

BikeAthens Bike Recycling Program 2004

Mission Statement:

- To demonstrate that bicycles are a viable form of transportation and that facilities for their safe use should be funded at a level equivalent to other forms of transportation.
- To provide a means whereby the economically disadvantaged or underprivileged can commute to work and thereby become integrated into the community
- To provide safe and reliable transportation to individuals who have affirmed that they live below the poverty line and cannot therefore afford the expense of owning and operating a personal motor vehicle.
- To provide a program wherein volunteers can advance their bicycle repair and maintenance skills.

Program Goals - Immediate:

- Obtain, repair and deliver 60 recycled bicycles in 2005 to needy individuals in Athens Clarke County. This number includes about a dozen completely restored kids and youth bicycles completed in time for Christmas donation.
- Enhance auditing system to include mechanized recording of volunteer hours.
- Restore and auction donated 'classic' bicycles. These bicycles, because of their style or age are inappropriate for intended clients, however; they may be valuable to a broader audience. The money raised from the auction of these bicycles will be used to pay for parts and supplies used by the program.

Program Goals – Long Term:

- Acquire a permanent facility to house the Bike Recycling program. Facility requirements include:
 - securable against theft, vandalism or damage to bicycles and equipment/tools
 - access to electric and water/sewage utilities
 - centrally located within Athens Clarke County
- Re-establish the youth program and move it to the permanent facility.
- Expand awareness of program to community and solicit donations of parts and bicycles via newspaper, web site, listserv, and fliers (distributed in local businesses);

Personnel:

All personnel on the project are volunteers. Roles include:

- Coordinator
 - Establish and monitor program goals and budget
 - Establish and maintain relationship with donor and recipient organizations/businesses.
 - Manage volunteers & interns
- Mechanic(s)
 - Cyclist (Novice)

- Skills: ‘I ride occasionally. I know which end of which type of screwdriver to use.’
 - Tasks: Clean bicycles, fix flats, install lights and reflectors.
 - Apprentice (Intermediate)
 - Skills: ‘I ride a bike regularly. I sometimes repair my bike and it works ok. I can fix other things such as a car, house, computer, motorcycle, etc.’
 - Tasks: Salvage parts, install kick stands, seats and handle bars. Replace cables.
 - Hammerhead (Advanced)
 - Skills: ‘I ride all the time. I only take my bike to the shop for tough repairs.’
 - Tasks: Repack bearings, adjust brakes and derailleurs. Provide guidance to other mechanics.
 - Master Mechanic
 - Skills: ‘I own a handful of bikes. I can build my own bike from scratch.’
 - Tasks: Install salvaged parts on a bicycle, triage donated bicycles, true wheels, oversee repair and certification of bicycles, manage the work of all other mechanics, establish and supervise work sessions.
- Clerk
 - Skills: personally organized, can commit 1-2 hours every week, basic computer skills
 - Tasks: Maintain inventory of bicycles, entering new bicycles into system as they arrive. Track volunteer hours, send e-mail announcements to volunteers. Maintain parts and supplies inventory, including ordering of parts.
- E-clerk
 - Skills: personally organized, can commit 1-3 hours every month, advanced computer skills.
 - Tasks: Post and monitor auction of bicycles to e-bay (or other appropriate auction venue), arrange for receipt of payment and delivery of bicycle. Modify database applications used by program as necessary.
- Driver
 - Skills: Independently responsible, owns a truck or large car, can commit 2-5 hours a month.
 - Tasks: Pickup and deliver bicycles, pickup previously ordered parts. All expenses will be either pre-paid or reimbursed.
- Scrounger
 - Skills: Basic wood working and electrical skills, can commit 2-5 hours a month.
 - Tasks: Build/secure work benches, maintain and improve work facility.
- Intern(s)
 - Skills: familiar with volunteer program evaluation methodologies, familiar with the process to create, implement and analyze a survey.

- Tasks: Create and implement a comprehensive program evaluation. The evaluation will survey bicycle donors, volunteers, and repaired bicycle recipients. It will examine program effectiveness by correlating program budget, volunteer effort and the surveys. Evaluation deliverables will include:
 - Program description
 - Explanation of methods
 - Demographic description of donors, volunteers and recipients
 - Listing of program successes and areas for improvement
 - Graphical summary of volunteer effort vs. impact upon clients

Successes:

- Established agreement between BikeAthens and Athens Clarke County whereby BikeAthens has pre-auction access to impounded bicycles.
- Acquired and equipped a facility in which to repair bicycles
- Established relationships with local bicycle shops and national equipment manufacturers to obtain parts, tools and safety equipment at wholesale prices.
- Established a youth program in conjunction with Garnett Ridge Boys and Girls Club and Athens Chapter of Catholic Social Services to provide after school program to adolescents. The program rewards participants who attend an English language tutoring program with the opportunity to repair their existing bicycle or receive a recycled bicycle. Approximately 20 children participated in the program which has delivered 7 bicycles and helmets to all participants.
- Delivered 17 bicycles to the Athens Area Homeless Shelter, Athens Chapter of Catholic Social Services and Athens Division of Department of Family and Child Services in 2004. Each donated bicycle passed a comprehensive operational review (bearings, brakes, gearing) and included reflectors (front, rear and wheel mounted), battery operated lights (front and rear), CPSC approved helmet, high visibility vest, lock and safe riding literature.
- Currently on track to deliver 60 bicycles to needy via local support organizations in 2005.