Three Healthy Maine Streets Communities to Provide Bicycles as Downtown Transportation Option

Each one of the 19 Healthy Maine Streets communities is required to designate at least one wellness strategy to increasing access to physical activity opportunities. Machias, Kennebunk and Eastport have chosen to provide a bike share program.

"Bike share programs can be a real boon for communities, so it's great to see that these three Healthy Maine Streets communities have decided to put such programs in place," said Abby King of the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. "Improving bikeability isn't just about adding bike lanes to the streets. Increasing access to bikes leads to more people choosing to bike - it's part of a culture shift of bicycling becoming commonplace across Maine towns. We wish these communities success in their endeavors."

Machias presently offers loaner bikes, painted the easily-identifiable Healthy Maine Streets green. Instead of driving, grab a bike to run that errand or to go to the Farmers' Market just down the road. Bike racks are being installed, and trail maps and a smart phone app are currently being developed. They are also working on several historical bike tour apps. Check out the Bangor Daily News article that discusses the program here!

Kennebunk has created a bike share program, and named it Pedal Your Way to Health. Reconditioned bikes have been placed throughout the downtown: three at the Chamber, three at Town Hall, one at Bergen Parkinson and four at the Bridle Path. Additionally, bike racks have been installed and trail maps are available for the taking. Check out their website here!

Eastport is in the process of creating a fleet of 10 reconditioned bikes that will be available in the community for borrowing. The wellness committee is presently working to develop a bike tour map, and they have also been able to engage youth in the project - the local elementary school has created a Sprocket Society, which teaches children to repair and build bicycles. Check out their Facebook page here!