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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WESTFIELD SCHOOLS GEAR UP FOR BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

Westfield, IN- Westfield's Parks & Recreation Department is partnering with Monon Trail Elementary School, Oak Trace Elementary School, and Washington Woods Elementary School to host the second annual Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 7th.

"The Parks and Recreation Department is thrilled to have an increase in participation with our schools this year," said Parks Director Melody Jones. "We hope for this to be more than just a one-time event for participants, and encourage residents who participate to see it as an ongoing opportunity to get to school or work," Jones said.

Westfield students will be bicycling along with students across the nation in the third nation-wide designated Bike to School Day. In 2013, over 1,700 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia participated, according to the National Center for Safe Routes to School.

Mayor Andy Cook will also be participating in the event. "We have a very bike-friendly community, with one of the best trails systems in the entire State. This event should show our residents that you can usually get where you want to be without a car."

"Not to mention, it's a lot of fun," Cook added.

Robin Lynch, principal at Oak Trace recalls last year's Bike to School Day success. "It was great to see half of our building – around 300 students – riding bikes to school on a beautiful May morning last year! The kids, parents, and teachers all enjoyed the ride on the great paths surrounding our school. It was a huge hit and celebration of the sense of community we have in Westfield and at Oak Trace. We look forward to participating again this year!"

Scott Williams, principal of Washington Woods Elementary School voiced his support for the program as well. “What a great day for our school, our community, and for biking in Westfield,” Williams said. “We loved the teamwork with the city and local businesses, and look forward to this year's event.”

Westfield’s Bike to School Day is also a hit with students. Ava Stewart, first-grader at Oak Trace Elementary, enjoyed participating in 2013. “I loved riding my bike to school! It was more fun riding bikes with my friends than riding the bus,” Stewart said.

For more information on this event, visit www.walkbiketoschool.org and click on “Find an event.”

To learn more about Westfield’s bike trails, contact the parks department at 804-3184. Residents can also follow the parks department on Facebook at [facebook.com/CityofWestfieldParksRecreation](https://www.facebook.com/CityofWestfieldParksRecreation) and @westfieldparks on Twitter.

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