

St. Helens Wellness Committee

Bicycle Giveaway Volunteer Program Proposal

Background

- The Police Department has approximately 25 bicycles in storage that have been declared surplus and brought to the Recreation Program. They are about half adult, half children bikes, with some BMX bikes.
- They are in mostly working condition, but need light repairs, cleaning, and airing of tires.
- The former Bicycle & Pedestrian Commission (now the Parks & Trails Commission) has approximately \$1,700 in funding remaining. At their 8/11 meeting, they approved up to \$500 for supplies to get the bikes in working condition. They also have enough helmets to give one away with each bicycle, which are being stored at the Public Works shops.

Proposal

- The Wellness Committee would like to create a Volunteer Program for City staff to be able to contribute up to 2 hours per City employee volunteer to clean, repair, and give away working bicycles and helmets for a September 2020 giveaway. Activities will be available for volunteers with all levels of experience.
- Bike repairs and cleaning to be conducted outdoors or indoors with 6-foot spacing with masks.
- Work parties will consist of one or all of the following activities: assessment of bicycle condition, light repair of bicycles (airing tires, brake repair, tube replacement, etc.), bicycle cleaning, bicycle transport (from surplus to work party location), and lastly, the bicycle/helmet giveaway.
- A Wellness Committee member or another designee will be on-site during work parties to coordinate tasks and ensure adequate supplies.
- The giveaway will be schedule at a specific date and time where bicycles will be given away with a first-come, first-served policy.
- A digital flier will be distributed to organizations like CAT, SAFE, and on the City's Facebook.

Benefits

- Increases partnership and collaboration between various City Departments and Boards & Commissions
- Bicycle surplus must be handled with or without this program
- City staff can convert bicycles that may be destroyed into excitement for children and families
- Builds community trust with City staff and increased community wellbeing by providing bicycles to those in the community who do not have the financial capacity to purchase them
- Promotes physical activity through a sustainable means of transportation
- Volunteers will learn basic bicycle maintenance and repairs
- Provides a sense of community connection during uncertain and tumultuous times

Future of the Program

- City-wide Volunteer Program that offers the opportunity for City employees to volunteer 2 hours a month during work hours at approved organizations
- Sustainable Surplus Bicycle Program housed under the Recreation Program where City employees and others can volunteer time repairing bicycles