

Attending Maplewood Porchfest



A Social Narrative of
Community, Music, and Belonging
for Adolescents and Adults

 By
**Together
We Bloom**
CONNECTION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY

About Social Stories

Social Stories are first-person narratives written to introduce a new, unexpected, or challenging situation with simple language and pictures . They help the reader know what to expect and provide options for support.

Anyone can benefit from learning about situations ahead of time but social stories are often particularly helpful for neurodivergent individuals including Autistic people or people with anxiety.

Social stories should be used as a tool to empower and support inclusion and access, not to force compliance with social norms.

This Porchfest Social Story was created by Together We Bloom.

We are also hosting the Porchfest sensory-friendly quiet room located at DeHart Community Center, 120 Burnett Ave, Maplewood. Please visit us at our Porchfest Bakesale on Franklin Ave between Prospect and Princeton.

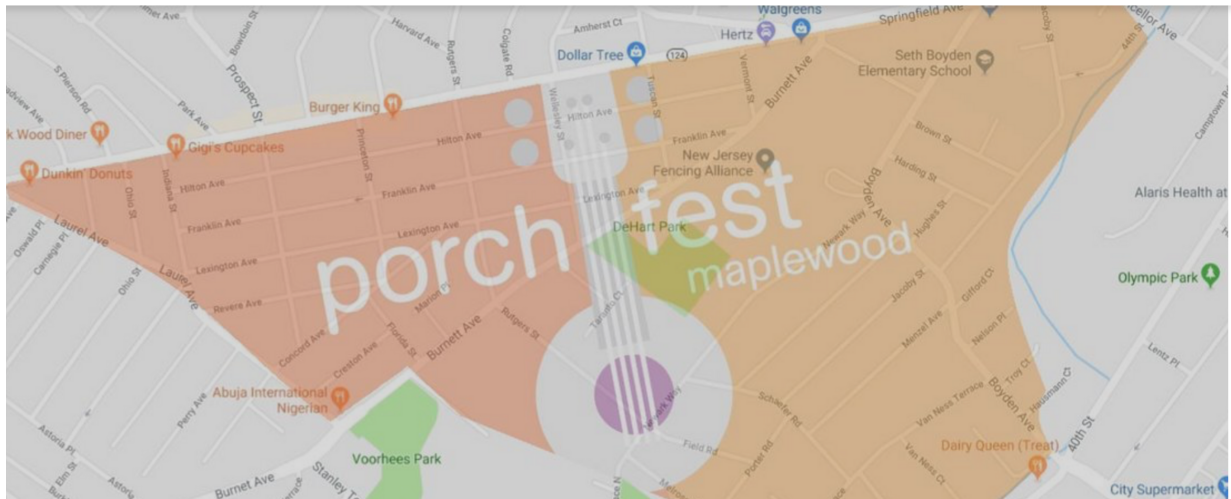
Together We Bloom is a local 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to empower young children with disabilities and their families through equitable access to connection, communication, and community. We advance this mission through two vital strategies: sliding-scale, neurodiversity-affirming speech and language therapy and disability justice, equity, and belonging initiatives to make our community a more inclusive place.

To learn more or support our work for inclusivity please visit: www.TogetherWeBloom.org.

I am going to an event in my community called
Porchfest.

Porchfest is on Sunday, September 3, 2023 from
1:00PM to 5:00PM. Since it's an outside event, if it rains
on that day, then Porchfest will be on Monday,
September 4.

I might go by myself, with family, or with friends.



Porchfest is a celebration of music and community in
Maplewood, NJ in the Hilton neighborhood.

At Porchfest, musicians perform on neighbors' front yards or porches. I can go around to see the different musicians.



Some of the streets in the neighborhood are closed to cars to keep the event safe. I might need to park nearby and walk over to the Hilton neighborhood.

At the start, there is a "Honk Parade" through the neighborhood with music and dancing. I can participate in the parade or watch if I want. I can bring an instrument to play.



The parade begins at DeHart Park at 120 Bennett Ave
Maplewood. There is a parking lot there.
Rehearsal begins at 12:00PM and the parade starts at
12:30 PM



I will hear lots of different types of music at Porchfest. Some performers are bands with loud and fast music and other performers play or sing quieter, slower music. I can choose the type of music I like or visit many different performers.



I can view the map and schedule of performers at www.maplewoodporchfest.com/schedule. The interactive map has descriptions of the performers.

There are lots of people who come to watch the performers at Porchfest.

Some performances might have large crowds around them and others might have a smaller group of people.

Some people chose to stay in one location to listen to a performance. Other people may walk around, talk with friends, dance, or do something else that is fun for them.

There is no right or wrong way to enjoy Porchfest. I can chose to do whatever feels right for me.



There are lemonade stands and bake sales that have food and drinks for people to buy. These locations are also on the interactive map at www.maplewoodporchfest.com/schedule.

I can bring my own drinks and snacks too.



Everybody's experience of Porchfest is different. I may need to take a break from the music or crowds.

If I need a bathroom break, I can go to DeHart Community Center at 120 Burnett Ave, Maplewood, in the Hilton neighborhood.

If I need a quiet, calming space, I can take a break at the sensory-friendly quiet room also in DeHart Community Center. In the sensory-friendly room, there is no music. There are soft lights, chairs, and a tent.



If I need to move, walk, or run away from the crowds, I can take a break at DeHart Park. There is a big grassy field, a playground, a basketball court, and adult-sized exercise equipment.



I can stay at Porchfest for as long as I want and go home when I feel ready. The bands play from 1:00PM-5:00PM but people will come and go throughout the afternoon.



I am an important part of my community.

**Music and Community are for everyone!
Porchfest is for everyone!**



Special thanks to the Maplewood Porchfest Committee and the following musicians and photographers for use of their photos available on the Porchfest website, www.maplewoodporchfest.com.

Musician and Photo Credits:

Cover: Rites of Springfield - Photo by Tracy Sham Photography

Page 3: City Roots - Photo by Gregory Burrus Productions.

Page 4: "Maplewood Porchfest Honk Parade" - Photo by Tom Melee.

Page 5:

A. Lady Rose - Photo by Gary Stein

B. Sarah Hodd + Mark Loughney- Photo courtesy of Sarah Hodd

C. Willie Williams + Ace Williams - Photo by Tracy Sham Photography.

Page 6: "Porchfest 2022" - Photo courtesy of Vic DeLuca

Page 7: "Lemonade Stand" - Photo by Tracy Sham Photography

Page 10: Sarah Partridge + Band - Photo by Gary Stein



Porchfest Communication Board

 I	 is	 eat	 drink	 have	 what?	 where?	 when?	 not
 you	 we	 want	 like	 need	 get	 to	 with	 in
 he	 she	 stop	 go	 come	 take	 over	 here	 out
 it	 this	 see	 look	 put	 make	 under	 there	 up
 they	 that	 dance	 sing	 sit	 give	 on	 off	 down
 and	 no	 This is fun!	 I like the music	 play music	 help	 play	 I don't like it	 I Need A Break
 more	 different	 sensory room	 playground	 porchfest	 bake sale	 all done	 loud	