



## **What is the Bicycle Friendly Community program?**

The Bicycle-Friendly Community program recognizes communities that actively support bicycling for fun, fitness and transportation. The League of American Bicyclists, a bicycling group based in Washington, D.C., has granted BFC status to more than 70 communities nationwide, including Louisville and Lexington. Cities both large and small have received the award, including other college towns such as Boulder, Colorado, and Auburn, Alabama.

## **Why should we encourage bicycling?**

Encouraging bicycling is a simple way towards improving public health. With more people bicycling, communities experience reduced traffic demands, improved air quality and greater physical fitness. In addition, bicycle-friendly towns are often seen as places with a high quality of life. This can translate into increased property values, business growth and increased tourism.

## **Can Bowling Green/Warren County be “bicycle-friendly”?**

Yes! The Bowling Green City Commission voted on May 1, 2007, to work towards becoming a Bicycle-Friendly Community. A new non-profit group called Bicycle Bowling Green has formed to work on the project, and we need your help.

## **How does the process work?**

On April 4, 2008, the City of Bowling Green and Bicycle Bowling Green will host the first Bowling Green Bike Summit. That meeting will bring together community leaders to learn how we can benefit from this program and identify the next steps we should take. We will look at programs ranging from developing more bike lanes and bike paths to implementing bike-friendly traffic policies.

When we're ready, we will submit a two-part application to the League of American Bicyclists. It looks at our progress in five areas:

- ✓ Engineering (bike lanes, engineer training, bike racks, etc.)

- ✓ Education (bike safety programs for kids and adults)
- ✓ Encouragement (Safe Routes to School, Bike to Work Day, bike tours, etc.)
- ✓ Enforcement (laws and officer training on bike issues)
- ✓ Evaluation and Planning (comprehensive plan, follow-through efforts)

The LAB will review our application and decide if we should receive an award. Awards are given at the platinum, gold, silver or bronze levels.

## **Are we ready for this program?**

We think so. In recent years, the Bowling Green area has seen tremendous growth in bicycle-friendly programs – including new bike lanes, shared use paths, and wonderful programs such as Safe Routes to School. The Greenways Commission already has developed a Greenbelt Master Plan. We think people are ready to make the commitment to a healthier, greener, safer lifestyle.

## **What if we don't win an award?**

It may take us a while to achieve our goals, but simply applying for the program will teach us a lot. The process is also a tool to get public officials, civic groups, health care providers, schools, businesses, drivers and cyclists alike to understand the benefits of bicycling. Once we do achieve an award, it must be renewed every two years, so the program encourages continued improvement.

## **How can I help?**

Please contact Sara Shipley Hiles, president of Bicycle Bowling Green, at [BikeBG@gmail.com](mailto:BikeBG@gmail.com) or (270) 783-7510.

Please see [www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org](http://www.bicyclefriendlycommunity.org) for more information on the program.

