








Bentonville's Growing Smarter Activities and Policies





















Key

- ♥ Promotes a healthy lifestyle
- △ Improves safety
- ↘ Reduces vehicle miles traveled
- ☺ Improves quality of life
- 🌍 Promotes conservation of resources
- \$ Saves money or improves the economy









Smarter **TRANSPORTATION**

Transportation is a key element in growing smarter. Furthermore, the connection between transportation and land use has a great impact on how many vehicle miles are traveled each day. The goal to help the environment is to reduce CO2 emissions; caused in large part by vehicles. To reduce CO2 emissions, you need to reduce vehicle miles traveled. To reduce vehicle miles traveled you need to offer other modes of transportation in combination with land uses that are relatively close to one another, such as home, work, shopping and entertainment. To combine land uses you need mixed use developments and activity centers.











Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Initiation
Vehicles			
Parking Reductions	Parking can be reduced by 30% in the downtown area. Currently looking at other opportunities to reduce parking requirements.		2003
Access Management	Subdivision Code includes regulations for access management. (Sec. 1100.9)		1999
Traffic Calming policies	Traffic calming policies pertain to requests to install traffic calming measures in residential neighborhoods and sets a process for doing so. See Residential Traffic Calming Policy .		2006
Roundabout	Bentonville's first roundabout was installed at the intersection of John DeShields and Moberly. Could save upwards of 24,000 gallons of fuel per year by eliminating idling cars at intersections. Currently proposing a second roundabout at S Main St and SW 10 th Street in downtown.		2007
Transit			
Fixed bus route	Ozark Regional Transit (ORT) has a fixed bus route in Bentonville with several stops in residential areas as well as commercial centers. GET SOME NUMBERS ON RIDERSHIP.		2005




Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Initiation
New transit stops	New stop proposed for Sam’s building.	 	
Pedestrians and Bicyclists			
Sidewalks	Sidewalks required in all new developments and as part of street construction programs.	  	1995
Trails	Bentonville has over 15 miles in its trail system, which connects to the on-street sidewalk network. See the Master Trails Plan .	  	2000
Safe Routes to School	A group of concerned citizens began meeting with the city to identify needs near elementary and junior high schools to create a safer passage to school. The city is working with the school district to make progress on some of the proposed changes.	   	2007
Bicycle routes	The Bicycle Advocacy Group (BAG) has worked to establish several designated bike routes. Signs will be installed 2009. See Bike Route Map .	  	2008
Bicycle racks	In addition to the bicycle routes, BAG has sought donations for the purchase and installation of bike racks in various locations.	 	2008
Bicycle share program	The Police Department repaints lost bikes that were never claimed and places them at several public bike racks. Riders can use the bike and return them to any other public bike rack.	  	2004

Smarter **DEVELOPMENT**














Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Initiation
Mixed use zoning	The C3, RC2, RC3 zoning districts allow for a mixture of uses. The PUD not only allows, but encourages, mixed uses. The C3 district is currently being reviewed to allow for a larger mix of uses. See Table of Permitted Uses .		
Connectivity	The Subdivision Code requires subdivisions to be designed with connectivity in mind to provide safe and convenient movement between neighborhoods and to facilitate emergency access and evacuation. (Sec. 1100.5 D)		1990
Activity nodes	The Future Land Use Plan uses the concept of activity centers or nodes where there is a concentration of commercial and office activity near residential uses. See Future Land Use Plan .		2007
Recognition	The first award for a “green” development was made at the Bentonville Development Conference and given to The Harlequin located at SW 6 th and ‘B’ St; developer Brady Hill.		2008
Housing	Support Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity with CDBG funds.		2005
Incentives	No impact fees apply to downtown.		
City hall remodel	Instead of building a new City Hall, city officials have decided to remodel the façade of the existing facility.		2008
Downtown city facilities	Several city facilities have been located centrally in the downtown, including city hall, community development, electric, streets/water, and the public library.		



Smarter **RESOURCES**

Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Implementation
Cut-off light fixtures	The outdoor lighting regulations in the Subdivision Code require the use of cut off lighting fixtures to reduce glare and light pollution. (Sec. 1100.11)	 	2004
Net metering	This allows those who want to use alternative energy to connect to the city electric network.		2008
Motion detector lights	These have been installed in several offices throughout the city. Lights are on only if someone is in the office.		12-2008
Recycling program	The cart curb side recycling program provides two carts to each resident. One for trash and one for recycling. Both carts are picked up one day a week.		12-2007
Compost Facility	Bentonville’s compost facility provides a central location for drop off of leaves, grass, limbs and brush and in turn sells compost to the public.		
LED Traffic Signals	The city has replaced 947 traffic lights, 130 pedestrian lights, and 32 of the pedestrian countdown lights with the LED lights.	 \$	2005
Tree City USA	Bentonville has been a Tree City USA for more than 10 years and in the last few years has received the growth award for expanding efforts in tree preservation and reforestation.		1998
Tree plantings	Tree and Landscape committee has assisted with the design and planting of trees in landscape medians.	 	2008
Tree preservation in right of way	Article 1300 of the Subdivision Code establishes the tree and Landscape Advisory Committee and provides regulations for removing trees within public right of way.		1998

Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Implementation
Tree preservation credits	The landscaping regulations allow credits toward required tree plantings in new developments if existing trees will be preserved. (Sec. 1400.13)		2006
Pervious surfaces	Currently looking into options for using pervious surface pavement materials.		2008
Energy Star Program	City considering a rebate program to encourage new construction and remodels to achieve Energy Star Compliance.		2009






Smarter **PLACES**

Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Implementation
Landscaping	Landscaped around parking lot at North Bentonville Trail and prepared designs for landscaping at gateways.	 	2007
Park signage	Developed a comprehensive signage plan for parks and installed the first one at the compost facility.		2008
Wayfinding signage	Initiating a way finding signage program to assist people with travel through Bentonville.	 \$	2008
Orchards Park	The city is in the early stages of developing Orchards Park, a passive park, on the southeast corner of NE J St. and John DeShields Blvd.	 	2008
Design guidelines	Adopted commercial design standards for downtown and city-wide to improve the appearance and quality of new development and redevelopment.	 	2005 2008
Outdoor vendors	The city has established regulations to allow for outdoor vendors in the downtown area to spur economic development and add vitality to the downtown.	\$ 	2005
Litter removal	City sponsors a spring and fall litter pickup along city streets.		2007
Noise pollution	City has an ordinance in place to reduce the amount of noise pollution.		2006
Square renovation	Renovated streets and sidewalks around the downtown square and along Central Ave.	 \$	2008
Park development	Bond funds are being used to improved existing city parks and develop new neighborhoods parks.		2009

Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Implementation
Recreation programming	The new parks and recreation manager is developing recreational programming through the city. Several new programs will be announced in 2009	 	2009

Smarter **FOOD**

There are several reasons why food is an issue for our residents, the environment and the economy. Since 2005 the U.S. imports more farm products by value than it exports and food prices have increased 6% in the last year. Each minute the U.S. loses two acres of farmland. Furthermore, the average miles traveled for food we get at the grocery store is 1,400. That’s a lot of vehicle miles traveled and CO2 emissions! The focus of these policies and projects is to encourage residents to produce some of their own food and to remove obstacles that may inhibit the ability to do so. It gives the residents more control over the safety of the foods they eat as well as possibly reducing their food expenses.

Item	Description	Benefits	Date of Implementation
Community Gardens	A community garden is proposed in the new Orchards Park. The city is currently developing regulations and a process for participants.	   	
Chickens	The city is currently reviewing regulations that would permit a small number of chickens for homeowners.		
Community Harvest Initiative	Downtown Bentonville, Inc. is working with the Northwest Arkansas Community College to help promote local harvest and provide a place to see their crops locally, such as at the Bentonville Farmer’s Market.	