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Milwaukee Active Streets 2021 Launches

Streets repurposed for walking, biking, wheeling builds on success of 2020 program

The City of Milwaukee is pleased to announce the 2021 launch of the Milwaukee Active Streets* program (Active Streets). Active Streets uses barricades and signage on residential streets to limit thru-motor vehicle traffic in order to encourage using the street for walking, biking, and being physically active.

The Milwaukee Active Streets 2021 program builds on the success of the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW) partnership in 2020 with Milwaukee County Parks. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, traffic on streets was limited or prohibited in order to increase space for people to walk, bike, and be active at a safe distance from one another. A survey conducted at the conclusion of the 2020 program found that 72% of respondents supported continuing the program beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Active Streets were part of our community’s response to the pandemic, but it quickly became clear that the benefits of Active Streets could be enjoyed well into the future,” Mayor Tom Barrett said. “The response we’ve heard gave us a clear direction; Active Streets are a welcome addition to many neighborhoods.”

In February 2021, a request for proposals was released to solicit applications from community-based organizations to receive up to \$5,000 to conduct outreach and programming, monitor Active Streets-related infrastructure, and provide community feedback to DPW.

Four community-based organizations were chosen for the following locations:

- Northwest Side CDC: N. 25th St. from W. Roosevelt Dr. to W. Capitol Drive.
- Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers: W. Washington St. from S. 20th St. to S. 1st St.
- United Methodist Children's Services: W. Galena St. from N. 40th St. to N. 27th St. & W. Cherry St. from N. 24th Pl. to N. 20th St.
- Metcalfe Park Community Bridges: N. 37th St. & N. 38th St. from W. North Ave. to W. Meinecke Ave., & W. Meinecke Ave. from N. 37th St. to N. 38th St.

The grant recipients will conduct programming and outreach throughout the course of the program, which is expected to conclude by mid-November. DPW is providing additional funding to the recipient organizations to partner with Artists Working in Education in order to integrate art in the Active Streets locations.





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“Active Streets is a creative, positive program that also supports our Complete Streets efforts because our streets are public places, and should be open to all, no matter how you travel: walking, biking, driving, or taking transit,” Commissioner of Public Works Jeff Polenske said.

To learn more about the Active Streets program and recipient organizations, visit the project website: milwaukee.gov/ActiveStreets2021.

* Milwaukee Active Streets differs from the Active Streets for Business program which creates additional outdoor space for bars and restaurants.

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