

MILWAUKEE MOBILE BIKE REPAIR

Annual Report 2023



300+
bikes repaired

20+
schools, libraries,
parks, & community
centers visited

50+
days of repairs
performed



WISCONSIN
BIKE FED

Program Manager Jake Newborn

Program Coordinator Anthony Rafael Casagrande

Youth Mechanics Bethani Bell, Jabari Freeman, Lamar Kelly

Another year, another summer of Mobile Bike Repair in Milwaukee! This year, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the program, as we have seen it expand from a pilot project in one neighborhood to a known resource across much of the city, serving 8 core sites and 16 additional sites and events over a total of around 50 sessions. We returned one youth mechanic from previous summers and introduced two new mechanics, including another intern at the PEAK Initiative in Tiefenthaler Park.

The repair team supported new events and projects, including a block party on the Amani neighborhood Active Street sponsored by the Dominican Center, a self-supported bikepacking trip with students from Escuela Verde, a student bike shop at Milwaukee Spanish Immersion School, and a science project with middle schoolers at Morgandale School. We also returned to support this year's Southside Bike Day with the Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, the Promise Zone Ride with Northwest Side CDC, and service learning week at Escuela Verde.

Our work with the Milwaukee Public Library, which had started as a smaller part of the program in 2019, has now expanded to every operating branch except the Central Library downtown. Having the library system as an integral partner has expanded our outreach, informing their many thousands of patrons about the broader availability of our service throughout the summer. Several of those who visited us at one branch returned to visit us at another branch or a playground site, in addition to referring friends, neighbors, and family in need of our services.

For our core playground and community center sites, the recently redesigned Green Bay Avenue School Playfield and Columbia Playfield were

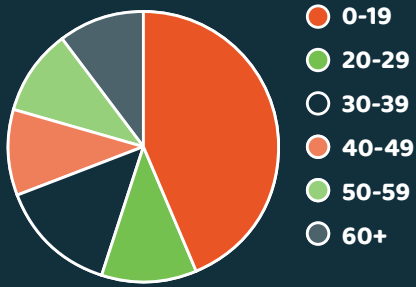


extremely active. Staffing issues and construction had rendered us unable to include these sites in our schedule last year, but it feels like we repaired two years' worth of bikes in one year at each of these playfields. Wet weather and poor air quality from the Canadian wildfires affected the turnout at Mitchell and Burnham, but overall the need still remains for services such as ours across the south side.

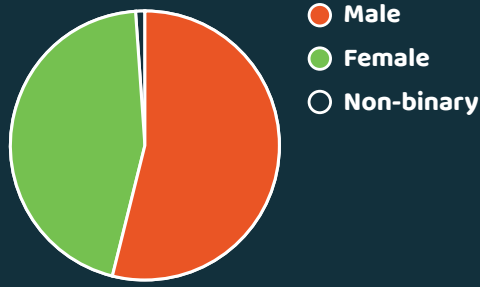
Even with our efforts each year across Milwaukee, we return to find hundreds of bikes awaiting us with untold how many more remaining unfixed. This speaks to a need for not only continuing our Mobile Bike Repair but seeding other repair projects and continuing to transfer knowledge on how to perform repairs. In addition to the ongoing work with the public repair stand at Tiefenthaler Park, next year will bring a planned series of repair education seminars with the library, very early conversations with a group wanting to place a container housing a repair hub at Washington Park, and a possible partnership with the Boys and Girls Club Community Learning Center to establish an earn-a-bike program with the high schoolers at North Division High School in which our Valid Bike Shop repair base is located.

Thanks again to all our partners, supporters, and friends who have made this possible: Fleckenstein Foundation, Milwaukee Public Library, Colliers MKE, Happy E-Bikes Milwaukee, Escuela Verde, Milwaukee Recreation, Neighborhood House, PEAK Initiative, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, Dreambikes, Vulture Space, and the numerous other individuals who have donated their time, supplies, and money to the program.

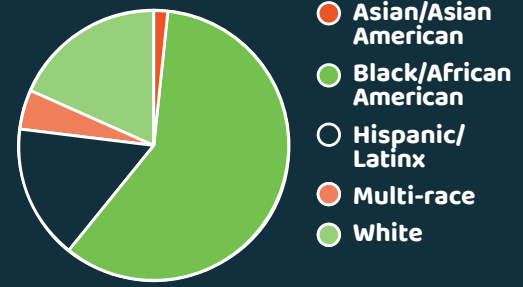
AGE



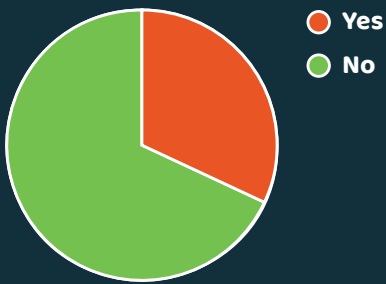
GENDER



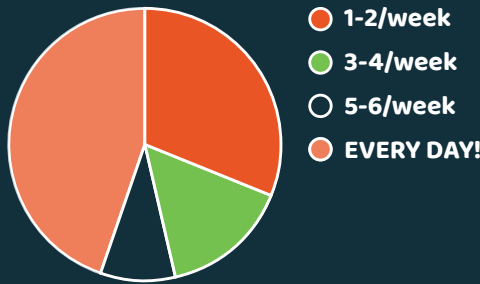
ETHNICITY



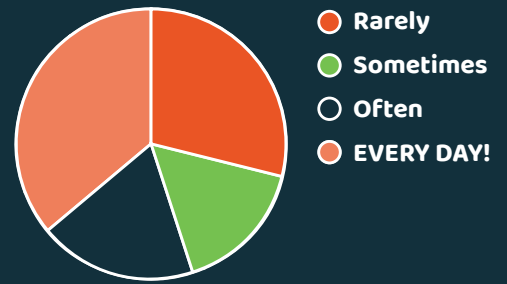
HAVE YOU USED MBR BEFORE?



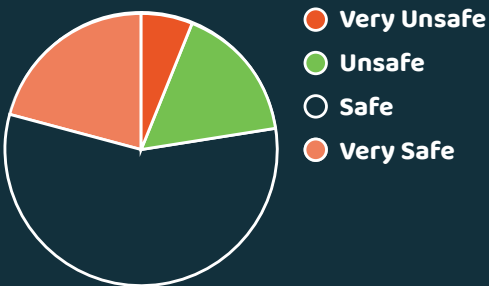
HOW OFTEN DO YOU RIDE?



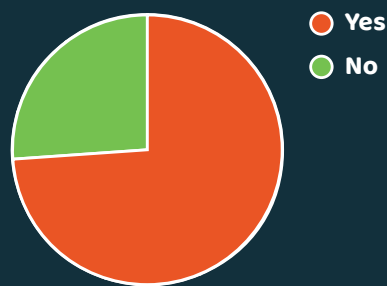
HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT A SITE?



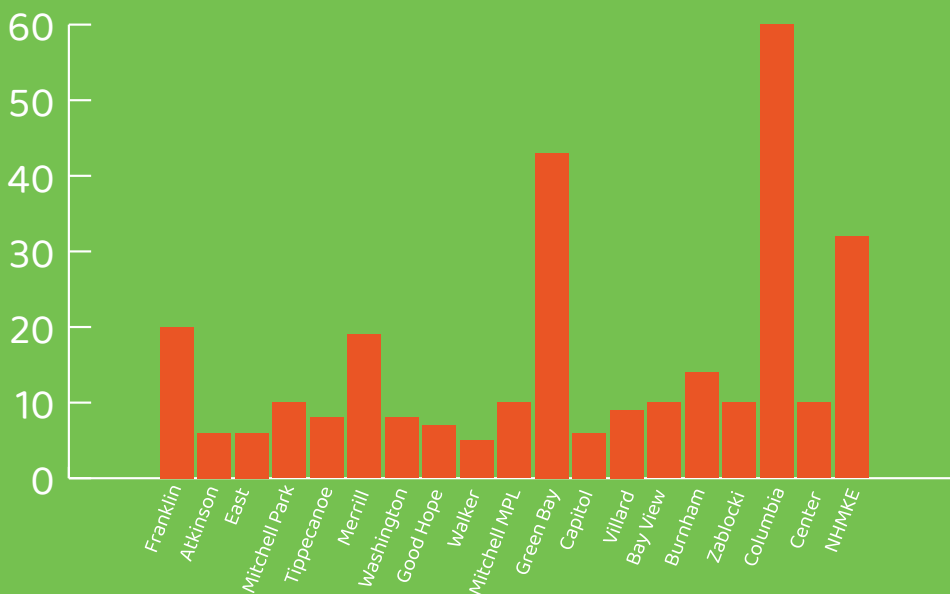
HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL RIDING?



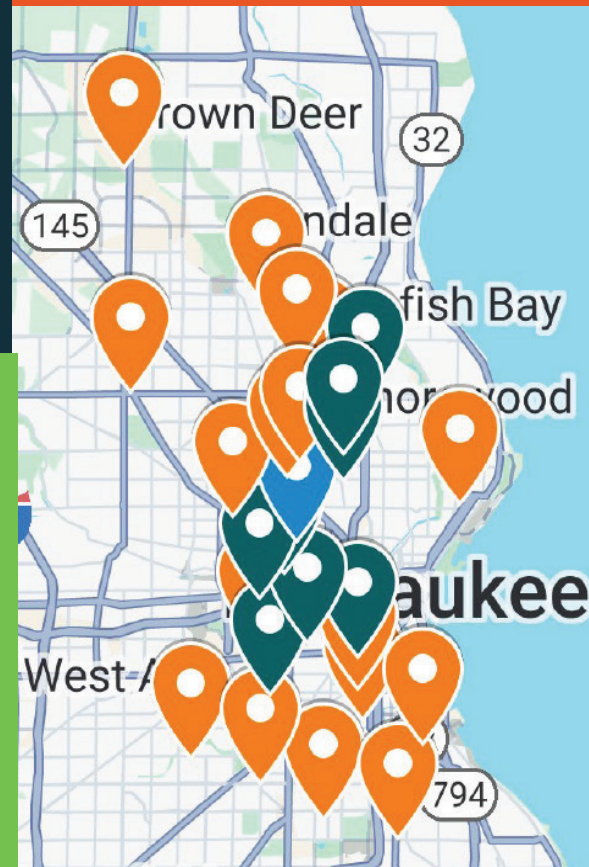
HAVE YOU EATEN TODAY?



NUMBER OF BIKES FIXED AT EACH SITE



SITES



- Multi-Day/Core Sites
- One Day Sites/Events
- PEAK@Tief



This year, our work at the Green Bay Avenue School Playfield stood out as among the most impactful. Given the recent redevelopment, we had not visited the site for several years. When we first arrived, it took very little time for the neighborhood to take notice. In fact, some of the Milwaukee Recreation staff had already anticipated our arrival on the calendar and brought their own bikes, while also making sure the neighborhood residents who frequented the playground knew our repair crew would be there.

Soon, amidst the bustling splash pad, basketball courts, and playground, numerous bikes were buzzing around the entire space of the park. The large tot lot with its geometric patterns, small grassy mounds, and winding pathways of the redesigned fields lent themselves beautifully to safe recreational riding. We even had to alter the layout

of our repair space to prevent some of the kids from completing loops through our work zone!

An older gentleman came to speak to us about his adventures riding the trails from here to Illinois, families stopped by with a bike for each of their children and expressed their excitement, and some interested folks stood around to learn as our crew explained while we fixed each bike. We talked with residents about the planned Beerline Trail extension and connections to other trail projects such as the one in the 30th Street Corridor, our other Bike Fed programming like summer bike camps, the spread of NICA high school mountain biking around the city, the locations of various free skate parks in the county, and more. Not only does the Mobile Bike Repair program provide material resources, our crew also provides information and connections!