

Sustainable Happenings

Walkable Moab

by Richard Lory, Moab City Sustainability VISTA

In the 1950's a mass exodus took place in US cities from downtown centers to outlying areas. Suburbia was born. Single family homes began to explode, creating sprawl. Accompanying this, and exacerbating it, were vast networks of highways and freeways connecting us to each other, and our jobs. This article is not about how suburbia and increased driving affected politics, the economy, equality, or even the environment, which are worth researching on their own, but instead about how it is affecting our quality of life.

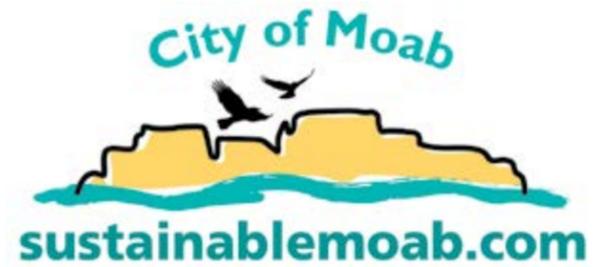
As suburbs began to expand, mixed-use zoning regulations shrank, and homes were separated from work. This was great in one aspect, such that high-pollution factories could be quarantined. But as we move into a future with cleaner technologies, and increased environmental regulations, it's beginning to make less sense to keep the home and workplace separated by miles of roads.

The separation of commercial and residential has led to increased driving. Driving to work. Driving to restaurants. Driving to the gym. Driving to see our friends and family has become the norm. All those miles wreak havoc on our bodies, and our minds. The 2019 Census shows that the average, one-way commute, is 27.6 minutes. To spend an hour a day just commuting back and forth from work and home, constantly being on alert, is stressful.

What if you could ride your bike to work in comfort? What if you could walk along beautiful, friendly streets to

your favorite restaurants? The cities with the highest quality of life around the world have one thing in common, they are designed for active transportation. They are designed to be walkable, with the pedestrian valued more than the car.

Luckily, here in Moab the beautiful red rock cliffs have stymied sprawl. However, to create the most comfortable and sustainable Moab for our current and future generations, we need to keep walkability in mind. Recently, our City Council passed the Unified Transportation Master Plan. In this plan are a multitude of projects that will enhance, and maintain, active transportation while also adding a pilot public transportation program.



YGP's Annual Harvest Festival is coming up on September 24th

by Jessie Shalvey, Outreach & Development Coordinator, Youth Garden Project

As the season shifts to cooler days, pumpkin patches, and crunchy falling leaves, the Youth Garden Project is gearing up for its fourth annual Harvest Festival! This free event will feature live music, garden-fresh food available for purchase, agricultural education, games and crafts, activity booths, the annual Blue Ribbon Produce Exhibition, and so much more. YGP wants to share our thanks for abundant harvests and the changing of seasons with our Moab community members of all ages.

The Harvest Festival stage will feature two talented bands: The Beck Brothers and The Violet Pines. Additional musical acts featuring local youth and community members will be announced soon. Harvest Festival will run from 3-7pm at the Youth Garden Project (530 S 400 E), next to Grand County High School. Parking is available; walking or biking is encouraged.

Blue Ribbon Produce Contest

YGP would also like to announce a call for submissions to our Blue Ribbon Produce Contest. Throughout September, we encourage community members to begin thinking about entries to the contest to showcase their home-grown produce. Categories this year include: silliest, classic, rarest, heaviest tomato, largest melon/squash, best veggie creature, and best flower arrangement. Entry drop off will be Friday 9/23 (5-7pm) and Saturday 9/24 (9-11am).

Produce contest judging will take place Saturday, and winners will be announced at the festival. There is no limit to produce entries. All participants will receive a free bag of popcorn at the event, and prizes will be given to winners in each category. A People's choice award will also be given out based on event day votes. The more submissions, the more fun!



Growing food, kids, and community in Moab, Utah since 1996.

About the Youth Garden Project:

The Youth Garden Project is a 501(c)3 nonprofit in Moab whose mission is to cultivate healthy children, families, and community through educational programs and connecting people with food from seed to table. For more information, visit www.youthgardenproject.org/harvestfestival, or call 435.259.BEAN.



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