



## Neighborhood Family Friendly Bicycle Bus Event

Proposal date: 4 /10/2025

## Background:

Kalamazoo Area Bike Week celebrates the many benefits and joys of bicycling in our greater community. It starts on the Saturday before Mothers Day and runs through the following Saturday. In 2025, Bike Week is May 10-17. Plus, May is National Bike Month, and includes Bike to Work Week and Bike to Work Day!

To celebrate bike week the city of Kalamazoo will be hosting a bicycle show at downtown Kalamazoo mall. Winchell neighborhood is organizing a ride to the bike show on May 10<sup>th</sup>, so in coordination with other neighborhoods in Kalamazoo we would like to propose an inter-neighborhood family friendly bike bus ride.



DOWNTOWN KALAMAZOO  
SHOPS

# BIKES IN THE ZOO



05/10/25

12:00 PM - 4:00PM

KALAMAZOO MALL



Downtown Kalamazoo

CELEBRATION OF MOVEMENT • VENDORS •  
LIVE MUSIC

[www.downtownkalamazooshops.com](http://www.downtownkalamazooshops.com)

# What is a bike bus:

Bike buses are a way for everyone to bike together for fun, convenience, and safety; on busy, traffic-congested commuter streets, a big group of five to ten people is much more visible than one or two people biking alone.

A **bike bus**, also known as a **bike train**<sup>[1]</sup> or a **cycle train**,<sup>[2]</sup> or cycle bus is a group of people who [cycle](#) together on a set route following a set [timetable](#) other than for sporting purposes. Cyclists may join or leave the bike bus at various points along the route. Most bike buses are a form of collective [bicycle commuting](#) (usually parents cycling their children together).

- 1.Assemble a group of interested families:** Reach out to parents, teachers, and students interested in promoting active transport. Utilize community forums, school newsletters, and social media to gather interest.
- 2.Plan your route:** Carefully consider safe routes to school, avoiding busy traffic and ensuring they are suitable for children of different ages and biking abilities.
- 3.Establish a schedule:** Determine the frequency of the bike bus operation based on participants' availability, starting with a manageable schedule and adjusting as more families join.
- 4.Safety First:** Emphasize the importance of wearing helmets and following traffic rules. Consider organizing biking safety sessions for children.
- 5.Develop a contingency plan:** Prepare for unexpected events by establishing a contingency plan, such as carpooling or alternative transportation options.
- 6.Engage local authorities:** Seek support from local government or school authorities to address safety concerns, facilitate permissions, and potentially contribute resources.
- 7.Create a positive and inclusive culture:** Foster camaraderie among students, encouraging inclusivity and ensuring everyone feels welcome, regardless of their biking skills.

# 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.



## Previous neighborhood event with similar ideas:

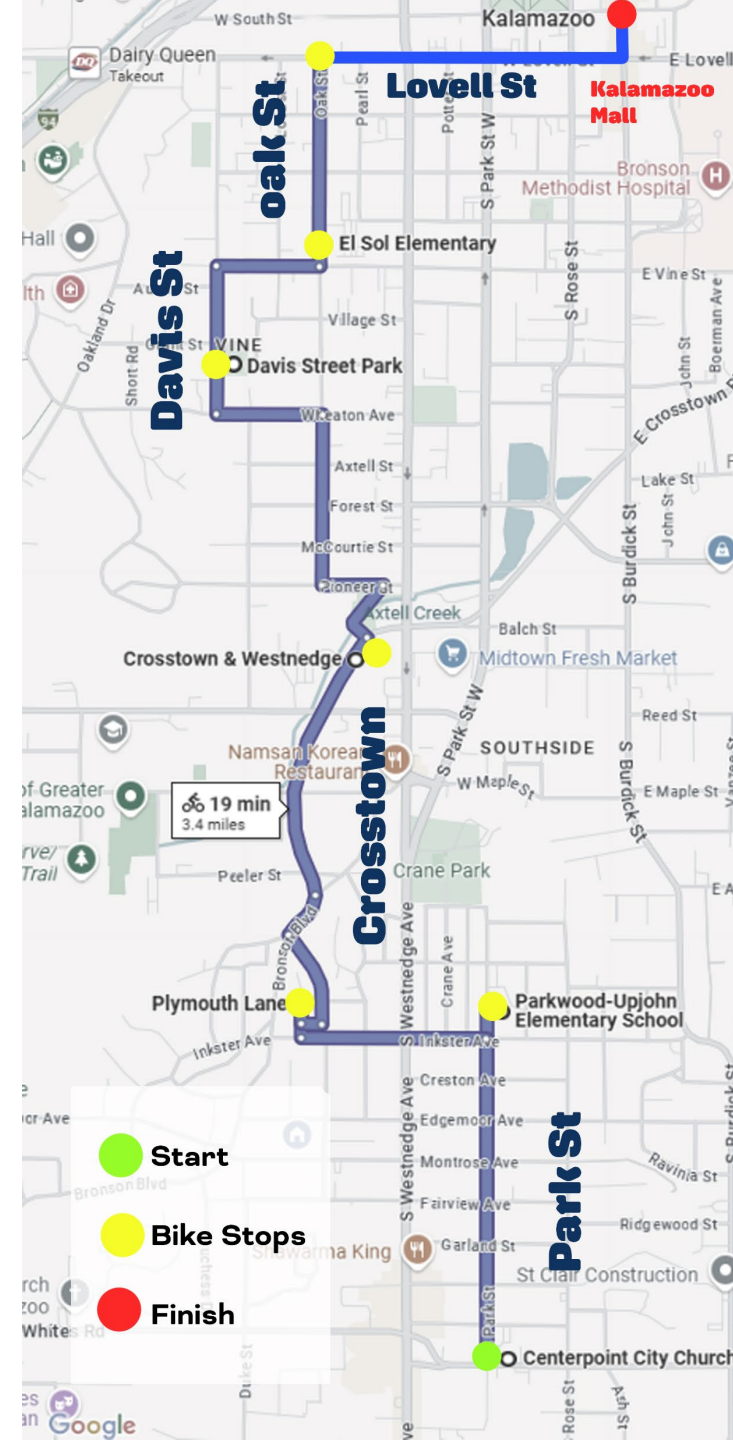
Neighborhood bike ride after Ice Cream Social and bi weekly farmer's market ride.



## Route Selection WH to Vine:

1. Start at CenterPoint City Church, which is the southeast corner of Westnedge Hill. @10am
2. Stop at Parkwood Upjohn Elementary @10:10
3. Stop at a dead-end street – Plymouth Lane @10:25
4. Following Bronson we then stop at Wmed Family Medicine parking lot. @10:35
5. Pass through Axtell creek park enter Vine neighborhood via Oak St. stop at Davis Street Skate park @10:45  
note: 300ft of uphill
6. Stop at El Sol, @10:50
7. Enter Lovell cycle track to Burdick st and the Kalamazoo mall. @11

*Note: there will be a 2-3 minute wait time at each stop for re-grouping*



Lovell St Cycle Track



Wmed parking lot



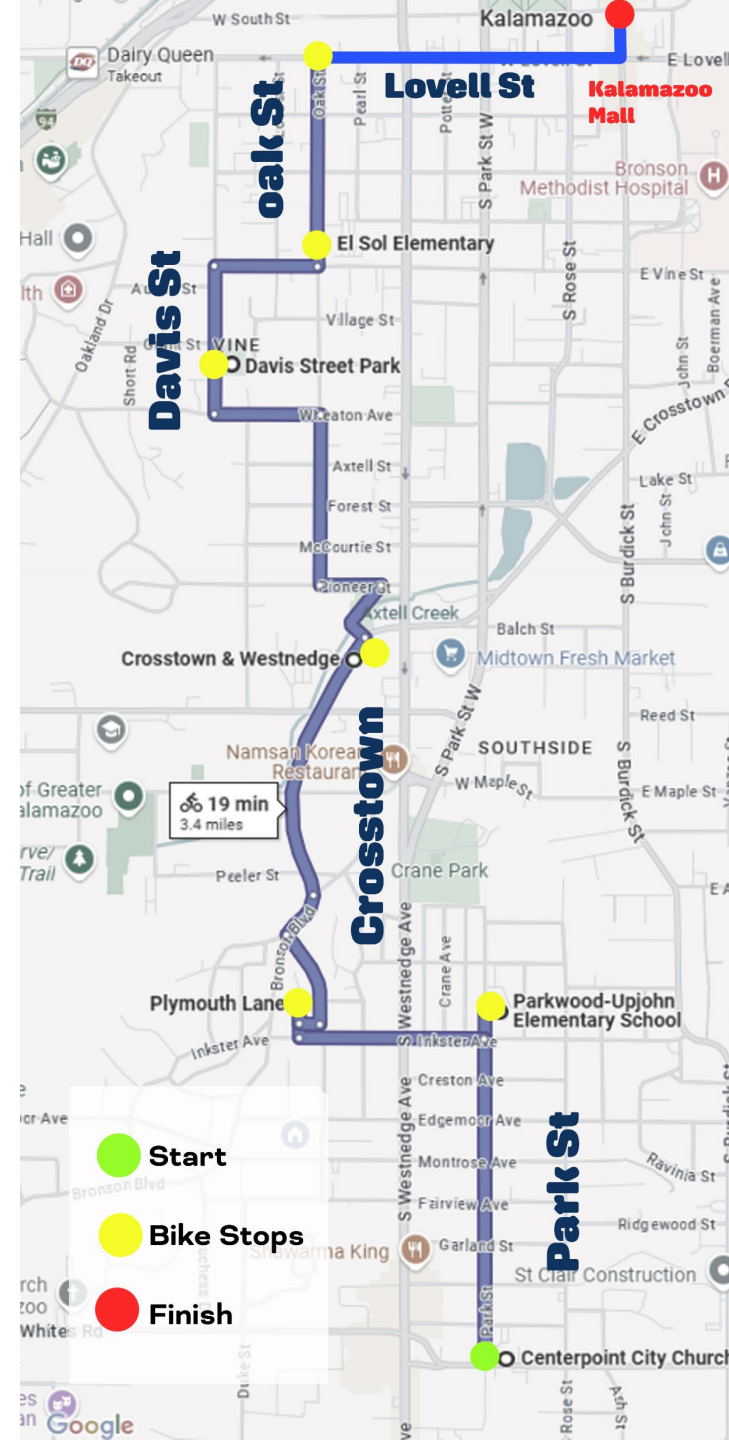
Axtell Creek Park



## Route Selection(return):

A return bike bus will leave at 1:30pm following the same route. We will gather on front of cherri's chocol'art.

Of course you may choose to leave at anytime throughout the duration of the event.



## Lovell St Cycle Track



Wmed parking lot

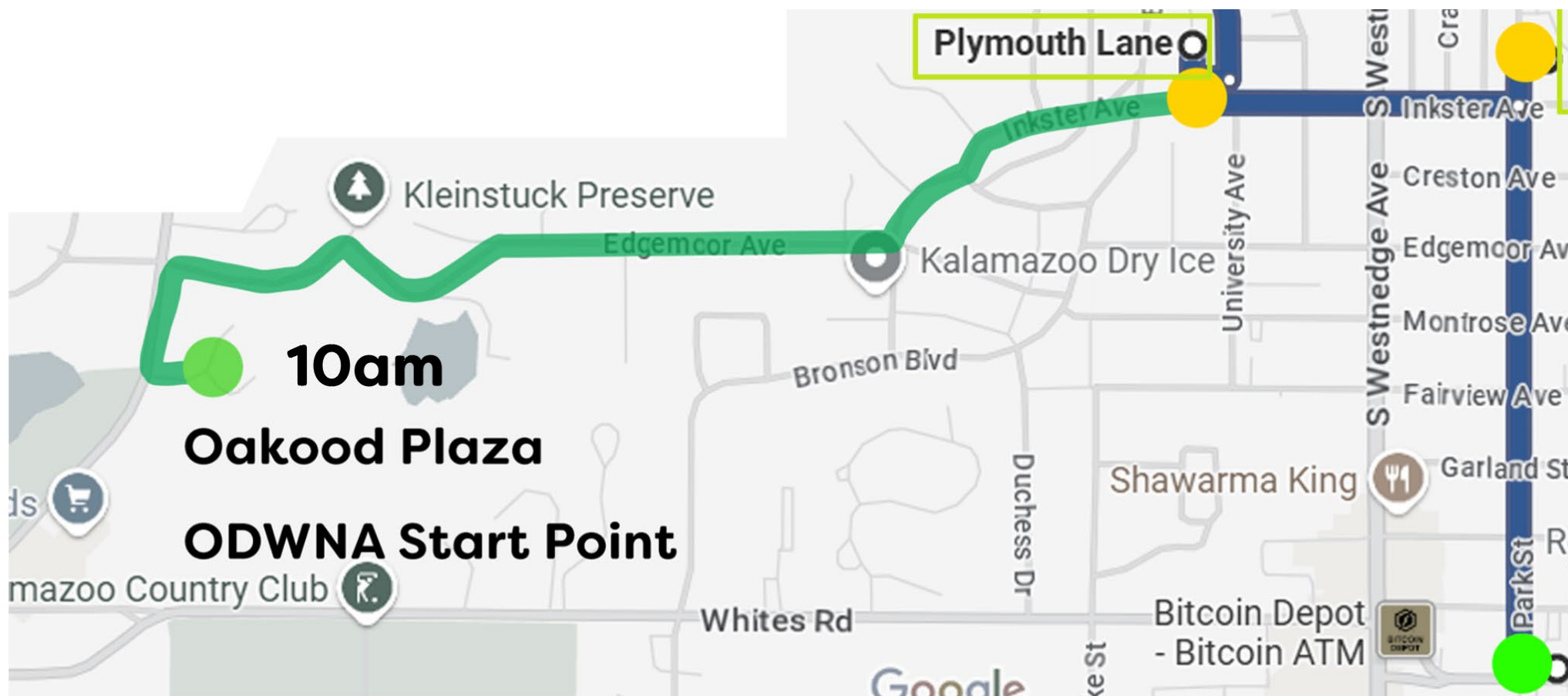


## Axtell Creek Park



# Route Selection ODWN to Plymouth Ln

Oakwood Plaza – Plymouth Lane



## Collaboration with Vine and ODWNA:



Vine neighborhood borders the north side of Westnedge Hill they are a great partner to have to create a safe way to WMU, K-College, and Downtown. ODWNA shared the west boarder with WHN, a valuable route to Oakwood Plaza and Asylum Lake.

**EVENT DATE: May 10**  
**10am -1:30pm**

## Resources:

1. (4) Volunteers Ride Leaders – Guide the front and rear of the bike bus, knows how to do basic adjustment and repairs to a bicycle.
2. Drink and snack donation once arrives at destination?
3. KDPS bike unit escort to the destination and back. KPS neighborhood liaison officers: Casey Crooks and Samatha Schmeltz