

November 2014

# Muncie Action Plan 2

# MAP Reading

Muncie in Transition

## Hidden Gems

Looking for a quiet hike close to home? Looking for a place to sit and watch birds? Looking for a place to contemplate? Look no further than the **John M. Craddock Wetland Nature Preserve** located on Bunch Street at the intersection of Gavin Avenue. On Saturday, September 27, about 80 people convened to enjoy a free tour of the site through wetlands, prairies and wooded areas on trails constructed by students in immersive learning classes conducted at Ball State University..



The program on Saturday was put on by the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District and featured hot dogs cooked on a smoker provided by Blood and Fire (an inner city non-profit support organization). This event is directly in line with **MAP Initiatives 4 and 5**, creating beautiful places and maintaining and developing community supportive infrastructure. If you know of other "Hidden Gems," please forward the information to MAP through ([www.muncieactionplan.org](http://www.muncieactionplan.org)). They are out there!

## Muncie & Delaware County B5 Early Childhood Initiative

One of MAP's major achievements has been the establishment of Task Force 1's Birth to Kindergarten Early Childhood Education initiative. Carrie Bale, Executive Director of "B5," as it's commonly known, gives this summary.

B5 (with support from the Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County) has been charged with raising the awareness of the importance of early childhood issues throughout Delaware County. Research demonstrates that up to 90% of brain development occurs before the age of 5 so the experiences (or lack thereof) in a young child's life lays the foundation for their future.

The future of our community rests on the potential of our young children. Economic growth and opportunity can be linked to the Kindergarten-readiness of our young citizens. In 2013, 54% of children within Muncie were identified as not having essential skills for them to be successful in Kindergarten. Children who lag behind their peers early in their education tend not to catch up, putting them at risk of academic and career failure. B5 spearheads a few projects aimed to begin to move the needle on preparing more children for kindergarten with support of the "Wonder Readers League" and "Kickoff to Kindergarten" programs.

B5 is working with a marketing firm to develop branding and identity and five Task Forces (with over 80 members) worked throughout the summer researching best practices and even creating some "home grown" ways to help tackle this complex issue. Seventy strategies were identified and nearly twenty recommendations are being reviewed as critical to our success as a community. In the beginning of November the "B5 Plan"

will be presented to the Steering Committee and voted on by the Board of Directors. Ultimately, B5 will help to create a unified system of early childhood support for children and families, and help families support each child as that child's first teacher. By being able to communicate and rally behind a shared vision and goals, we will be able to begin to move the needle for a more prosperous community. To learn more about B5 or to get involved, go to [www.muncieb5.org](http://www.muncieb5.org).



Carrie Bale, B5 Director

## What's Going on in Town

Construction. One cannot drive through the city without driving by numerous construction sites or new buildings. East McGalliard welcomes the newly-opened Dick's Sporting Goods and Michael's. Also in the area, a newly rebuilt Burger King in the same place has been completed on its former lot. Sidewalk installation is also proceeding steadily along West McGalliard and North Tillotson.

Driving through the University Village, the newly-completed Village Promenade has several units filled and Brothers is open for business.

Downtown, Walnut Commons is coming along quickly. A permanent supportive housing complex will provide housing for the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless, specifically targeting veterans. With an extensive infrastructure update by the Muncie Sanitary District and

Muncie Public Works—including streetscape improvements - construction of the Arc of Indiana hotel has officially begun.

North Muncie and Downtown certainly aren't the only areas seeing much needed improvements. South Muncie is getting a new gateway in the form of a roundabout along with complementary beautification at Walnut and Madison.

Get information about MAP at <http://muncieactionplan.org>

## NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

**Anthony-Northside** - Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 p.m. at Kennedy Library.

**Blaine/Southeast** - Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Serenity Club, 1218 S. Brotherton.

**East Central** - Sunday, November 1 at 6 p.m. at Blood and Fire, 300 N. Madison.

**Forest Park** - Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Delaware County Senior Citizens Center, 2517 W. 8th.

**Gatewood** - Sunday, 11-16 at 4 p.m. at the Kitselman Center, 3401 W. University.

**Gilbert** - Monday, November 10 at 7 p.m. at Inside Out , 200 N. Madison.

**Grove Park**—Thursday, November 20 at 7 p.m. at Munsee Lanes at 601 E. 25th.

**Halteman Village** - Tuesday, November 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 4401 N. Wheeling.

**Indian Village** - Thursday, November 6 at 6 p.m. at Pilgrim Holiness Academy, 2720 Apache Pass.

**Industry** - Thursday, November 20 at 6:00 p.m., Price Hall, 704 S. Madison.

**Luddingwood** - Tuesday, November 25 at 7 p.m. at Luddingwood/Woodlands Nursing Home, 3820 W. Jackson.

**Minnetrista Central Neighborhood Association** - Tuesday, November 4 at 7 p.m. at Minnetrista.

**Northview**—Monday, November 18 at 7 p.m. at Northview Elementary School, 807 W. Yale.

**Old West End** - Tuesday, November 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dining Room, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams.

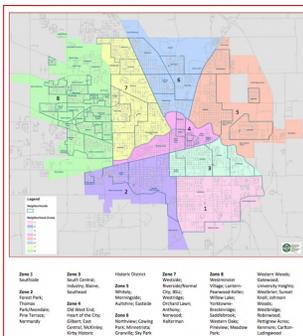
**Riverside/Normal City** - Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House (Mansion), 1400 W. University.

**Thomas Park/Avondale** - Wednesday, November 5 at 6:30 p.m. at Ross Center, 1110 W. 10th.

**Westridge** - Thursday, November 13th at 5:30 p.m. at Bracken Library, Ball State University.

**Western Woods**, Wednesday, November 5 at 6 p.m. at West View Elementary, 3401 W. Gilbert.

**Whitely** - Monday, November 10 at 5:30 p.m., Muncie Area Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin.



## MEET HEATHER WILLIAMS

A big part of MAP's influence on Muncie has been the development of neighborhoods. Ball State's Building Better Communities has established a program to work to develop neighborhoods which coincides with MAP's Task Force 2 objectives. Heather Williams was hired as the manager of the program and has been active in attending neighborhood association meetings and creating a comprehensive neighborhood website that will allow individuals from neighborhoods to see what is going on in their area. Heather's comments on going forward: *The goals of the Building Better Neighborhoods program are: 1) To organize, train and assess fully-functioning neighborhood associations in the city's participating neighborhoods. 2) To inventory, deploy and evaluate the resources of Ball State University in relation to neighborhood association development. 3) To engage, support, and align the community's nonprofit sector in focusing its programs, services and resources on neighborhood development. 4) To develop and manage an overarching project evaluation system that measures impact at the neighborhood level and focuses on project effectiveness and efficiency.*

*I work to align the resources of the University and the city's nonprofit sector with the needs of the individual associations. The day-to-day requirements of my position are varied, from inviting neighborhood presidents to a leadership development discussion at Ball State to helping a neighborhood write its Articles of Incorporation. Each day presents itself with new challenges. Building Better Neighborhoods has launched a new website that includes best practices research for neighborhood development, links to local resources for neighborhood associations and success stories from the local community. The website can be found at <http://neighborhoods.muncieactionplan.org/>.*



**Heather Williams, Program Manager,  
Building Better Communities**