

Bike Lovers Enjoy Access to New Bikeshare Program

Bikeshare Program Implemented at the Huron County Community Library in Willard, Ohio

At a Glance:

Thanks to the collaboration between Huron County Creating Healthy Communities (CHC), the City of Willard, and the Huron County Community (HCC) Library, Willard residents now have access to a free bikeshare program. The HCC Library allowed the use of their tracking systems as well as previously unused library property, in collaboration with CHC funding and staffing and buy-in from City leaders, all contributed to the project's success. Sustainability of this program by the library and the City will allow for further growth, continuing to establish healthy living programming to educate, promote, and encourage healthy lifestyles.

Public Health Challenge:

According to the 2020 *Huron County Community Health Assessment*, about 80% of Huron County adults were overweight (32.2%) or obese (47%) with about 30% of youth in the same categorization. The average physical activity rate in Huron County is about 76.5%, measured by at least 60 minutes of physical activity within the past 7 days. For adults, the CDC recommends 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity along with 2 days of muscle strengthening activity. The figures presented within the 2020 *Huron County Community Health Assessment* were based on activity rates within a week, meaning that both the adult and youth populations aren't likely meeting this recommendation. This impact can be seen county-wide with about 80% of adults being overweight or obese as well as 30% of the youth population.

Approach:

The Huron County CHC program aimed to organize this bikeshare program within the Willard Community in hopes of ultimately expanding into neighboring areas. The CHC Coordinator worked with the City of Willard in order to make the bikeshare program a reality. The CHC grant awarded to HCPH by the Ohio Department of Health was the main source of funding for the program located at the Huron County Community Library. The grant was able to help the City of Willard purchase 2 pedal-assisted electric bikes, 2 standard bikes, and all necessary supplies for the program. The bikeshare program was created in order to be sustained and allow for future county-wide expansion.

Results:

Implementation of the bikeshare program began in May 2022, and the Willard Book-A-Bike bikeshare program was fully operational by July 20th, 2022. The bikeshare program offers 2 electric pedal-assisted bikes, 2 standard bikes, and all other required biking accessories (i.e., locks, baskets, etc.). As of October 30th, there was a total of 20 program users, all leaving positive feedback on the program and the opportunity presented to them. According to the post-evaluation survey that was sent on 10/31/2022, 100% of the program users identified that they will be utilizing this program in 2023. Huron CHC is hopeful that in future years the Willard Book-A-Bike bikeshare program will continue to grow and promote healthy lifestyles in Willard and beyond.

