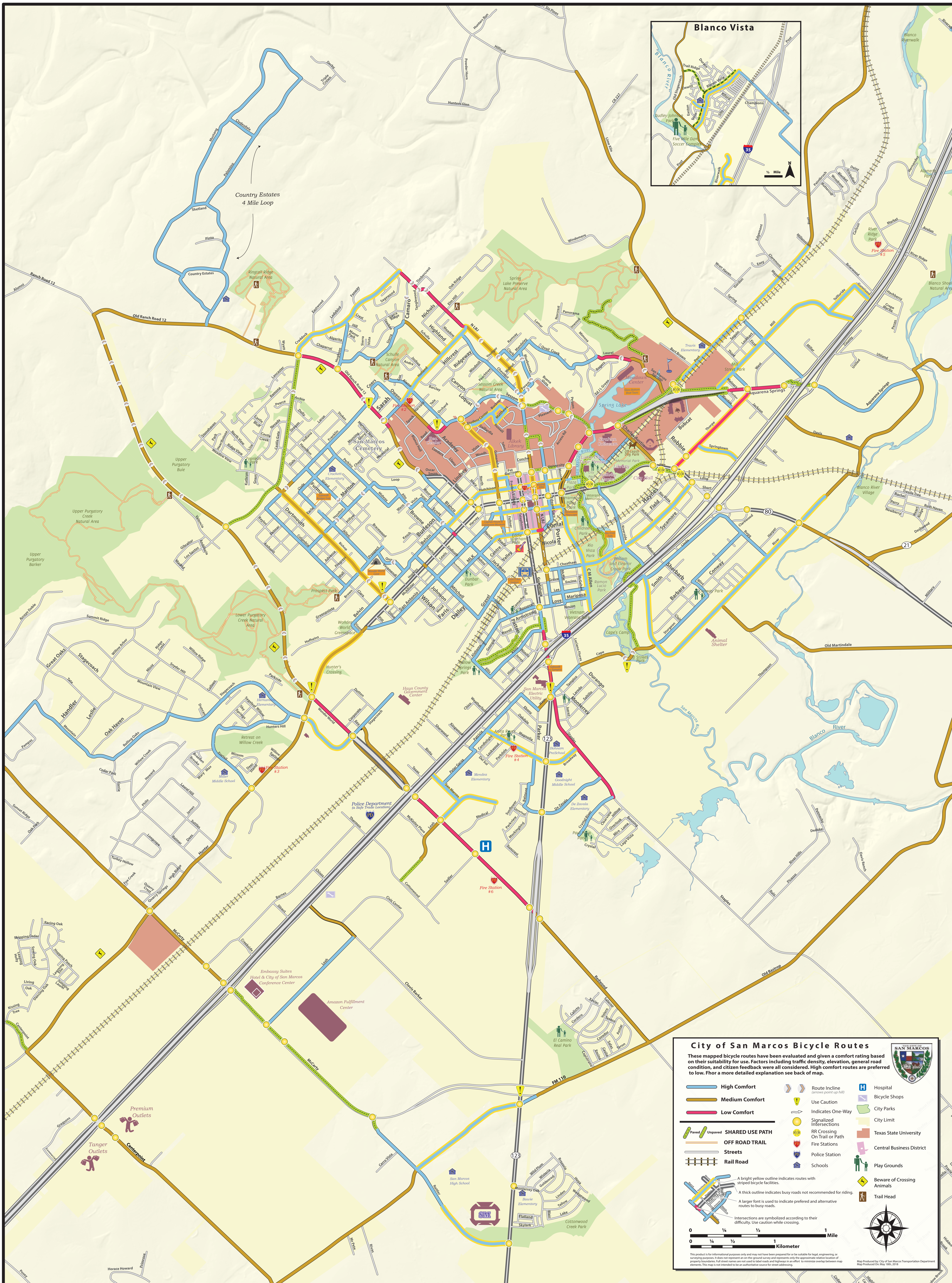

City of San Marcos Bicycle Routes
These mapped bicycle routes have been evaluated and given a comfort rating based on their suitability for use. Factors including traffic density, elevation, general road condition, and citizen feedback were all considered. High comfort routes are preferred to low. Fhor a more detailed explanation see back of map.
THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS
High Comfort
Medium Comfort
Low Comfort
Paved
Unpaved
SHARED USE PATH
OFF ROAD TRAIL
Streets
Rail Road
Route Incline
(arrows point up hill)
Use Caution
Indicates One-Way
Signalized Intersections
RR Crossing On Trail or Path
Fire Stations
Police Station
Schools
Hospital
Bicycle Shops
City Parks
City Limit
Texas State University
Central Business District
Play Grounds
Beware of Crossing Animals
Trail Head
A bright yellow outline indicates routes with striped bicycle facilities.
A thick outline indicates busy roads not recommended for riding.
A larger font is used to indicate prefered and alternative routes to busy roads.
Intersections are symbolized according to their difficulty. Use caution while crossing.
0 ¼ ½ 1 Mile
0 ¼ ½ 1 Kilometer
This product is for informational purposes only and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries. Full street names are not used to label roads and highways in an effort to minimize overlap between map elements. This map is not intended to be an authoritative source for street addressing.
Map Produced by: City of San Marcos Transportation Department
Map Produced On: May 18th, 2018
Blanco Vista
Dudley Johnson Park
Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex
½ Mile
Country Estates 4 Mile Loop
Ringtail Ridge Natural Area
Spring Lake Preserve Natural Area
Upper Purgatory Buie
Upper Purgatory Creek Natural Area
Upper Purgatory Barker
Lower Purgatory Creek Natural Area
Schulle Canyon Natural Area
Sessom Creek Natural Area
San Marcos Cemetery
Spring Lake
Meadows Center
Alkek Library
Strahan Coliseum
City Hall
Blanco River Village
Blanco Shoals Natural Area
Blanco Riverwalk
Alameda Park
River Ridge Park
Fire Station #5
Fire Station #2
Fire Station #3
Fire Station #4
Fire Station #6
Police Department (a Safe Trade Location)
Hays County Government Center
San Marcos Electric Utility
Animal Shelter
Embassy Suites Hotel & City of San Marcos Conference Center
Amazon Fulfillment Center
Premium Outlets
Tanger Outlets
San Marcos High School
El Camino Real Park
Cottonwood Creek Park
San Marcos River
Blanco River
Old Ranch Road 12
Aquarena Springs
Old Martindale
Old Bastrop
FM 110
McCarty
Centerpoint
Redwood
Staples
35
80
21
123

# State Laws

**Chapter 551**
**Operation of Bicycles, Mopeds, and Play Vehicles**

SUBCHAPTER A. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER

Sec. 551.001. Persons Affected

This chapter applies only to a person operating a bicycle on:
(1) a highway; or
(2) a path set aside for the exclusive operation of bicycles.

SUBCHAPTER B. REGULATION OF OPERATION

Sec. 551.1 O 1. Rights and Duties

(a) A person operating a bicycle has the rights and duties applicable to a driver operating a vehicle under this subtitle, unless:

(1) a provision of this chapter alters a right or duty; or

(2) a right or duty applicable to a driver operating a vehicle cannot by its nature apply to a person operating a bicycle.

(b) A parent of a child or a guardian of a ward may not knowingly permit the child or ward to violate this subtitle.

Sec. 551.102. General Operation

(a) A person operating a bicycle shall ride only on or astride a permanent and regular seat attached to the bicycle.

(b) A person may not use a bicycle to carry more persons than the bicycle is designed or equipped to carry.

(c) A person operating a bicycle may not use the bicycle to carry an object that prevents the person from operating the bicycle with at least one hand on the handlebars of the bicycle.

(d) A person operating a bicycle, coaster, sled, or toy vehicle or using roller skates may not attach either the person or the bicycle, coaster, sled, toy vehicle, or roller skates to a streetcar or vehicle on a roadway.

**Sec. 551. 103. Operation on Roadway**

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a person operating a bicycle on a roadway who is moving slower than the other traffic on the roadway shall ride as near as practicable to the right curb or edge of the roadway, unless:

(1) the person is passing another vehicle moving in the same direction

(2) the person is preparing to turn left at an intersection or onto a private road or driveway;

(3) a condition on or of the roadway, including a fixed or moving object, parked or moving vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or surface hazard prevents the person from safely riding next to the right curb or edge of the roadway; or

(4) the person is operating a bicycle in an outside lane that is:

(A) less than 14 feet in width and does not have a designated bicycle lane adjacent to that lane; or

(Bl too narrow for a bicycle and a motor vehicle to safely travel side by side.

(b) A person operating a bicycle on a one-way roadway with two or more marked traffic lanes may ride as near as practicable to the left curb or edge of the roadway.

(c) Persons operating bicycles on a roadway may ride two abreast. Persons riding two abreast on a laned roadway shall ride in a single lane. Persons riding two abreast may not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic on the roadway. Persons may not ride more than two abreast unless they are riding on a part of a roadway set aside for the exclusive operation of bicycles.

(d) Repealed by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1085, § 13, eff. Sept. 1,2001.

Acts 1995, 7 4th Leg., ch. 165, § 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1 995. Amended by Acts 2001, 77th Leg., ch. 1085, §§ 10, 13, eff. Sept. 1, 2001.

**Sec. 551. 104. Safety Equipment**

(a) A person may not operate a bicycle unless the bicycle is equipped with a brake capable of making a braked wheel skid on dry, level, clean pavement.

(b) A person may not operate a bicycle at nighttime unless the bicycle is equipped with:

(1). A lamp on the front of the bicycle that emits a white light visible fro ma distance of a least 500 feet in front of the bicycle; and

(2). on the rear of the bicyle:

(A) A red reflector that is:

(i) of a type approved by the department; and

(ii) visible when directly in front of lawful upper beams of motor vehicle headlamps from all distances from 50 to 300 feet to the rear of the bicycle; or

(B) lamp that emits a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the bicycle.

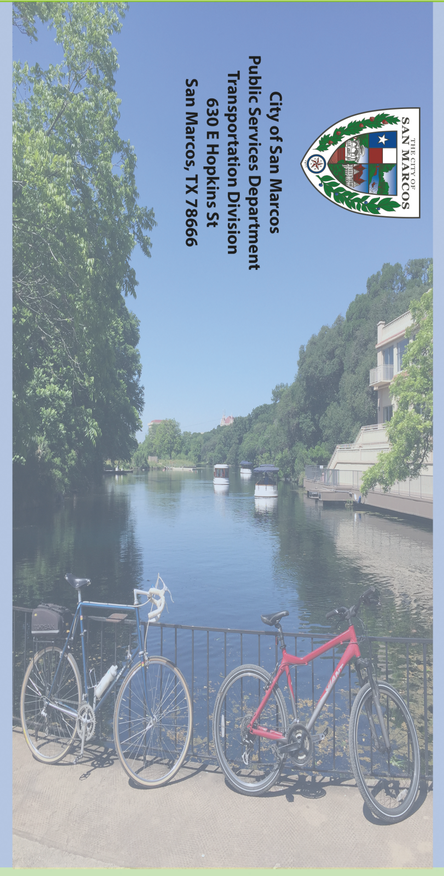
(C) In addition to the reflector required by Subsection (b), a person operating a bicycle at nighttime may use a lamp on the rear of the bicycle that emits a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear of the bicycle.

**Sec. 551. 105. Competitive Racing**

(a) In this section, "bicycle" means a non-motorized vehicle propelled by human power.

(bl A sponsoring organization may hold a competitive bicycle race on a public road only with the approval of the appropriate local law enforcement agencies.

(c) The local law enforcement agencies and the sponsoring organization may agree on safety regulations governing the movement of bicycles during a competitive race or during training for a competitive race, including the permission for bicycle operators to ride abreast.




City of San Marcos
Public Services Department
Transportation Division
630 E Hopkins St
San Marcos, TX 78666


# SAN MARCOS Bicycle Map Routes

## Numbers of Interest

**City of San Marcos**

Public Services-Transportation - 512.393.8036

Community Services -Parks and Recreation - 512.393.8400

Development Services - 512.393.8230

Capital Improvements - 512.393.8130

Traffic Signals and Signage - 512.393.8036

GIS/Mapping - 512.393.8237

**Hays County**

Hays County Road Department - 512.393.7385

**State**

Statewide or Local Information - 211

**Organizations**

Bike Texas-Texas Bicycle Coalition
Web: www.BikeTexas.org
Email: mail@biketexas.org

San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance
Web: www.smgreenbelt.org
Email: alliance@smgreenbelt.org

**Laws**

Current regulations concerning bicycles can be found at http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us

# Bike Commuting Tips

**Picking a bike**
-You can commute on any bike as long as it is in good working order.
-Road bikes, mountain bikes, hybrids, cross bikes, or touring bikes all work great.
-The bike should reflect your riding style; relax on a 3-speed or hammer a road bike.

**Carrying Capacity**
-A rear rack and panniers, a basket on the front or a backpack all work well.
-Panniers are most expensive and are usually waterproof; use them if you have them.
-Baskets don't carry much and backpacks can make you sweat through your clothing.

**Fenders**
-Full fenders are recommended; use quick release or standard bolt-on style.
-The roadways can be wet from other things besides rain.
-Fenders also keep dirt and mud off of your clothes.

**Lights**
-Headlights are mandatory at night; white in front with a rear reflector in back.
-A red light on the rear of the bike increases visibility at night.
-Check batteries and replace them as soon as light begins to dim.

**Safety**
-Always wear a helmet while riding your bike no matter what.
-A helmet is your last line of defense against injury in an accident.
-Prevent injury by knowing the rules of the road and acting predictably.

**Tools**
-Bring only tools that you know how to use; a pump is a necessity.
-Prepare for breakdowns with regular inspections of your bike.
-Carry a multi-tool with allen wrenches, screwdriver, and chain tool; know how to use them.

**Spare Parts**
-Carry a spare tube and patch kit at all times; keep another spare at work.
-Know the condition of your bike and its parts by inspecting it regularly.
-Keep a few spare parts that need regular replacement at work.

**Lock**
-Use a high-security U-lock; don't wait until your bike is stolen to invest in a good lock.
-Lock your bike to an immovable object in a highly visible area.
-Secure both wheels and other components if they can be easily removed.

**Flat Prevention**
-Tire liners and flat resistant tires go a long way to help decrease flat tire occurrence.
-Replace tires when they are worn out; check pressure with a gauge.
-Familiarize yourself with how much air your tires lose each week.

**Reflection**
-Make sure that motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians can see you at night.
-Wear bright or reflective clothing; apply reflective tape to helmet or bike.
-Ankle straps keep pant legs out of the chain and usually have a reflective strip.

Find these tips online at:
http://www.bikeleague.org/content/commuting

# Hands Free Ordinance

The City of San Marcos passed a hands-free ordinance effective February 1, 2016 that prohibits the use of handheld devices, such as cell phones and GPS devices, while a person is operating a vehicle--this includes bicycles!

Devices can be used while a vehicle is stopped or if a hands-free function is activated, such as Bluetooth or speaker phone.

For more information on the new ordinance, visit www.sanmarcostx.gov/handsfree

**The new law prohibits:**

*Dialing, hanging up, or engaging in a telephone conversation; Viewing, taking, or transmitting electronic images; Using email; Using GPS or other navigation applications; Browsing the Internet; Playing games; Typing, reading, or sending text messages*

# Safe Passing Ordinance

The City Council has adopted a "Safe Passing" ordinance that requires automobiles and trucks to pass vulnerable road users at a safe distance. That means three feet for automobiles and light trucks, and six feet for commercial motor vehicles. The ordinance took effect March 19, 2014 and requires motorists and truck drivers to do the following when encountering vulnerable road users—as traffic conditions allow:

- Move over to another lane on roads with two lanes running in the same direction
- Cars and light trucks should steer clear by at least 3 feet or 6 feet for commercial vehicles
- When making a left turn at an intersection, yield the right of way to vulnerable road users approaching from the opposite direction
- Don't overtake a vulnerable road user and make a right turn in front of them—unless you are safely clear and have taken their speed into account
- Drivers may not maneuver in a way to intimidate, harass or threaten a vulnerable road user.
- Motorists must exercise due care to avoid colliding with any vulnerable road user on a street or intersection.

The ordinance provides a defense to prosecution if the vulnerable road user was violating the law at the time of the offense.
Austin, San Antonio, and Houston are among other Texas cities that have adopted similar local safe passing regulations.

For more information on the ordinance, visit www.sanmarcostx.gov/safepassing

STEER CLEAR
3 ft Cars / 6 ft Trucks
PASS SAFELY

# On The Trails

The City of San Marcos plans, develops, and maintains many of San Marcos' trails. The San Marcos area has more than 25 miles of paved and unpaved multi-use trails that can be used by bicyclists. A recreational and commuter network is provided through these trails along with on-street routes. San Marcos' longest trail covers about seven miles over the 556 acre Prospect and Purgatory Creek Parks.

**1. Ride on Open Trails Only**
Respect trail and road closures (ask if uncertain); avoid trespassing on private land; obtain permits or other authorization as may be required. Federal and State Wilderness areas are closed to cycling. The way you ride will influence trail management decisions and policies.

**2. Leave No Trace**
Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Recognize different types of soils and trail construction; practice low-impact cycling. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage. When the trail bed is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

**3. Control Your Bicycle**
Inattention for even a second can cause problems. Obey all bicycle speed regulations and recommendations.

**4. Always Yield on the Trails**
Let your fellow trail users know you're coming. A friendly greeting or bell is considerate and works well; don't startle others. Show respect when passing by, slowing to a walking pace, or even stopping. Anticipate other trail users around corners or in blind spots. Yielding means slowing down, establishing communication being prepared to stop if necessary, and passing safely.
While enjoying the trails, you may cross paths with a variety of trail users. Expect to meet other bicyclists, unicyclists, walkers, persons with wheelchairs and others.

**5. Plan Ahead**
Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding - and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times, keep your equipment in good repair, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. A well-executed trip is a satisfaction to you and not a burden to others. Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

These rules can be found online at:
http://www.biketexas.org/en/infrastructure/rules-of-the-trail

*Use caution when riding on gravel or loose dirt trails to prevent slipping.*

# Bike Boxes

**Bike boxes downtown provide increased bicycle safety**

Several intersections downtown feature "bike boxes" to help increase bicyclist safety. The green areas on N. LBJ at the intersections of Hopkins, Hutchison and University are designated areas where bicyclists can stop at the intersection before proceeding through or turning. The bike boxes provide cyclists with space in designated intersections to stop and safely turn.

**What is a bike box?**
Bike boxes are a new kind of on-street marking that help motorists and cyclists share the road. Bike boxes are used at intersections to designate a space for cyclists to wait in front of cars at the red light, and to proceed first when the light turns green.

**What do bike boxes mean for motorists?**
At red lights, drivers must stop at the stop line behind the bike box and allow cyclists to go first through the intersection once the light turns green. When turning right on a green light, the driver should remember to check for cyclists before making the turn.

**What do bike boxes mean for cyclists?**
When the traffic signal is red, cyclists enter the bike box from the bike lane. As a cyclist, you should position yourself at the right, left, or center of the bike box, depending on the direction you want to travel. If you are turning, remember to signal.

**Why is the City painting bike boxes on our roadways?**
Bike boxes make intersections better for everyone. When bikes clear the intersection ahead of cars, they are more visible and less likely to get stuck squeezing around a right-turning vehicle.

Bike box at intersection of Hutchison and N LBJ

# Bicycle Security

**Visibility**
-Lock your bike in a highly visible area close to pedestrian traffic
-Streetlights provide additional security at night
-Avoid locking your bike behind large objects that obscure visibility

**Securing your bike**
-Lock your frame, wheels, seat post and anything else easily removable
-Seat/seat post locks are one-time installations and are available at your local bike shop
-Lock your bike to a large metal immovable object

**U-locks**
-Rigid and U shaped with a cylindrical lock core that is impossible to pick
-Made of heavy tempered steel that is very hard to break
-Most secure, most expensive, hardest to use locks; considered the standard in cities

**Cable Locks**
-Great for short time periods where your bike is highly visible and a low chance of theft
-Manufacturers are combining security of U locks with ease of use of cable locks
-Smaller, lighter, less expensive, easier to use but less secure than a U-lock

**Carrying a lock**
-Most locks come with a mount for your bike to keep the lock out of the way
-Backpacks, panniers or any other bag is a quick, easy place to stow a lock
-Be sure that the lock does not interfere with safe operation of the bike

**Time Factor**
-Short periods away from your bike require a less secure lock; try a cable lock
-The longer you are away from your bike, the more secure it should be
-Use the combination of a U-lock and a cable lock for overnight parking

**Extras**
-Register your bike with local and national registration service
-Register your key numbers with the company that made your lock
-Mark your bike in an identifiable way to aid in its recovery if stolen

View these tips online at:
http://www.bikeleague.org/content/smart-cycling-tips-0

# Bicycle Racks

Bike Racks are located at many city facilities including the Public Library, City Hall and San Marcos Activity Center.

Be sure to take advantage of bike parking and lock your bicycle securely when visiting city facilities, parks, local businesses, or anywhere else you may bike in San Marcos.

*Bike racks are available at trailheads and throughout town. Make sure to lock your bicycle securely to prevent theft.*

# Bicycle Safety

**Bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as drivers. As a bicyclist, you should obey all traffic laws, including:**
-Stopping at red lights and stop signs
-Paying attention to lane markers
-Riding near the curb, traveling in the same direction as traffic
-Having a light on the front and a red reflector or red light on the back of your bike while riding at night.

**Remember to also use proper signals when you want to stop or turn. For a left turn, stretch your left arm to the left; for a right turn, stretch your right arm to the right. For a stop, hold your left arm downward.**

**Tips for Bicyclists**
-Wear a properly fitted helmet to reduce the chances of head injury and death. (Some cities and counties require cyclists to wear helmets. Contact local law enforcement for more information.)
-Always check brakes and tires before riding.
-Make it easier for drivers to see you by wearing light colors or reflective clothing.

**Tips for Drivers**
-Be on the lookout for cyclists on the highway, especially at intersections.
-If you're passing a bicyclist, move to another lane if possible and give them plenty of room.
-Watch for riders who may need to maneuver around potholes and debris.

View these tips online at:
**http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/share-road/bicycles.html**

**A word on "Dooring" and use of the "Dutch Reach"**

The term "Dooring" describes the danger of a parked car's occupant suddenly opening the door on a passing cyclist. This is a serious danger for cyclists across the world, and can be fatal. San Marcos features bike lanes alongside on-street parking in such locations as CM Allen and Cheatham streets. To avoid these types of accidents it is recommended to practice the "Dutch Reach".
Use the hand opposite your door upon exiting your vehicle. For driver-side occupants that means using your right hand, and for passenger side, your left. This maneuver requires you to turn your head towards the mirror and your blind spot before exiting, allowing you to spot passing cyclists.
In the Netherlands, it is practiced and taught by driver education, and is even put in to law, hence the name.

Aquarena Springs Dr features Multi-use sidewalks along both sides of the new bridge.

Getting to class is much easier and safer now that Sessom Dr features a multi-use sidewalk.

BIKE ROUTE

# Railroad Quiet Zones

RAIL ROAD CROSSING

The City of San Marcos has designated "Railroad Quiet Zones" at 19 public crossings in San Marcos. There are over 30 trains per day moving through San Marcos. A reduction in the noise of trains, especially during the night, will have a positive effect on the quality of life for our citizens.

When a railroad zone goes 'quiet,' trains are prohibited from using their horns to announce their approach to an intersection unless the conductor sees an obstruction on the tracks or perceives a hazardous situation. Although the intersection improvements will meet federal safety thresholds, motorists and bicyclists will always need to use caution and obey crossing signs, when crossing railroad tracks.

NO TRAIN HORN

**Operation Lifesaver offers bicyclists six tips for safety near train tracks:**

**CROSSING TRACKS ON A BICYCLE REQUIRES CAUTION AND EXTRA ATTENTION!** Narrow wheels can get caught between the rails. If possible, walk - don't ride - across. Always cross at a 90-degree angle.
**USE ONLY DESIGNATED RAILROAD CROSSINGS.** The only legal and safe place to cross railroad tracks is at a designated public crossing with a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. Crossing at any other location is trespassing and illegal.
**TURN OFF MUSIC AND REMOVE EARPHONES AT ALL RAIL CROSSINGS.** Music can be a deadly distraction near the tracks by preventing you from hearing an approaching train.
**WET TRAIN TRACKS CAN BE SLIPPERY.** Dismount and walk your bike across the tracks. Step over the tracks - not on them - to avoid slipping.
**WATCH OUT FOR THE SECOND TRAIN.** Wait after the first train passes until you can see clearly in both directions.
**IF YOU SEE A TRAIN COMING, WAIT!** Flashing lights or a lowering gate means a train is approaching. Do not proceed until the gates go completely up and the lights go off. It is illegal to go around lowered gates, whether on a bike, on foot or in a vehicle.

These Operation Lifesaver tips and more can be found at:
http://oli.org/education-resources/safety-tips/bicycle-safety-tips

# About This Map

The San Marcos Bicycle Map is produced by the City of San Marcos Transportation Department to highlight bicycle routes, striped bicycle facilities, and trails in San Marcos.

This release features updated bicyle routing to reflect changes in the City's bicycle infrastructure, and to include feedback received from the community. In addition,new map features have been added to provide more context, and inform users.

To view the web map companion to this printed map, go to the following URL: **http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/bikeroutes**

The bicycle routes web map can be viewed by any device with an internet or data connection.

Route symbols used in this map attempt to gauge the comfort level experienced by riders of all levels by considering traffic conditions, elevation changes, and the presence of wide shoulder or striped bicycle facilities. Below is a short description of each:

**High Comfort Routes**: mild traffic and little elevation change, and typically runs through neighborhood streets where bicycle lanes may be present.
**Medium Comfort Routes**: moderate traffic with wide lanes and/or wide shoulders. These routes may have elevation changes, and can lack striped facilities.
**Low Comfort Routes**: may have high traffic, no bicycle facilities, and can have high elevation changes. These routes should be used by more experienced cyclists comfortable sharing the road with a high volume of traffic.
**Shared Use Path**: off-street paths used for biking or walking with a surface that is asphalt, concrete, or firmly packed crushed granite.

We are always striving to improve the bicycle map and welcome all feedback. For comments, please contact:


Public Services Department - Transportation Division
City of San Marcos Ph: (512) 393-8036
630 E. Hopkins Fax: (855) 759-2839
San Marcos, TX 78666

Email: PW_Info@sanmarcostx.gov

*Riders of all backgrounds and experience levels enjoy cycling on San Marcos' roads and trails.*

*Take a dip at Rio Vista Falls while biking San Marcos' many connecting trails.*

*San Antonio St. Bike Route runs through the Historic District of San Marcos*

*Eddie Durham park in front of the historic Cephas house.*

# Bike Shops

The Hub Cyclery
119 E. Hopkins St.
512.392.3320

Pedal Power Bicycles
2617 S. IH35
512.396.7433

The Bike Cave
Colorado Building, Rm. 100
Pleasant St @ Sessom Dr
Texas State University Campus
512.245.4567

# Cycling/Outdoor Advocacy

Bike SMTX- local bicycle advocacy group
facebook.com/BikeSMTX/

SMCF - San Marcos Cycling Friends
-find the group on facebook.com

Texas State Cycling Club
campusrecreation.txstate.edu/sport-clubs/club-pages/Cycling.html

San Marcos Green Belt Alliance
smgreenbelt.org

# Exploring San Marcos By Bicycle

San Marcos is becoming more bike-friendly every year, with an expanding system of dedicated lanes, trails, and shared use routes. What better time to explore our beautiful city on a bicycle?

Bicycling has many advantages for both our overall transportation system and for individual health and wellness. Riding bicycles, along with using our transit system and carpooling, can mean fewer cars on our streets and less need to burn fossil fuels. Biking is also great exercise, especially on the hilly parts of the local terrain and the bike trails in our natural green spaces.
Our community offers more than 1,700 acres of beautiful parks and green spaces, a beautiful spring-fed river which is both a tourist attraction and a haven for several endangered species, our historic downtown, the university, family neighborhoods, and world-renowned shopping—all of which can be explored by bike.

I invite you to use this map to discover and explore our beautiful city. On behalf of the City Council, staff and residents of San Marcos, I hope you enjoy your bicycling experience in our community!

**-Mayor John Thomaides**

SAN MARCOS
We'd love your company.