

Hebron, Nebraska

Population 1,561

Hebron schools started their efforts with some health programming initiatives. “No child left on their behind,” quips Principal Kurk Wiedel. They walked in the mornings in the gym or around the school.

Then they took it up the street. Buses bring kids in from as far as 30 miles away. On Walking Wednesdays, 180 elementary kids are dropped off at the courthouse to walk a mile up to the school. Drivers around the courthouse square took notice.

Then the city council got involved. A competitive grant allowed the town to feature a walking summit, which led to a plan for more accessibility for walking and biking. The focus has become eight-foot-wide trails, where it’s easy to travel peacefully by foot or pedals.

A big funding break came in when the city council member was visiting another town’s fair. He noticed they had a new trail, and it turned out they had a bit of money left over that they would happily share with their neighbors. Talking about their plans led directly to more funding!



Key ideas:

- Get the right people involved--passionate people. One person is great but having several involved is important.
- Find creative solutions. Hebron divvied up the pouring of concrete, with four entities paying for separate sections. Volunteers helped make it happen.
- Plan big but ask people to help you. People want to help.

Thank you to and photos courtesy of Kurk Wiedel