

# MAP2 Reading

Muncie Action Plan

July 2016



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## **Muncie and Lead—What You Need to Know**

MAP is working to improve the quality of place in our community. In an effort to have gathering places that enhance the quality of life, the people of Muncie are making a concentrated effort to develop pocket parks and community gardens throughout the city. An integral part of MAP is to improve Kindergarten-readiness for the future success of our community. 90% of brain development happens before the age of five. In exploring all the barriers to improving Kindergarten-readiness, we were startled by the impact lead poisoning has on developing brains. As a community in the rust belt, we had to ask—could lead contamination be a factor here?

In looking at Delaware County's testing results for elevated Blood Lead Levels (BLLs), we discovered that, in 2014, 7% of the children tested had elevated BLLs. The national average of children with elevated BLLs of 5 micrograms per deciliter or more is 2.6%. Our community's average was more than twice that amount. We really wanted to understand this fact better and make sure that elevated BLLs are not one more obstacle hindering children's success in school and in life.

We also wanted to be sure that, as we are engaging community members in activities that increase children's contact with soil (through pocket parks and community gardens initiatives), we were not putting families at risk. Like most Rust Belt communities, Muncie has a history with lead, and it seemed possible that people were coming into contact with lead in Muncie's dirt. In order to keep people safe, we decided this would be our first line of exploration.

MAP Board members **John M. Craddock**, Director Emeritus, Muncie Bureau of Water Quality, Muncie Sanitary District; **Jenni Marsh**, President & CEO of **United Way of Delaware County**; **Ginny Nilles**, Director of The **Muncie Public Library**; and **Terry Whit Bailey**, Director of Community Development **City of Muncie**, are collaborating in an ongoing effort with **Carrie Bale** of **BY5**, Mayor **Dennis Tyler** of the **City of Muncie**, and **Indra Frank** of **The Hoosier Environmental Council** to explore lead exposure in Delaware County.



*Jenni Marsh, CEO, United Way of Delaware County and Vick Webb Corporate Health and Safety*

## **MAP Neighborhood Meetings:**

**MAP Neighborhood Presidents' Council:** 6pm, 3rd Tuesday, Maring-Hunt Library

**Blaine/Southeast:** 6pm, 2nd Tuesday, Serenity Club, 1218 S. Brotherton St.

**Cowing Park:** 6pm, 3rd Thursday, Gardens of Gethsemane Methodist Church

**Forest Park:** 6:30pm, 3rd Friday, Delaware County Senior Center

**Gilbert:** 7pm, 2nd Monday, Inside Out, 300 N. Madison St.

**Industry:** 6pm, 4th Thursday, Price Hall, 704 S. Madison St.

**Ludingwood:** 2pm- 3rd Saturday, Woodlands Nursing Home, 3820 W. Jackson

**Minnetrista/Central:** 6pm, 1st Tuesday, Minnetrista Cultural Center

**Northview:** 6pm, 3rd Monday, Northview Elementary -807 W. Yale Ave.

**Old West End:** 6:30pm, 4th Tuesday, Friends Memorial Church, 418 W. Adams St.

**Riverside/Normal City:** 7pm, 4th Wed., Hazelwood Christian Church Fellowship House, 1400 W. University Ave.

**South Central:** 7pm, 4th Tuesday, Urban Light Education Center (corner of 9th and Madison)

**Thomas Park/Avondale:** 6:30pm, 1st Wed., Ross Community Center, 1110 W. 10th St.

**Western Woods:** 6pm, 1st Wednesday, Westview Elementary; 3401 W. Gilbert St.

**Whitely:** 5:30pm, 2nd Monday, Muncie Area Career Center, 2500 N. Elgin St.

*\*Please check with your neighborhood association to confirm meeting times and dates, which are subject to change.*

Manager & Field Coordinator,  
EnviroForensics, collect soil samples  
from Grissom Elementary. Photo: John  
M. Craddock.

Sites were selected throughout every local zip code and at multiple neighborhood schools, pocket parks, and community gardens. Samples were taken in every Center Township zip code. Preliminary results are in and all soil samples came in well below the EPA's threshold of 400 parts per million. Does this mean lead isn't a problem? Not necessarily--it's just not a problem where we tested. It is encouraging that there were no areas of great concern in this preliminary pool of soil samples.

### **How can families and individuals protect themselves from lead?**

If you live in a house constructed prior to 1978, your building may have lead-based paint and lead interior drinking water pipes. The best rule of thumb is to presume your home has lead-based paint and prohibit dangerous practices that create lead dust. Paint that is peeling or chipping could be creating lead dust. Lead dust can cause lead poisoning.

If lead hazards are discovered on your property, property owners must correct them. Home repairs and projects that disturb paint (like repairing/replacing windows, working with walls that cut through plaster and wall board) must be done by a renovator trained in lead-safe work practices. Be sure to seal off work areas to minimize dust escaping from worksite and minimize dust creation. To protect your family, clean up visible paint chips or painted debris within 48 hours of home repairs.

Children under the age of six are most at-risk for lead poisoning because lead in blood can enter their brains and cause permanent damage that can lead to problems with learning and behavior. Pregnant women also can pass lead to their unborn children.

### **The good news is Lead Poisoning is the #1 preventable illness in children.**

--Keep painted surfaces in good shape.  
--If your home is older and has lead pipes or lead soldered joints, use cold water from the tap and let the water run for 2 minutes before using the water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Hot water may

cause more lead to leach into your water supply.  
--Regularly clean floors, window sills, stairs, and railings with a wet mop or cloth to control dust that may contain lead.  
--Frequently wash your children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys.  
--Avoid exposure to lead from make-up that may contain lead and costume jewelry that may contain lead.  
--Do not treat your child with traditional remedies (like Arzacan or Greta) that may contain lead.  
--Do not let your child chew on items that may be dirty or contain lead paint (like window sills and batteries).  
--Place doormats at entrances that collect dirt from visitors' shoes. Avoid wearing shoes through the house.  
--For children six and under, talk with your child's doctor or caregiver about lead and ask to check his/her Blood Lead Levels.  
--To minimize potential exposure to lead in soil, reduce exposure to bare dirt. Keep your yard planted with grass.  
--Wash children's hands after playing outside.

### **Resources for Urban Gardeners**

If you grow vegetables, have your soil tested. In an effort to promote sustainable and safe urban gardening, the Center for Urban Health at IUPUI has become a resource for testing garden soils. In return for this free service, the Center is able to use urban gardeners as partners in their research and in their expanding database of soil lead values in urban communities.

Testing your garden soil is easy and only requires the following:

- Ziploc bags (3-quart sized or less and 1-gallon sized bag)
- Permanent Marker
- Trowel or scoop

1. Identify and take samples from 3 areas either where your beds are now or where you plan to plant (Site 1).
2. Identify one site in the front yard or near the street (Site 2).
3. Identify one site near your house, preferably below the dripline of your gutter (Site 3).
4. At each site, use the trowel or scoop to scrape up soil down to a depth of about 5 inches.
5. Put this soil sample in a Ziploc bag and seal it. Don't worry about grass, sticks, or rocks—the lab will remove these.

6. Label the bags with permanent marker (like a Sharpie), starting with your street address and zip code. Additionally, label the street sample bag "street," the house sample bag as "house," and the garden sample as "garden"—or in a way that makes sense to you to keep track of Site 1, Site 2, and Site 3 samples.
7. Place all sealed sample bags in 1-gallon Ziploc bag, or you could use a plastic grocery bag and tie it shut.
8. Place in a mailing container and drop off or mail to (you will have to pay postage to mail samples):

**Gabriel Filippelli**  
**Department of Earth Sciences**  
**Indiana University-Purdue University**  
**Indianapolis**  
**723 W Michigan Street**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46202**

### **What they will do:**

The lab will log your samples, sieve to remove debris, and analyze the sample for lead content. They will return the results to you, along with a recommendation table focused on your garden soils. Questions can be directed to [gfilippe@iupui.edu](mailto:gfilippe@iupui.edu).

What if lead is found where you wish to plant a garden? If lead is less than 200 parts per million, you are good to go. If it is higher, use raised beds filled with new, clean soil and follow the directions in this urban gardening guide:  
[http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/hunger/doc/gardensafe\\_gardenwell\\_guide.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/hunger/doc/gardensafe_gardenwell_guide.pdf).

### **BY5 and MAP Task Force 1 Lead the Way in the Business Case for Investments in Early Learning; Hosts Indiana Summit for Economic Development via Early Learning Coalitions**



**"This event was the best attended community outreach event in which I have participated."**

**--John Pepper, former CEO, Proctor & Gamble**

551 community leaders, national business developers, legislators, stakeholders and early learning

experts from 48 counties in Indiana convened in Muncie, June 7 at the **Horizon Convention Center** for the **Indiana Summit for Economic Development via Early Learning Coalitions**, hosted by **BY5/MAP Task Force 1's Chair Tom Kinghorn** and **BY5's Carrie Bale**.



MAP TF1/BY5's Tom Kinghorn and Carrie Bale. Photo provided.

Panelists and keynote speakers made a compelling business case to build the best possible developmental foundation for children by investing in early learning, underscoring the economic reality that **"learners become earners."**

**Indiana Business Talk Show Host Gerry Dick** and **Meridian Services Vice President of Development, Scott Smalstig** emceed and moderated panel discussions throughout the event.

### **The Case for Early Learning Interventions and Investments**

--**330,000** Hoosier children are in need of Pre-K education; only about **130,000** have access to it.

--Only **13%** of Hoosier children are enrolled in high quality childcare.

--The average annual cost of childcare is **\$7,500**.

--Families living in poverty can spend up to **40%** of their income on childcare/preschool.

--On intervention by pilot programs throughout the state, children made **13 months of gains in 8 months**.

To learn how to become involved in early learning, mentoring or to become a volunteer with BY5, MAP Task Force 1 or any MAP's 5 Task Forces, please visit:

[www.muncieactionplan.org](http://www.muncieactionplan.org)

Partners who made this summit possible are: **Ready Nation, Partnership for Early Learners**, the

**Indiana Early Learning Advisory Committee, BY5, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, Muncie Action Plan, Ball Brothers Foundation, the George and Frances Ball Foundation**, several local businesses, social support organizations, and the **City of Muncie**.



Neuroscientist **Dr. Judy Cameron**, discusses "Serve and Return" early learning processes; June 7, 2016; Photo: Aimee Fant, MAP.

### **MadJax Maker Force to Help Create a Makers' District in Muncie's Gilbert and East Central Neighborhoods**



MAP has helped facilitate at least two neighborhood plans annually with the leadership and expertise of Ball State University Urban Planning professors and their students. Among them is Scott Truex, Associate Professor, Urban Planning and Director of Facility and Program Development, Sustainable Muncie. With the help of Sherri Cantos, Director of Muncie Arts and Culture Council, Truex helped to develop a live/work Makers' District neighborhood plan for Muncie's historic Gilbert/Goldsmith neighborhood in 2014 ([http://matthewiannowlin.com/writing/samples/gilbert/qilbert\\_sm.pdf](http://matthewiannowlin.com/writing/samples/gilbert/qilbert_sm.pdf)).

Two years later, Gilbert's plan is successfully materializing. Truex is now populating the new maker force workspace, **MadJax**, with local artisans and business clients. **MadJax**, named after its location at the intersection of Madison and Jackson, was formerly known as Gearbox, and it serves as a cutting edge makers' hub which will develop the local

creative workforce, competitively advancing local entrepreneurship, arts and culture.

Truex says, "We believe the revitalization of the old Cintas building in to a makers' hub will be a catalyst for neighborhood redevelopment, bring a new energy to the east side of downtown which will help attract new residents to Downtown, Gilbert, and East Central Neighborhoods. The maker movement has been an economic force providing entrepreneurship and innovation opportunity that attracts new talent (makers) to an area. The idea of a makers' district can reinforce this opportunity and help foster a new energy to an area." Where "Gearbox" represented the ghosts of Muncie's industrial past, MadJax represents "Next Muncie."

### **MAP Task Force 2 Celebrates Efforts of Neighborhood Presidents Council and Muncie Neighborhoods**

On June 21, **MAP Task Force 2** and **Building Better Neighborhoods** celebrated Muncie's neighborhood leadership at the second annual Neighborhood Presidents Council Picnic, held at Heekin Park. In attendance, were neighborhood presidents, guest **Bruce Reynolds** of **World Changers**, an organization seeking to connect 110 volunteer carpenters and laborers with those in need of home repair by July 15. Project Manager Bruce Reynold emphasized, "World Changers volunteers will provide free labor, but materials must be furnished by homeowners."

Muncie Symphony Orchestra entertained guests with a jazz ensemble and brought along an "Instrument Petting Zoo," which was made possible through the Ball Brothers Foundation. Plotting their progress on a chart, neighborhood presidents shared action steps taken on behalf of their respective neighborhoods associations.



*Pictured from right to left: Sara Rene, South Central, Muncie Symphony Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo and Jazz Ensemble, Bryan Preston, Thomas Park/Avondale, Dr. George Branam, MAP Co-chair, Jason and Kasie Turnbull, Ludingwood, and Bruce Reynolds, Worldchangers. Photos: Aimee Fant, MAP*

## MAP Adds 4 New Board Members

**Carrie Bale**, Executive Director, BY5

**William Hughes**, Attorney, Beasley & Gilkison

**Ana Maria Pichardo-Delk**, Director of Communications, Muncie Community Schools

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

# Muncie Action Plan



**Task Force 1: Linking Learning, Health and Prosperity**  
MAP TF1/BY5 has increased resources and programs to underserved families by over 60% and increased Pre-K enrollment by over 200% since 2012.



**Task Force 2: Fostering Collaboration**  
MAP TF2's efforts have created and sustained over 27 active neighborhood associations in the Community of Muncie.



**Task Force 3: Strengthening Pride and Image**  
MAP TF3 has worked together with communications partners to create Mymuncie.org, signage and delivering the good news of the opportunities Muncie has to offer.



**Task Force 4: Creating Attractive and Desirable Places**  
MAP TF4 has strengthened Muncie's resiliency and code enforcement, helped to create the Muncie Cultural Trail, Canan Commons and continues to work with Downtown Development to attract new business.



**Task Force 5: Managing Community Resources**  
MAP TF5 has worked with Delaware County GIS department and helped to create Bike Muncie, Scout Muncie, has overseen Tuhey Pool Waterpark's transformation, reservoir projects, among other land resource improvements.

**FOLLOW MUNCIE ACTION PLAN** Join Muncie Action Plan: Contact Aimee Fant: [afant@ballstate.bsu.edu](mailto:afant@ballstate.bsu.edu)  
[www.muncieactionplan.org](http://www.muncieactionplan.org) and on Facebook /MuncieActionPlan and Twitter @MuncieActPlan

**CONTACT:**  
MAP Coordinator Aimee Fant  
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**Donna Browne**, Co-Chair, Grant Writer, Center for Energy Research | Education | Service, Ball State University

**Terry Whitt Bailey**, Director, Office of Community Development, City of Muncie

**Carrie Bale**, Executive Director, BY5

**Dale Basham**, Muncie Community Schools, retired

**Betty Brewer**, CEO/President, Minnetrista

**John Craddock**, Director Emeritus, Muncie Bureau of Water Quality

**Cornelius Dollison**, Whitley Community Council

**Linda Gregory**, Muncie City Council, At-Large

**William Hughes**, Attorney, Beasley & Gilkison

**Roni Johnson**, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County, retired

**Tom Kinghorn**, Ball State University, Vice President for Business Affairs and Treasurer, Emeritus and Executive Assistant to the President for Commercialization and Community Engagement, retired

**Traci Luffton**, Delaware County Chamber of Commerce

**Jenni Marsh**, President/CEO, United Way of Muncie and Delaware County

**Marta Moody**, Director, Muncie-Delaware County-Metropolitan Plan Commission

**Ginny Nilles**, Director, Muncie Public Library

**Ana Maria Pichardo-Delk**, Director of Communications, Muncie Community Schools

**Jeff Scott**, Dean and Assistant Professor, Ivy Tech Community College

**Kelly Shrock**, President, Community Foundation of Muncie and Delaware County

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