

“Judging by the wide smiles, zany rides, and the huge turnout, it certainly feels like a successful and worthwhile event has been created. What better way to culminate International Walk-To-School Week. Just moments prior to embarking, it was clear that the parade appealed to kids young and old, as the staging area reached critical mass. The crowd of human-powered attractions included a cargo bike hauling musicians and dogs, bikes pulling decorated trailers, bikes making smoothies, and even two chickens on bicycles.”

What is the Human Powered Parade?

The Human Powered Parade and Festival empowers people to explore the possibilities and local resources available to support human and bicycle power for transportation and home use. Our festival and parade will bring together families, performers, advocates, community designers, and artists to celebrate the practical and aesthetic joys of both the bicycle and other feats of human power. Our festivities culminate a month of community workshops scheduled in local schools and through recreation departments that encourage communities to participate in Walk/ Bike to school events during International Walk/ Bike to School Week. These workshops include a kinetic sculpture challenge for artists and high schools, community and school based art programs that encourages families to prepare for the parade, and community bike safety workshops and programming provided in schools and through the Bristol Recreation Department.

The Human Powered Parade will launch from the Bristol Hub Skate Park with a performance, a band and a decorating station and culminate in a festival focusing on community resources that inspire bicycle commuting and local economy. This year we are raising money to bring to Bristol the technology for a pedal powered stage and to continue offering a stellar BMX trick show to inspire youth participation. Place making activities, interactive art and community building games during the festivals will provide participants with examples of how to bring artistic and ecologically-oriented placemaking through ideas that honor the interconnection of human communities and the natural world.

How this Event/Program is Expected to Benefit the Community:

Our modern day challenges of social isolation and increasing violence can be counteracted with community festivals that provide a paradigm of connectivity and neighborliness. A bicycle/ human powered lifestyle connects people more intimately with their environment and the resources provided by their local community and neighbors. Active transportation is a proven remedy for the growing epidemic of obesity and offers a practical solution to climate change.

In our planning, promotion and programming, our event empowers students to connect more deeply to their own communities and to work together to create a positive event that has a concrete effect on large global problems like global climate change. In its third year, the planning of this event has already brought together teachers, city offices, parents, school leadership and artists to truly manifest a celebration of human power.

About the Safe Routes to School Task Force Contact

The Human Powered Parade is part of a larger strategy to increase the visibility and safety of pedestrians and walkers within Bristol Village. Through monthly meetings with variable stakeholders including community members, Bristol Elementary PTO, teachers, Bristol Core, Bristol Recreation Dept, Public Works and Bristol Police, we move forward this goal through engineering, education, encouragement and enforcement strategies. We have been looking at strategies and funding to increase the safety of the crosswalk at North and Pleasant, slow car travel along Munsill Avenue into the village, and organize monthly walk/ bike to school programs including a walking school bus which transports students to school via Pleasant Street.

<https://www.saferoutespartnership.org/>

Proposed Parade Date: Saturday May 11th

10 -11 BMX show, bike decorating, test rides, games

11-12:30 Parade and community engagement stops, art, music

12:30 -2:30 Bike Powered Music Stage, Pickleball, bike races, cargo test rides, advocacy, performances

Press

<http://www.addisonindependent.com/201704human-powered-parade-roll-through-bristol>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=I-ILs_MqRU

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/BMLZoc23ChQ9FpSY7>

We are trying to find funding and work with Generator to fund a program to build kinetic sculptures with kids for the parade with a pilot program starting this year. (this has GREAT potential for attracting tourists to Bristol)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yQv6e8i7bA>

Parade Committee Participants

Julie Clark (Bristol), Mary Yates (Bristol), Sarah McGrath (Starksboro), Dan Brett (Whiting), Maura Donnelly (Bristol), Meredith McFarland, Tim Mathewson (Vergennes)

Grants and Sponsorships (pending)

Local Businesses Mountain Family Health, ?

Regional Businesses Vermont Federal Credit Union, Frog Hollow Bikes,

National Bank of Middlebury, Terry Bicycles , Telecom, NRG

In Kind Addison County Walk/Bike Council, Local Motion , VBike

Grants and Foundations Waterwheel Foundation, New England Grassroots Fund, Ben and Jerry's Foundation, Vermont Community Foundation

Community Events leading up to the parade

-5 town arts grant involving full school in making paper mache bike decorations in Bristol Elementary

- Community Art Workshops scheduled at Bristol Co Housing (tentative)

- Bristol Recreation Department Local Motion Safety Workshops

- Bike related movies in the Park (tentative)

- Bike Safety Unit through Bristol Elementary

Route Map

