



## Blue Earth, MN

**2024 BFC Award: Honorable Mention**

**BFC Award History:** Previously applied and received No Award in 2015.

The 5 Es Category Scores	Blue Earth	Max Score this round
Engineering	18.52%	79.26%
Education	28.23%	83.25%
Encouragement	21.06%	90.86%
Evaluation & Planning	16.25%	75.73%
Equity & Accessibility	11.40%	75.47%

Scores are determined by points earned in each 'E' Category, weighted against comparable communities in the 2024 BFC round. See pages 2-3 for your full subcategory points in each Category.

### Key Outcomes

**Overall Commuter Ridership:** 0.2%

Male Commuter Ridership: 0.4%

Female Commuter Ridership: 0%

*(Bicycle Mode Share among commuters, according to the Census Bureau's 2022 or 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate.)*

**Bicycle Mode Share:** Unknown

*(Reported by applicant)*

**Annual Average Bicyclist Crashes in last 5 years:** 0

**Annual Average Bicyclist Fatalities in last 5 years:** 0

*(Crashes and Fatalities both reported by applicant)*

### Blue Earth's BFA Program Stats

# of Local Bicycle Friendly Businesses: **0**

# of Local Bicycle Friendly Universities: **0**

# of Local League Cycling Instructors: **1**

Minnesota's Bicycle Friendly State Ranking: **#5**

### Community Profile

Population: 3,174

(Size classification for weighted scoring: Micro)

Area: 3.41 square miles

Population Density: 930.8 people/square mile

Land Classification: Rural Town

Poverty Rate: 11.7%\*

Median Household Income: \$61,950\*

**Percent of the Population that Speaks a**

Language Other Than English at Home: 8.2%\*

**Percent with Disability:** 9%\*

**Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available:** 5.1%\*

*\*Source: [https://data.census.gov/profile/Blue\\_Earth\\_city\\_Minnesota?q=160XX00US2706688](https://data.census.gov/profile/Blue_Earth_city_Minnesota?q=160XX00US2706688)*

### Blue Earth's Bike Links

**Bike Network Map, if available:**

*PDF available upon request.*

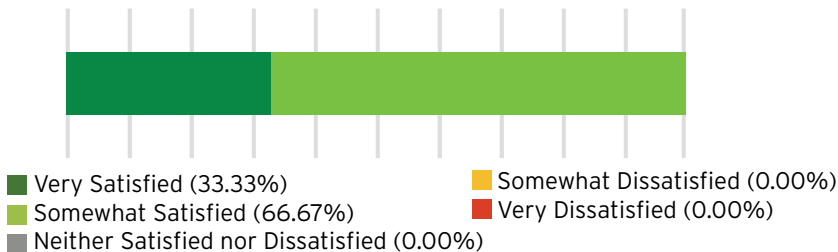
**Bike Plan, if available:**

*(No Bike Plan)*

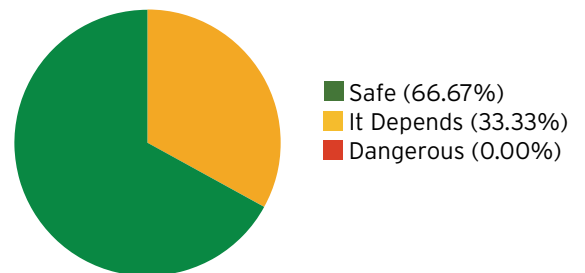
## 2024 BFC Public Survey Response Summary for Blue Earth, MN

Note: Blue Earth received fewer than 10 responses to the BFC public survey in 2024. The League strongly encourages BFC applicants to distribute the public survey as widely as possible the next time your community applies to the BFC program, to get input from as many cyclists – and potential cyclists – as possible.

**How satisfied are you with how this community is designed for making bike riding safe? (n = 3)**



**Is it safe or dangerous to ride a bicycle in your neighborhood, or does it depend? (n = 3)**



**What are the top 1-3 changes you would most like to see the local government make in this community for bicyclists? (n = 3)**

1. Increase education for drivers (66.67%)
2. Reduce speeds through traffic calming and/or road diets (66.67%)

## About this Report Card

The following scores are based on the online application submitted by Blue Earth in the 2024 Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) submission round. These scores reflect a combination of automatically-generated points earned through the online application, as well as judge-assigned points and bonus points given by BFC reviewers.

The League updated its Bicycle Friendly Community application and awards criteria in 2022, after nearly a year of research, focus groups, interviews, listening sessions, and other outreach. The updated application includes a new section on Equity and Accessibility, and other changes throughout. As such, **this Bicycle Friendly Community Report card is a beta version** as we refine our new scoring system and develop a greater understanding of how to convey new information.

All 2024 BFC Report Cards (including this one) will be republished with updated scores if there are significant changes to the points system after the next round of BFC applications. To learn more about the BFC application and awards criteria, please visit <https://bikeleague.org/community>.

<b>ENGINEERING</b>	<i>Blue Earth earned a weighted score of 18.52% in the Engineering Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Blue Earth earned in each subcategory within the Engineering section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Engineering Subcategories	Blue Earth's Subcategory Points in Engineering
	Policies and Design Standards for the Built Environment	3.7 / 41 pts
	End-of-Trip Facilities	5 / 44 pts
	Bicycle Network	13.3 / 128 pts
	Network Maintenance	8.3 / 32 pts
	Bicycle Access to Public Transportation	3.3 / 23 pts
	Bike Sharing	0 / 24 pts
	Other Bicycle-Related Amenities	0.6 / 6 pts
	Regional Coordination	3.1 / 23 pts
Engineering Bonus Points	1.3 / 10 pts	

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<i>Blue Earth earned a weighted score of 28.23% in the Education Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Blue Earth earned in each subcategory of the Education section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Education Subcategories	Blue Earth's Subcategory Points in Education
	Youth Bicycle Education	18.9 / 68 pts
	Adult Bicycle Education	13.3 / 47 pts
	Motorist Education	4 / 28 pts
	Bicycle Safety Education Resources	0.3 / 16 pts
	Inclusive Education	0.4 / 26 pts
	Education Bonus Points	1.5 / 7 pts

<b>ENCOURAGEMENT</b>	<i>Blue Earth earned a weighted score of 21.06% in the Encouragement Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Blue Earth earned in each subcategory of the Encouragement section section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Encouragement Subcategories	Blue Earth's Subcategory Points in Encouragement
	Encouragement Policies, Programs and Partnerships	2.8 / 17 pts
	Route-Finding Support	2 / 10 pts
	Bicycle Culture and Promotion	14 / 91 pts
	Access To Bicycle Equipment and Repair Services	5.3 / 35 pts
	Reducing Work-Related/Fleet VMT	0 / 11 pts
	Encouragement Bonus Points	2.3 / 7 pts

<b>EVALUATION &amp; PLANNING</b>	<i>Blue Earth earned a weighted score of 16.25% in the Evaluation &amp; Planning Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Blue Earth earned in each subcategory of the Evaluation &amp; Planning section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Evaluation & Planning Subcategories	Blue Earth's Subcategory Points in Evaluation & Planning
	Staffing And Committees	5.8 / 35 pts
	Public Engagement for Bicycle Planning	3.5 / 35 pts
	Planning, Funding, And Implementation	0.6 / 46 pts
	Evaluating The Bicycle Network	3.1 / 25 pts
	Evaluating Ridership	-0.3 / 20 pts
	Evaluating & Improving Safety Outcomes	7.4 / 42 pts
Evaluation & Planning Bonus Points	2.4 / 15 pts	

<b>EQUITY &amp; ACCESSIBILITY</b>	<i>Blue Earth earned a weighted score of 11.40% in the Equity &amp; Accessibility Category. Below is the full breakdown of points that Blue Earth earned in each subcategory of the Equity &amp; Accessibility section, compared to the total points available in that subcategory from the 2024 BFC application.</i>	
	Equity & Accessibility Subcategories	Blue Earth's Subcategory Points in Equity & Accessibility
	Equity & Accessibility Staffing, Committees, & Partnerships	2 / 24 pts
	Equity Data Collection & Goals	0 / 27 pts
	Equity & Accessibility Policies & Plans	1.6 / 21 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Engineering	3.9 / 44 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Education	3.3 / 52 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Encouragement	2.3 / 42 pts
	Equity & Accessibility in Evaluation & Planning	3.4 / 51 pts
Equity & Accessibility Bonus Points	1.5 / 9 pts	



## Blue Earth, MN

**2024 BFC Award: Honorable Mention | BFC Award History:** Previously applied and received No Award in 2015.

### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE:

**To improve upon Blue Earth's Honorable Mention status and earn a Bicycle Friendly Community award designation in the future, BFC Reviewers recommend...**

- » BFC Reviewers strongly encourage decision makers in Blue Earth to review your BFC subcategory scores on pages 2-3 above and consider where gaps in your 2024 BFC application can be addressed before your next re-application to the BFC program. The BFC program has many examples of other smaller communities like yours who have been able to accomplish exemplary work in these areas across the 5Es. We encourage you to reach out to the League ([bfa@bikeleague.org](mailto:bfa@bikeleague.org)) for sample BFC applications from similarly sized communities, and to BikeMN for guidance and assistance to help you continue to maintain and improve your BFC status going forward.
- » Continue to improve and expand the low-stress bike network for all ages and abilities, and ensure that your community follows a bicycle facility selection criteria that increases separation and protection of bicyclists based on levels of motor vehicle speed and volume.
- » Consider using temporary pop-up facilities to demonstrate and pilot new bike infrastructure and let residents experience it and provide feedback before it is finalized. Look into the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation for potential funding opportunities to support this work: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/SS4A>.
- » Ensure that your Complete Streets policy is followed for all projects, and that compliance is tracked. Ensuring compliance with a Complete Streets policy is an important and often low-cost way to add to your bicycle network. Striping bicycle lanes as part of repaving operations can save 40% of the cost of adding a bicycle lane. If necessary, revisit your Complete Streets policy and process to ensure better compliance.
- » Develop a design manual for bike facilities that meets current national standards or adopt the FHWA's Small Town and Rural Multimodal Network Guide. This will make it easier for City staff to propose and implement bicycle facility designs that have been shown to improve conditions for people who bike in other similar communities throughout the United States.
- » Increase the amount of high quality bicycle parking throughout the community. Conduct a bike parking study or audit to determine current conditions of bike parking, both in terms of quality and quantity. Adopt a bike parking ordinance for new and existing buildings that specifies the amount and location of secure, convenient bike parking available. Develop community-wide Bicycle Parking Standards that adhere to current APBP guidelines. (See [www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions](http://www.apbp.org/bicycle-parking-solutions)).



## Blue Earth, MN

**2024 BFC Award: Honorable Mention | BFC Award History:** Previously applied and received No Award in 2015.

### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Expand bicycle safety education to be a routine part of education for students of all ages. Work with the school district, local bicycle groups, and interested parents to create on-bike learning opportunities and Safe Routes to School programming for all K-12 schools, including for Elementary and High School students.
- » Work with BikeMN to increase the number of local League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in Blue Earth, by sponsoring a City staffer or local bike advocate to attend an existing seminar elsewhere in the state. Having several active instructors in the area will enable you to expand cycling education for youth and adults, recruit more knowledgeable cycling ambassadors, deliver Bicycle Friendly Driver education to motorists, and have experts available to assist in encouragement programs. Visit [bikeleague.org/ridesmart](http://bikeleague.org/ridesmart) for more information.
- » Develop education and encouragement outreach methods and programs that specifically target families, women, seniors, low-income residents, and people with disabilities, in addition to general non-targeted outreach and media campaigns that discuss current and new bicycle facilities, safe driver and bicyclist behavior, and events related to walking and biking.
- » Work with your Chamber of Commerce and the Blue Earth Area Active Living Coalition to encourage more local businesses, agencies, and organizations to promote cycling to their employees and customers and to seek recognition through the Bicycle Friendly Business program. City Hall, BEA Middle School or School District, and other local government buildings could apply to the BFB program as an employer to lead by example among other local employers. Look at what Walker, MN, has done using the BFB program to engage local businesses for inspiration from another smaller community in your state.
- » Encourage your Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to meet more regularly, as a way to create a systematic method for ongoing citizen input into the development of important policies, plans, and projects. Ensure that the members of the committee reflect the diversity and ability levels of cyclists in your community.
- » Work with the Active Living Coalition to host a Bike Audit, using the AARP Bike Audit Tool Kit ([AARP.org/BikeAudit](http://AARP.org/BikeAudit)). Recruit volunteers from local bicycling clubs and invite elected officials, and other city, regional, and state agencies to participate.
- » Create a bicycle count program that utilizes several methods of data collection to create an understanding of current bicyclists and the effects of new facilities on bicycling in Blue Earth. Automated bicycle counters provide long-term data on bicycle use at fixed points in a community and mobile counters can provide periodic or before/after data related to a change in your community's road or bicycle network. Observational counts and surveys can supplement automated data in order to collect demographic information and examine social equity goals.



## Blue Earth, MN

2024 BFC Award: Honorable Mention | BFC Award History: Previously applied and received No Award in 2015.

### FEEDBACK TO IMPROVE, CONTINUED:

- » Continue to build on your existing partnerships with local, regional, and statewide public health agencies and organizations that can support efforts to create more opportunities for bicycling and increase physical activity through community design. To further show your community's commitment to health and wellness through active transportation, work with local elected officials to pass an Active People, Healthy Nation<sup>SM</sup> Proclamation this year. Active People, Healthy Nation<sup>SM</sup> is a national initiative led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help 27 million Americans become more physically active by 2027. Learn more about Active People, Healthy Nation<sup>SM</sup> Proclamations at:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/active-people-healthy-nation/php/data-research/proclamations.html>.

### MORE RESOURCES FOR IMPROVING YOUR COMMUNITY:

- » **Guide to this BFC Report Card:** <https://bit.ly/BFC-Report-Card-Guide-2024>
- » **League of American Bicyclists:** <https://www.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/community>
- » **Resources for Building a Bicycle Friendly Community:** [https://bikeleague.org/BFC\\_Resources](https://bikeleague.org/BFC_Resources)
- » **About the BFC Application Process:** <https://bikeleague.org/content/about-bfc-application-process>
- » **The Five E's:** <https://bikeleague.org/5-es>
- » **The BFC Ideabook and Map:** <https://bikeleague.org/BFCIdeaBook>
- » **The League's Benchmarking Project on Biking & Walking Data and Reports:** <https://data.bikeleague.org>
- » **Bicycle Friendly State (BFS) Rankings and Report Cards:** <https://bikeleague.org/state>
- » **Bicycle Friendly Business (BFB) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/business>
- » **Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/university>
- » **Smart Cycling Education Program:** <https://bikeleague.org/ridesmart>
- » **National Bike Month Resources:** <https://bikeleague.org/bikemonth>
- » **More Reports and Resources from the League:** <http://bikeleague.org/reports>
- » **Federal Funding Resources from the League:** <https://bikeleague.org/federal-funding-resources/>
- » **Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities from U.S. DOT Transit, Safety, and Highway Funds:** [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle\\_pedestrian/funding/funding\\_opportunities.pdf](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/funding/funding_opportunities.pdf)
- » **U.S. DOT Navigator:** <https://www.transportation.gov/dot-navigator>