

# Livable Streets Design Case Study: Warsaw, MO

Adopted by the City Council of Warsaw March 2016

Warsaw, MO has worked at making their community healthier by incorporating biking and walking trails, parks and other elements that promote living a healthy lifestyle for the past two decades. Their adoption of a Complete Street policy in 2016 became an essential part of the city's long term plan to make the entire area walkable and bikeable by incorporating best practices for Complete Streets policies by the National Complete Streets Coalition.

*Courtesy of Brett Hugh of Missouri Bicycle and Pedestrian Federation, [mobikefed.org](http://mobikefed.org)*



*Warsaw's historic Swinging Bridge is now a bike/ped connection, linking levee trails on both sides of the lake that forms Warsaw's waterfront.*

The City of Warsaw enjoys a "one-of-a-kind" environment for outdoor recreation and biking. Situated where Missouri's Great Lakes meet (Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Lake) the community realized they had a unique opportunity to build their future based on their primary community asset: the natural beauty of their environment.

At the foothills of the Ozark Mountains and nestled between two massive lakes, the area abounds with a staggeringly beautiful abundance of flora and fauna. The terrain is extremely varied from miles of flat tree-lined levees to hills that would challenge Tour de France competitors.

But having a resource does not always equal success. To capitalize on their environment, the City of Warsaw understood they needed a well-planned, well-organized and well-maintained trails program.

In 1997, they made a commitment to rebuild its city and make it an inviting place to live, recreate and conduct business. Fourteen years later, with the community is an example for other rural areas.



*Riverfront park adjacent to downtown.*



*Crosswalk, bike lane, wide sidewalks and curb ramp.*

In 2006, this small town of just over 2,000 people created their first Warsaw Trail Master Plan looking closely at their assets and how the community could provide cycling links for recreation and access to commercial, residential and school areas. The term "trail" is deceiving because the city made a commitment to create a system that is at least 10 foot wide and concrete surfaces where possible, allowing for better accessibility for all users.

Work commenced on miles of paved and non-paved biking and walking trails which capitalized on the extensive levee system on both Lake of the Ozarks and the Truman Lake area.



Today, well over 40 miles of trails exist in and around the city. Additionally, bike lanes were added to all major arteries around the city. In 2008, The Truman Lake Bike Club teamed up with the City of Warsaw to create an exciting mountain bike trail. Truman Lake Mountain Bike Park has been built on Corps of Engineer land bordering Truman Lake. The bike park is designed for riders of all ages and skill. Mountain Bike trails now total approximately 20 miles and feature a 16 mile looping trail named "Come & Get Some".



*New sidewalk connects Warsaw's Riverfront park to downtown. This is the type of connection Complete Streets policies make routine.*

The city nurtures a cooperative public and private partnership for their trails. Recently, the city cooperated with community leaders to create the Osage Lakes Greenway Corporation. Their mission is to plan, support and create a quality community trail system to enrich the lives of all people, regardless of age, while preserving our natural environment, promoting our history and educating the community on the importance of conservation and personal wellness.

And the results have made a difference. In an editorial in the local paper, Trish and Jerry Waldman commented on the improvements made to the City of Warsaw's recreation areas.

"My husband and I love to bike. The new trails from the dam to the harbor are great. While living in Columbia (Missouri) we'd often

spend our weekends riding up and down the Katy Trail along the Missouri River. We're now able to do that here in our own town. Warsaw is truly a recreation destination that we are proud to call home."

And economic growth has also resulted from the emphasis on biking in the area. Recently opened Truman Lake Bikes is a full-service store that provides sales, service and rental. The store has doubled its sales each year for the past three years and is one of the nation's foremost outlets for Trek® Bikes.

Given what they have accomplished thus far, it would be a fair bet that they will reach their goal of creating an inviting place to live for everyone who visits or lives in Warsaw.



*Truman Lake Bikes occupies a former Texaco station.*



*Crosswalk and bike lanes in school zone.*



*Residents can safely and easily access their homes, schools and workplaces by one of Warsaw's many trails.*