

**City of Barberton named a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists**  
**An Exciting Time for Biking in Barberton**

The League of American Bicyclists recognized City of Barberton with a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) award, joining 464 visionary communities from across the country.

With the announcement of 61 new and renewing BFCs today, the City of Barberton joins a leading group of communities in every state that are transforming the American landscape. “We applaud these communities for making bicycling a safe and convenient option for transportation and recreation,” said Bill Nesper, Executive Director at the League of American Bicyclists. “We are encouraged by the growing number of leaders who see bicycling as a way to build more vibrant, healthy, sustainable, and connected communities and be a part of the solution to many complex challenges faced at both the community and national levels. We look forward to continuing to work with these communities as we move closer to our mission of creating a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone.”

The BFC program is revolutionizing the way communities evaluate their quality of life, sustainability, and accessibility, while allowing them to benchmark progress toward improving their bicycle-friendliness. With this latest round of new and renewing awardees, there are currently 464 BFCs in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Bronze Level BFC award recognizes City of Barberton’s commitment to improving conditions for bicycling through investment in bicycling promotion, education programs, infrastructure and pro-bicycling policies.

“We are honored to receive this prestigious award”, stated Mayor William B. Judge. “Without the collaboration from The Barberton Community Foundation, RD Bike Shop, The Barberton Public Library, Lake Anna YMCA, Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, Barberton Parks & Recreation, and other stakeholders, this achievement would not have been possible. My administration continues to be dedicated to quality of life initiatives such as a walkable/bikeable community. With the continuation and completion of the Magic Mile, bikers from all areas can enjoy our historic downtown, including our unique Arts and Entertainment District. I am excited for what the future holds in downtown Barberton.”

Since the Bicycle Friendly Community program’s inception over 20 years ago, more than 800 distinct communities have applied for recognition. The program provides a roadmap to building a Bicycle Friendly Community for communities of all shapes and sizes. The rigorous application process is an educational tool in itself, and includes an opportunity for local bicyclists to provide input on their experiences and perceptions of bicycling in their community.

The five levels of the BFC award – diamond, platinum, gold, silver and bronze, plus an honorable mention category and a no designation level – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve. The League of American Bicyclists provides feedback and guidance to every applicant community, regardless of award designation, with the goal of helping every community to improve. Awarded communities must renew their status every four years to ensure that they not only maintain existing efforts, but also keep up with changing technology, national safety standards, and community-driven best practices.

To learn more about the BFC program, visit [bikeleague.org/community](http://bikeleague.org/community).

**About the Bicycle Friendly America<sup>SM</sup> Program**

The Bicycle Friendly Community<sup>SM</sup>, Bicycle Friendly State<sup>SM</sup>, Bicycle Friendly Business<sup>SM</sup> and Bicycle Friendly University<sup>SM</sup> programs are generously supported by program partner Eco-Counter and by League Members. To learn more about building a Bicycle Friendly America, visit [www.bikeleague.org/BFA](http://www.bikeleague.org/BFA)

*The League of American Bicyclists is leading the movement to create a Bicycle Friendly America for everyone. As leaders, our commitment is to listen and learn, define standards and share best practices to engage diverse communities and build a powerful, unified voice for change.*