



## Neighborhood Bicycle Fix Event

Proposal date: 3 /12/2025

# Background:

The idea started when WHNA president Wilson reached out to Open Roads Bicycle Program to see if they are interested in hosting a bicycle fix day. Open Roads is a Kalamazoo non-profit started in 2018, their mission is to make bicycles available for anyone that needs one. On bicycle fix day, Open Roads will provide bike mechanic's time, tools and common replacement parts free of charge for a few hours. Anyone with bicycle related issues can bring their bike and try to get it fixed under the mechanic's supervision.

Open Roads is very welcoming to the idea of hosting a bicycle fix day at Westnedge Hill Neighborhood (WHN) as they have never done it before in our neighborhood. Wilson then consulted the WHNA board for guidance in how to make this event happen.



# Why should WHNA promote bicycle related events in the neighborhood

## **Increased Visibility and Interaction:**

When you ride your bike, you're more likely to see and interact with people in your neighborhood, potentially leading to new connections and friendships.

## **Economic Benefits:**

Bike-friendly communities can attract businesses and create a more vibrant local economy, as people on bikes are more likely to shop at local stores and businesses.

## **Improved Health and Well-being:**

Biking provides a healthy and sustainable mode of transportation, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.

## **Environmental Benefits:**

Reduced reliance on cars leads to cleaner air and a more sustainable environment, benefiting everyone in the community.

## **Safer Streets:**

More people biking can lead to safer streets for everyone, including bicyclists, walkers, and drivers, as there are fewer cars on the road.

## **Property Values:**

Bike-friendly communities often see increased property values.

## **Accessibility:**

Bicycles can provide access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, particularly for vulnerable communities.

# Site Selection:

Three sites were considered:

**Neighbor's driveway at 715 Edgemoor:** This spot is center of the neighborhood, the owner is okay hosting the event here. However, considering our neighborhood population density and economic distribution we recommend moving the event somewhere in the neighborhood east of Westnedge Blvd.

**Crane Park:** This spot is available, however there is a \$390 event booking fee if we need the park all to ourselves during this time. We can use the space as first come basis as long as there isn't a wedding.

**Parkwood Upjohn Elementary :** Got in contact with KPS coordinator, she is very welcoming the idea of hosting at the Parkwood Parking lot / outside ground area. No rental fee for outside space, but we need liability insurance and we need to register the event so it's on the calendar. If we want to use the inside gym area there will be a small rental fee. They charge extra \$46/hr for custodian for events outside of school days. Oct-April is best time to rent gym.

# Resources:

**Fee for covering Open Roads' Expense: \$200 – To be paid by City of Kalamazoo (Thanks Jae!)**

**Snack and Drink Donation: Perhaps People's food co-op. They usually will order drink and food for community cause at wholesale cost.**

**Banners and post cards for promoting the WHNA: Reached out to Kal-Blue for in-kind donation**

**Lawn signs: To be paid by city of Kalamazoo**

**A few volunteers with logistics.**