Promoting Bicycling & Walking in Rural Missouri and Rural America: Who, Why, & How

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RURAL TOWNS – PACK A BIG PUNCH

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- **Key towns serve a (much) larger surrounding population**

  Ex: Warsaw: 2100; Benton County 19,000

- Small rural towns have **MORE no-car households** than state as a whole
  - **Retirement/end-of-life**
  - Disabled, elderly, non-drivers
  - ~30% **no drivers license**

Conclusion?

Complete Streets Policies

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RURAL MISSOURI – RURAL AMERICA

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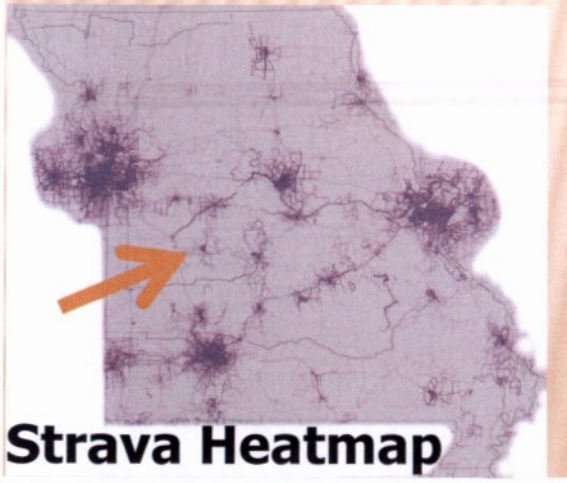
How?



Warsaw, MO: It CAN be done

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- City: 2100 pop.
- Benton County: 19,000
- Between two lakes
- Hunting-fishing-boating
- Economic development/tourism
- Resort developer's message

Warsaw, MO

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- Cities – esp. rural cities – must invest *in themselves* first

- Bicycling, walking, trails, parks as a rural economic development strategy

Warsaw, MO: Mtn Bike Park

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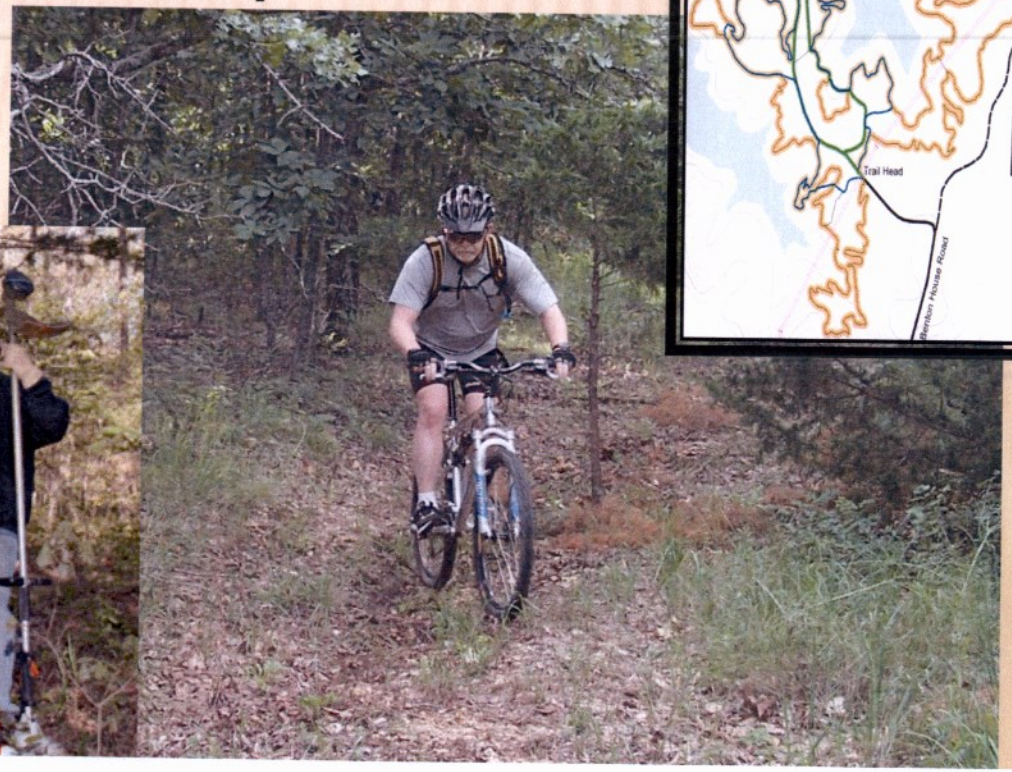
- Regular regional/statewide events & races
- Created active local mountain biking, hiking communities
- Volunteers help build, maintain trails



Warsaw: Downtown Harbor, Park & Trail

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Warsaw: Downtown Harbor, Park & Trail

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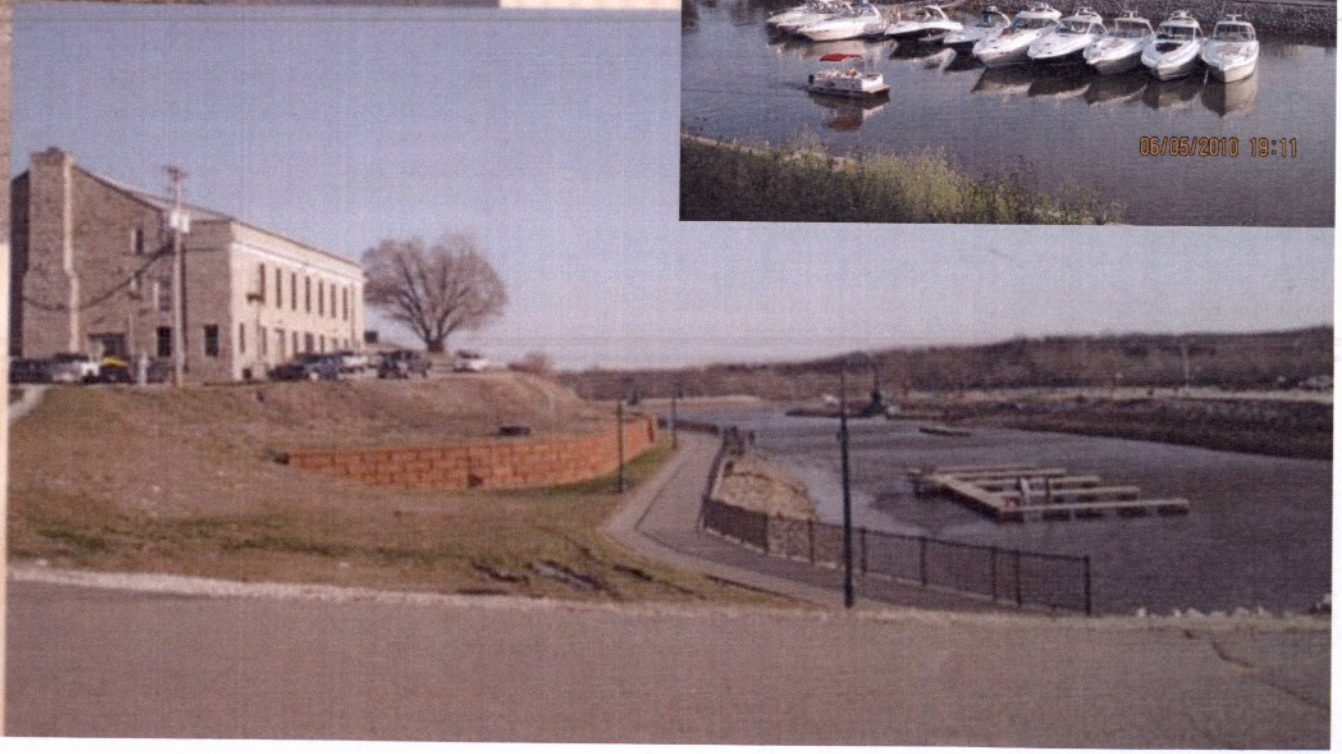
Before



After

Warsaw: Walkable downtown

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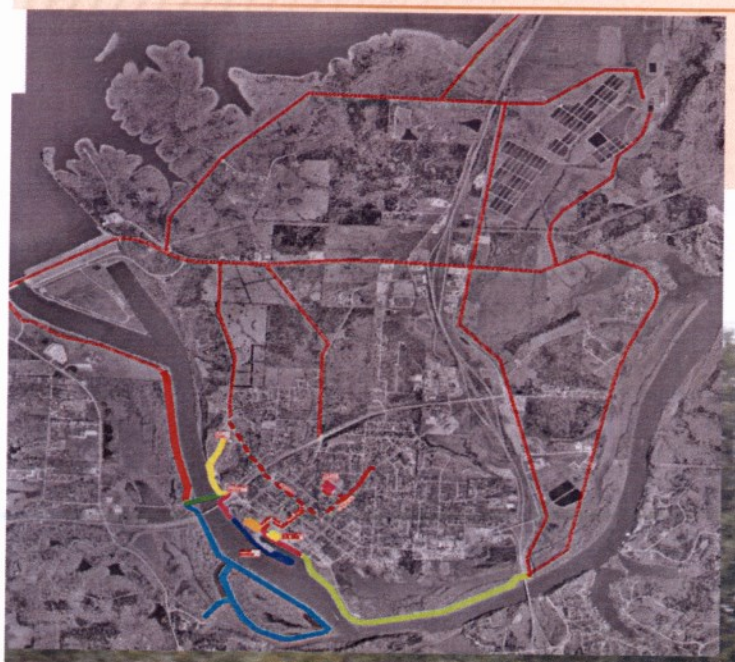
Before

After

Warsaw, MO: Levee Trails & Regional Trails Plan



Warsaw, MO: Swinging Bridge

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- Connects levee trails on both sides of river
- Connects city/downtown w/park & rec area & fields

Warsaw, MO: Citywide & Regional On-Road Bicycle Route System

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- Active local cycling group
- Partnerships w/ MoDOT, county, Corps of Engineers

Warsaw, MO: Complete Streets

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- **Goal: Entire city walkable/bikeable**

Basics: Sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic calming
The basics are missing in *most* of rural MO

Warsaw, MO: Local Advocacy Group

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- Osage Lakes Greenway Corporation
- Vital—but difficult to sustain in a small community

Warsaw, MO

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A rural community doing **everything we ask large cities to do**—and succeeding

- They are **building a community of bicyclists, hikers, walkers, trail users** where none existed before
- Not flashy, not rocket science. **The basics.**
- **It works**
- **It is MUCH needed**

CALL TO ACTION

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The bicycling revolution we have brought to the cities, we now need to bring to rural America.

The time is ripe.

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