BICYCLE 2016 ROUTES

Blanco Vista Neighborhood

City of San Marcos Bicycle Routes

The mapped bicycle routes have been evaluated and given a rating reflecting their suitability for use. Factors including traffic density, elevation, general road condition, and citizen feedback were all considered. The rating system is based on CAMPO's ease of use system, which is in turn, based on the Federal Highway Administration's Bicycle Comparability index.

Paved / Unpaved SHARED USE PATH

A SHARED USE PATH is a facility for biking or walking, and has a surface that is asphalt, concrete, or firmly packed crushed aggregate.

EASY

An EASY route has mild traffic and little elevation change, and typically runs through neighborhood streets where bicycle lanes may be present.

INTERMEDIATE

An INTERMEDIATE route has moderate traffic with wide lanes and/or wide shoulders. These routes may have high elevation changes, and can lack facilities.

DIFFICULT

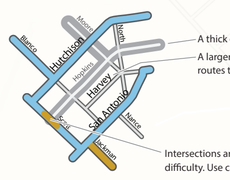
A DIFFICULT route may have high traffic, no bicycle facilities, and can have high elevation changes. These routes should be used by experienced cyclists comfortable sharing the road with a high volume of vehicles.

OFF ROAD TRAIL

OFF-ROAD TRAILS are sometimes geared towards mountain biking and may require a bicycle with wide tires. Check the map at the trailhead for trail difficulty.

FUTURE BIKE & PED CIP

A FUTURE BIKE & PED CIP is a future Capital Improvement Project that will have specific improvements for bicycle and pedestrian use.



0 0.25 0.5 1 Mile

0 0.25 0.5 1 Kilometer

Street Grade (arrows point up hill)

City Facilities

Schools

Bicycle Shops

CARTS Station

City Parks

Texas State University

Central Business Area

Bicycles are prohibited from riding on the sidewalk within the Central Business Area as defined in the City Code:

Sec. 82.269. Riding on sidewalks.
(a) It is unlawful for a person to ride a bicycle, adult-sized tricycle, roller skates, in-line skates, skateboard or any similar device or vehicle on any sidewalk within the CBA Central business area zoning district. Peace officers and park rangers are exempt from these rules to the extent these rules conflict with the discharge of their official duties.
(b) Whenever any person is riding a bicycle upon a sidewalk, that person shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian and shall give an audible signal before overtaking and passing the pedestrian.

(Code 1970, § 29-59; Ord. No. 1998-10, § 1, 2-23-98)

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
San Marcos, Texas 78666

SAN MARCOS BICYCLE 2016 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

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,

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. Please be cautious and courteous to all others using the trails by following the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) "Rules of the Trail" listed below.

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.

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
-Rding 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

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

Post Rd. features a 1.3 long bike lane

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 parling

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

Explore one of the many bike routes that connect scenic destinations like the San Marcos River and Rio Vista Falls

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

Bicycle Racks

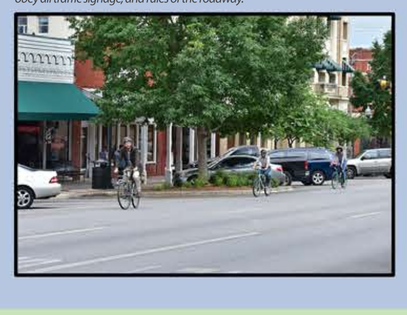
Bike Racks are located at many city facilities including the Public Library, City Hall and San Marcos Activity Center.

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.

City Park features paved multi-use trails away from roadways, where you and your family can access the playground, and the concrete banked section of the San Marcos River.

More experienced riders are encouraged to use city streets and bicycle lanes to commute to and from work, run errands, or just to explore. Remember, riding on sidewalks in the downtown area is not allowed, use caution and common sense, obey all traffic signage, and rules of the roadway.



Railroad Quiet Zones

The City of San Marcos has been working on a project to create "Railroad Quiet Zones" at 19 public crossings in San Marcos. Currently, there are over 30 trains per day moving through San Marcos. A reduction in the noise of the 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.

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 was created by the City of San Marcos Transportation Department to highlight bicycle routes and trails in San Marcos.

This release of the Bicycle Map 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 information, such as; intersection difficulty, roads that are not recommended for bicycles, and alternative routing to the highlighted routes.

This year's release of the bicycle map inlcudes a simplified online version that can be viewed from anywhere with an internet connection. Simply scan the QR code located at the bottom of this brochure.

The map link can be found on the City of San Marcos web page at:
http://www.sanmarcostx.gov/index.aspx?page=280

You can also navigate to the page by going to www.sanmarcostx.gov clicking on the 'Departments' tab, then by clicking on the 'GIS' tab to the left, then clicking on the "Interactive Maps' thumbnail. Whithin the 'Interactive Maps' page you will be able to select either the '2016 Bicycle Web App' for the online map, or '2016 Bicycle Map' as a document for print.

We are always striving to improve the bicycle map and welcome all feedback.

For comments, please contact:
Transportation Division
Public Services Department
City of San Marcos
630 E. Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666
Ph: (512) 393-8036
Fax: (855) 759-2839
Email: PW_Info@sanmarcostx.gov

Purgatory Park Trailhead

Riverside/River Road Underpass Bike Route

Bicycle Shops/Co-Ops

The Hub Cycle Shop
119 E. Hopkins St.
512.392.3320Pedal

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

Bicycle Clubs/Groups

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

Texas State Cycling Club
President: Hunter Turk
Email: jht21@txstate.edu
http://www.campusrecreation.txstate.edu/sport-clubs/club-pages/Cycling.html

San Marcos High School Bike Club
Sponsor: Adam Wagner
bikeSMHS@gmail.com
512.749.1897

Exploring San Marcos By Bicycle

Welcome to San Marcos, Texas and the bicycle routes that will guide you through our beautiful city! The City of San Marcos values community wellness, and encouraging the use of environmentally-friendly bicycles is one of the great ways to exercise it.

Bicycling is a significant part of our transportation system. We are establishing a system of bicycle trails, lanes, routes and multi-use lanes to meet the various needs of bicyclists of all ages and skill levels. We are dedicated to connecting our residents and visitors with more than 1,700 acres of breath-taking parks, our pristine spring fed river, the university, our historic downtown, our wonderful family neighborhoods and world-renowned shopping.

We invite you to use this map to discover San Marcos and its treasures. We hope you enjoy your bicycling experience in San Marcos!

Mayor Daniel Guerrero

SAN MARCOS
We'd love your company.