby Bridges (5-6)
Written as a letter from Ruby Bridges reflecting on her experience integrating schools, this book encourages readers to consider their role in creating social change.



- **Young Fu of the Upper Yangtze** by Elizabeth Foreman Lewis (5–6)
A young boy moves from a rural village to a bustling Chinese city in the 1920s, learning to navigate urban life, friendship, and change while adapting to a new environment.



Middle School Books

Because middle students primarily select and read books they check out independently, the City of Bloomington can make the following books available for middle and high school libraries to add to their permanent collections. Libraries should feature these materials during safe routes events, improving access to these materials when they are most relevant.

- ***Ghost*** by Jason Reynolds
A boy discovers running as an outlet while navigating a challenging neighborhood environment. Highlights how surroundings and safe spaces affect youth behavior and opportunity.
- ***Front Desk*** by Kelly Yang
A girl living in a motel helps her immigrant family while dealing with distance, transportation, and access challenges. Illustrates how mobility shapes opportunity and daily life.
- ***Through My Eyes*** by Ruby Bridges
In November 1960, all of America watched as a tiny six-year-old black girl, surrounded by federal marshals, walked through a mob of screaming segregationists and into her school. An icon of the civil rights movement, Ruby Bridges chronicles each dramatic step of this pivotal event in history through her own words.
- ***Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer
As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer is trained to use the tools of science to ask questions of nature. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces plants and animals as our oldest teachers. Drawing from her experiences as an Indigenous scientist, Kimmerer demonstrated how when we listen to the languages of other beings—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—we are capable of understanding the generosity of the earth and learn to give our own gifts in return in her best-selling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*.
- ***Undercover BMX*** by Jake Maddox
Devon Rosario has played basketball his whole life, and he's great at it, so great, in fact, that his dad, team, and community in the Bronx can't imagine him doing anything else. And while Devon loves his team, he's not so happy with the rigid structure his success in the sport and his father's expectations has created. So when he sees Jamal, a Yemeni refugee and new kid at school, doing BMX tricks on his bike one day he's intrigued.
- ***The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*** by Christina Uss
Introverted Bicycle has lived most of her life at the Mostly Silent Monastery in Washington, D.C. When her guardian, Sister Wanda, announces that Bicycle is going to attend a camp where she will learn to make friends, Bicycle says no way and sets off on her bike for San Francisco to meet her idol, a famous cyclist, certain he will be her first true friend.



- ***A Few Bicycles More*** by Christina Uss
A Few Bicycles More is the exciting sequel to Christina Uss's *Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*. Bicycle has been back from her cross-country adventure with her robot-like bike, named Fortune, for just a month when it starts malfunctioning, insisting that they pedal away from their home in Washington D.C. to Harpers Ferry in West Virginia. Once there, they discover a scrapyard where bicycles are being crushed and recycled—and it appears they are too late to save them.
- ***The Bicycle Spy*** by Yona Zeldis McDonough
The *Bicycle Spy* by Yona Zeldis McDonough is a children's historical fiction novel about a French boy named Marcel who uses his bicycle to help the Resistance during the German occupation in World War II. The story follows Marcel as he delivers bread and dreams of the Tour de France.
- ***This Was Our Pact*** by Ryan Andrews (Graphic Novel)
It's the night of the annual Autumn Equinox Festival, when the town gathers to float paper lanterns down the river. Legend has it that after drifting out of sight, they'll soar off to the Milky Way and turn into brilliant stars, but could that actually be true? This year, Ben and his classmates are determined to find out where those lanterns really go, and to ensure success in their mission, they've made a pact with two simple rules: No one turns for home. No one looks back. The plan is to follow the river on their bikes for as long as it takes to learn the truth, but it isn't long before the pact is broken by all except for Ben, and (much to Ben's disappointment) Nathaniel, the one kid who just doesn't seem to fit in.
- ***The Green Bicycle*** by Haifaa Al Mansour
Wadjda has one simple wish - to race her friend Abdullah on her very own bicycle. But in Saudi Arabia, it is considered improper for girls to ride bikes and her parents forbid her from having one. Sick of playing by the rules, Wadjda schemes different ways to make money and buy the bike herself.
- ***Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom*** by Sue Macy
Take a lively look at women's history from aboard a bicycle, which granted females the freedom of mobility and helped empower women's liberation. Through vintage photographs, advertisements, cartoons, and songs, *Wheels of Change* transports young readers to bygone eras to see how women used the bicycle to improve their lives. Witty in tone and scrapbook-like in presentation, the book deftly covers early (and comical) objections, influence on fashion, and impact on social change inspired by the bicycle, which, according to Susan B. Anthony, "has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world."
- ***Kids' Easy Bike Care*** by Stephen Cole
A handy manual for helping children keep their favorite possession in tip-top shape includes identification of a bicycle's parts, explanation of the tools needed for repair and maintenance, a safety checklist, and a bike-shopping guide.



High School Books

Because high school students primarily select and read books they check out independently, the City of Bloomington can make the following books available for middle and high school libraries to add to their permanent collections. Libraries should feature these materials during safe routes events, improving access to these materials when they are most relevant.

- ***How We Got to Now (Young Readers Edition)*** by Steven Johnson
Explores innovations like glass, sanitation, and refrigeration and their impact on cities and society. Connects technological change to urban development.
- ***Oil*** by James Laxer
Oil, our main source of energy, underlies the world's economy. In the twentieth century its availability and relatively low price allowed for the industrial growth and development of the world's leading economies. The new rapidly developing giants, India and China, want access to the same possibilities. But today we know that cheap, easily accessible oil supplies are dwindling, and we are beginning to recognize the true cost to the world's environment of our profligate use of this form of energy.
- ***Rosa Parks: My Story (Young Readers Edition)*** by Rosa Parks
First-person account of resisting segregation on public transit. Shows transportation as a central part of civil rights history.
- ***The Color of Law (Young Readers Edition)*** by Richard Rothstein
Shows how housing policies created segregation in American cities. Links planning decisions to long-term inequality.
- ***101 Things I Learned in Urban Design School*** by Matthew Frederick & Vikas Mehta
Short illustrated lessons explaining walkability, street design, and human-scaled places. Gives students vocabulary to analyze built environments.
- ***Walkable City*** by Jeff Speck
Explains why some streets feel comfortable while others feel dangerous. Introduces practical principles for safer and more inviting communities.
- ***There Are No Accidents*** by Jessie Singer
Examines why traffic crashes happen and challenges the idea that they are unavoidable. Encourages thinking about responsibility and prevention.
- ***Happy City*** by Charles Montgomery
Shows how urban design influences health, happiness, and social connection. Links transportation choices to well-being.
- ***Right of Way*** by Angie Schmitt
Investigates pedestrian deaths and disparities in traffic safety. Highlights equity issues in transportation systems.



- ***Strong Towns*** by Charles Marohn
Discusses how infrastructure spending and growth patterns shape community finances and safety. Encourages evaluating long-term impacts of planning decisions.
- ***Better Buses, Better Cities*** by Steven Higashide
Describes how improving bus service benefits riders and communities. Demonstrates practical transportation policy solutions.
- ***Palaces for the People*** by Eric Klinenberg
Explains how libraries, parks, and public spaces strengthen communities. Connects infrastructure investment to social resilience.
- ***Human Transit*** by Jarrett Walker
Introduces the logic behind effective transit networks and route planning. Helps students understand how agencies design service.
- ***Paved Paradise: How Parking Explains the World*** by Henry Grabar
Explores how parking requirements shape development, travel behavior, and city form. Encourages rethinking space devoted to cars.
- ***Inclusive Transportation*** by Veronica O. Davis
Examines how streets can better serve people of different ages, incomes, and abilities. Promotes equity-centered planning approaches.
- ***No Small Plans*** (graphic novel) by Chicago Architecture Center
Follows teens imagining a redesigned Chicago in the future. Makes planning careers and civic engagement approachable.
- ***Build, Baby, Build: The Science and Ethics of Housing Regulation*** (graphic novel) by Bryan Caplan
Uses comics to explain zoning, housing shortages, and development debates. Presents policy tradeoffs in an accessible format.
- ***The Works: Anatomy of a City*** by Kate Ascher
Illustrates how water, power, transit, streets, and waste systems operate behind the scenes. Helps students understand the infrastructure that supports daily life.
- ***City of Bloomington Comprehensive Plan/Transportation Plan***