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Meeting planned to expand local cycling opportunities

The Knox County Health Department and Knox County Park District invite area residents to a community-wide meeting on bicycling in Knox County. The meeting is set for Sept. 26 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at the CA&A Depot, located just over the Viaduct at 1 Columbus Rd.

"Together the health department and park district envision a healthy, active community where cycling is fun, safe, and accessible to everyone in Mount Vernon and the surrounding communities, " said Tami Ruhl, project coordinator of the Creating Health Communities grant with the health department. "Whether you commute daily via bicycle, like to cycle once and awhile, or just want to help build an exciting new community, we would like your input."

Among the items to be discussed are: 1.) The current and future state of multipurpose trails and trail improvements in Knox County; 2.) The current availability of and future vision for bike sharing in Knox County; 3.) Upcoming bicycle safety and bicycle commuter training programs; 4.) The importance of cycling in building heathy communities; 5.) Local transportation initiatives that benefit cyclists

Tom Bilcze, an avid cyclist from Utica who is active with the Heart of Ohio Trail, will be at the meeting to talk about planned bicycle rides.

"The Knox County Park District and Knox County Health Department are looking to form a small group of community members to help shape the future of cycling in Knox County," said Lori Totman, director of the park district. "Come and listen, share your thoughts, meet others, and learn about opportunities to advocate, participate, and support cycling in Knox County."

For more information, contact Ruhl at 740-392-2200, Ext. 2274 or Totman at 740-392-7275.