

Biking Along the Ice Age Trail with the Hartland Public Library

Final Report - Ideas to Action 2023

By Andy Kristensen, Hartland Public Library, September 2024

Number of people involved in or impacted by the project since Ideas to Action funding:

1,112

Do you anticipate that your project will continue after Ideas to Action funding?

Yes

Did your project encourage partnerships and collaborations with any community partners or other WiLS members? Who did you connect with during this process and how might you sustain those connections?

We did connect with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to let them know about the bike repair and air kits along the Trail, and the contacts established helped lead to hosting an event with them next month! It's technically unrelated to biking, but the contact established through emailing about the new bike repair and air kits helped build the relationship that led to getting a presentation scheduled.

Thinking about your project, what was the most innovative part? What can you, or your community, do now that it couldn't before?

I think the most innovative part of the grant was being able to provide a service to local residents and people from around the state in general when the library isn't open on Sundays. Additionally, the service is mroe unique compared to 'normal' library services--there are almost no other bike repair or air stands in the surrounding area, and this makes our library a biking destination when people are biking through Hartland on the Ice Age Trail. And, if they use it when our building is open, they can come in and get to know our library and see our unique Ice Age Trail collection. It's opened the door to speaking with people that come from far and wide to bike along the trail, and it creates connections that otherwise might not have existed.

How do you think other WiLS members could use what you learned and accomplished at their own organizations?

I think being able to think outside the box, literally, by looking at what you can do outside your building and providing a service when your building is closed can lead to many new connections and good will in the community. We've even had residents here who do not bike but see us trying to do outreach to a new segment of the population, and that's garnered a lot of good word-of-mouth and Facebook comments across various Lake Country-based Facebook groups.

Project product(s):

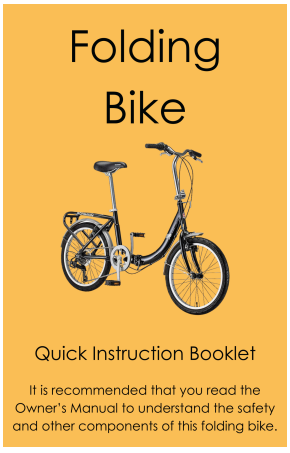












[Folding Bike Quick Instruction Booklet](#) **(pdf)**