

Be Aware, Be Seen, Be Courteous, Be Safe

Tips for Riding in Traffic

Be Predictable

Ride on the right, always with the flow of traffic. Riding against traffic is illegal, extremely hazardous, and puts you in a position where you may not be visible to motorists, pedestrians and other bicyclists.

Be Alert

Ride defensively and expect the unexpected. Remember, no matter who is at fault in a crash, the bicyclist loses. It is illegal for a bicyclist to wear a headset, headphones or other listening devices other than a hearing aid when riding.

Be Courteous

Do your part in educating motorists to bicyclists' needs. Never use negative gestures with a motorist who has wronged you. Yield to pedestrians and give audible warning before you overtake them.

Be Equipped

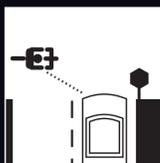
You will ride safer and easier if you and your bike have the proper equipment. Always wear a properly fitted helmet. Florida law requires a helmet for all cyclists under the age of 16. Gloves can cushion your hands from the handle bar vibration and will protect your hands if you fall. Use a mirror to keep track of what is going on behind you. For bicycling at night, wear light colored clothing and use lights and reflectors. Even during the day, bright colors or an orange safety vest will make you more noticeable. Finally, maintain your bike in good operating condition and take plenty of water on long trips.

Be Cautious on Sidewalks

More bicycle crashes occur on sidewalks than in the street. This is because drivers often do not see bicyclists on sidewalks when making turns or exiting driveways. Be alert and ride defensively when you ride on sidewalks, and always yield to pedestrians. Riding with the flow of traffic on sidewalks is recommended to improve your visibility, but it is not required by law.

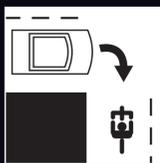
Remember, most bicycle crashes are caused by:

1. Running stop signs and red lights
2. Riding at night without lights
3. Riding against traffic



Scan the Road Around You

Watch constantly for cars, people, debris, grates, etc. Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don't see you until they stop. Learn to look over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving left. Some bicyclists use rear view mirrors.



Never Ride Against Traffic

Motorists do not look for bicyclists riding on the wrong side of the road.



Dress Appropriately

Wear a helmet whenever you ride. Cycling gloves increase comfort and protect hands in a fall. Dress in layers to adjust to temperature changes on long rides. Wear sturdy shoes that fit securely.



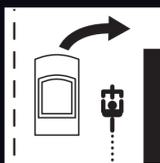
Watch for Chasing Dogs

Ignore the dog, or try a firm, loud "NO." If the dog doesn't stop, dismount with your bike between you and the dog. Alachua County has a leash law. Nuisance animals may be reported by calling (352) 264-6870.



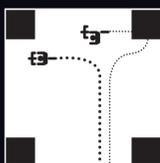
Ride Slowly On Sidewalks

On sidewalks, pedestrians have the right-of-way. You must give them an audible warning when you pass (voice, bell or horn). Do not cross driveways or intersections without looking carefully for traffic. Yield to traffic when entering roadways.



Do Not Pass On the Right

Do not overtake an automobile when approaching an intersection or when the automobile has a turn signal flashing. Doing so will put you in the driver's blind spot where you will not be seen.



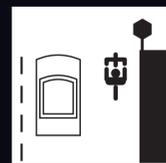
Turn Left Safely

There are four ways to make a left turn: 1) Move into the left lane and turn left. 2) Cross both sides of the intersection in the crosswalk. 3) Stay on the street, ride straight to the far corner and then proceed to the left in a straight line when traffic is clear. 4) Ride straight to the far corner and walk your bike across in the crosswalk. Choose the option you are most comfortable with and always use hand signals.



Use Roundabouts Safely

Merge into the entry lane before the shoulder or bike lane ends and indicate your direction of travel. If uncomfortable riding in traffic, use the access ramps to the sidewalk and cross at the designated crosswalks.



Obey Traffic Signs, Signals and Laws

Bicyclists must obey all the rules that apply to the driver of a motor vehicle if they are to be taken seriously by motorists.



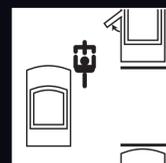
Use Lights At Night

The law requires a white headlight (visible for at least 500 feet ahead), and rear reflector and taillight (visible 600 feet from behind).



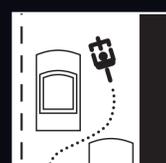
Keep Your Bike In Shape

Maintain your bike in good working condition. Check brakes regularly and keep tires properly inflated. Routine maintenance is simple.



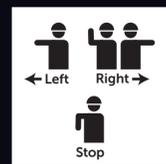
Watch for Opening Car Doors

Whenever possible, ride about a car door's width from parked cars.



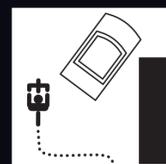
Never Weave Between Cars

Ride in a straight line and avoid weaving between parked cars. Motorists may not see you when you reenter traffic flow.



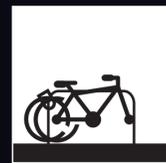
Use Hand Signals

Hand signals tell motorists and pedestrians what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy and self-protection.



Follow Lane Markings

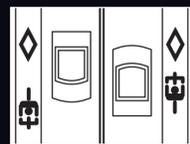
Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked right-turn only.



Lock When You Leave

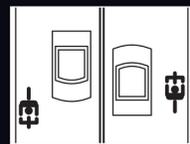
Buy the best lock system you can afford; none is as expensive as a new bike. U-locks are best, but only when securing the bike to a legal, fixed object.

Types of Street Oriented Routes in Gainesville



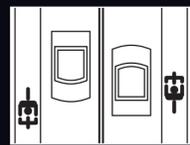
Bike Lane

Any portion of a roadway designated for bicycle use. Bike lanes are normally **four feet in width**, are adjacent to the curb or edge of the roadway and are **designated by pavement markings and signs**.



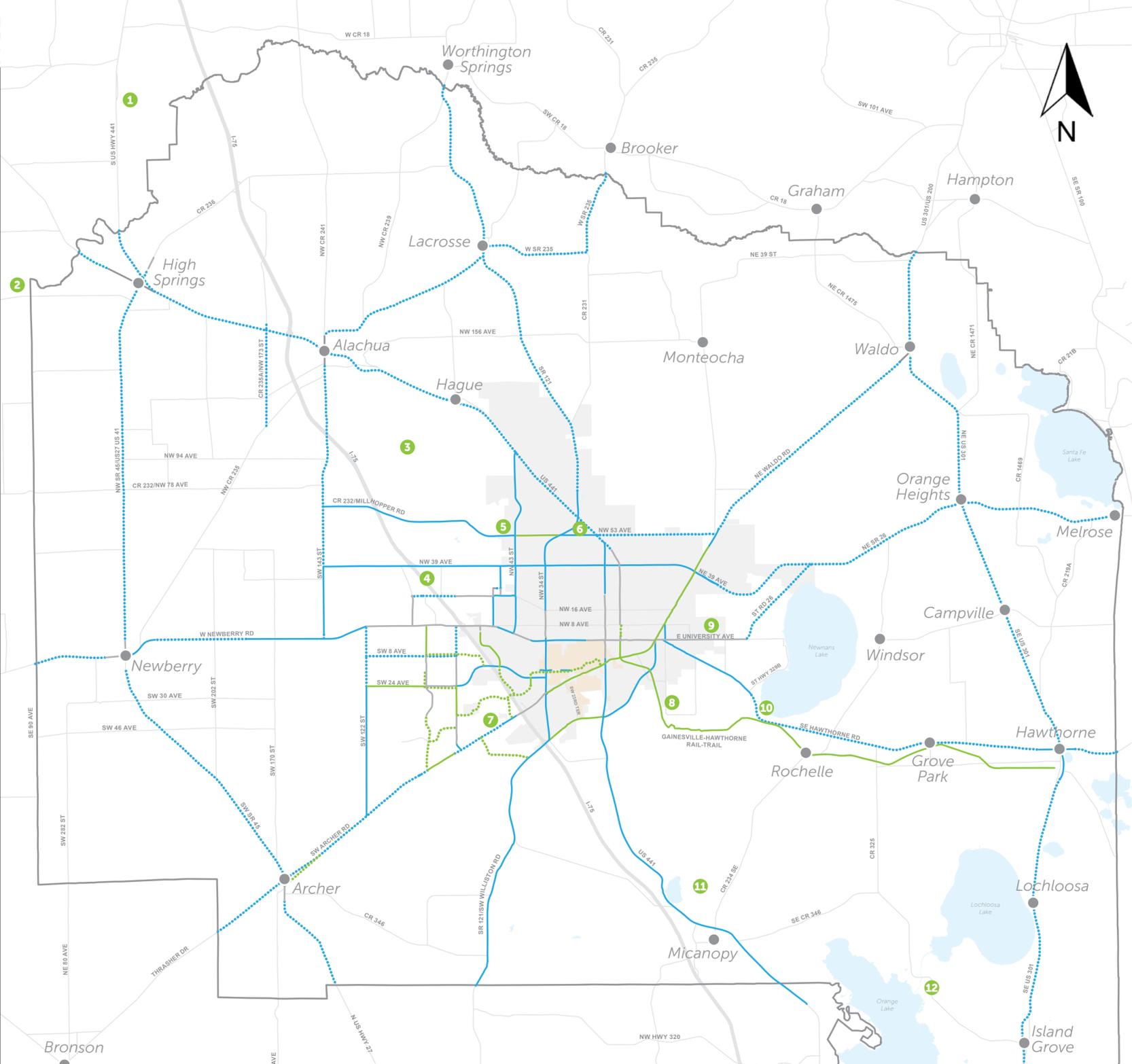
Wide Curb Lane

A vehicular travel lane that is wide enough for bicycles and motor vehicles. Vehicles will not have to leave the lane to pass bicyclists. Wide curb lanes are **at least fourteen feet in width**. They are **not designated by pavement markings or signs**. They are noticeably wider than the average vehicular travel lane.



Paved Shoulder

The outermost paved portion of a road that does not have curb and gutter construction. The paved shoulder is separated from the vehicular travel lane by a six-inch white line. It is **not identified by markings or signs**. It functions as a bike lane.



Legend

Bike Lane / Shoulder

Shared Route

Sidewalk Only

Multiuse Trail

Future Multiuse Trail

City Limit

University of Florida Campus

Parks/Recreation

1. O'Leno State Park
2. Ginnie, Poe and Blue Springs
3. San Felasco State Preserve
4. Santa Fe College Teaching Zoo
5. Devil's Millhopper State Park
6. Northside Park / Senior Rec Center
7. Kanapaha Botanical Gardens
8. Boulware Springs
9. Morningside Nature Center
10. Earle Powers Park
11. Payne's Prairie State Preserve
12. Cross Creek / Marjorie K. Rawlings Home



Gainesville Bicycle/Pedestrian Program
 P.O. Box 490-MS 58
 Gainesville, FL 32627-0490
 (352) 334-5070
www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped

Other Bicycle & Pedestrian Resources

Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Board (BPAB)
 The BPAB is a citizen advisory board to the City, County and Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO). For meeting dates, applications, and other information, call the Office of the Clerk of the City Commission at (352) 334-5015 or visit www.cityofgainesville.org/bikeped.

Commuter Information
 For information on traffic or roadway conditions please visit gac-smarttraffic.com. For information about transit visit go-rts.com or ufl.transloc.com

Walking & Bicycling Clubs
 Several cycling clubs exist in the Gainesville area. Clubs include novice/recreational, off-road and racing enthusiasts. Call the Bicycle/Pedestrian Program office at (352) 334-5070 for more information.

Who to Call to Report Road Maintenance Concerns

- On City Roads**
 Signs (352) 393-8150
 Signals (352) 393-8155
 Tree/Shrub Trimming, Potholes, Sweeping, Trails (352) 393-8161
 Greenways (352) 334-5067
- On County Roads**
 Signs (352) 374-5245
 All Other (352) 393-8155
- On State Roads**
 All Maintenance (352) 381-4300
- On University of Florida Roads**
 All Maintenance (352) 392-1121



Legend

- Bike Lane / Shoulder
- Shared Route
- Sidewalk Only
- Multiuse Trail
- Future Multiuse Trail
- Bike Shops
- Schools
- City Limit
- University of Florida Campus

This map was prepared by the City of Gainesville Public Works Department. The City in no way warrants the safety of the facilities indicated on this map for use by bicyclists. A bicyclist should use these facilities only if he or she has the adequate skill level as a bicyclist and the bicyclist must make that determination. All the roads shown are used by automobiles and trucks, and bicyclists assume the risk of their own safety when using the road or facilities indicated on this map. The City shall not be held responsible for any damages whatsoever arising from its use.

Welcome

Gainesville - A Bicycle Friendly City

Home to the University of Florida and a civic leadership that promotes alternative modes of transportation, bicycling is a major component in Gainesville's lifestyle. The city has had an established Bicycle/Pedestrian Program since 1983, and is designated as a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Currently, Gainesville has about 83 miles of roadways with bicycle lanes or paved shoulders, and an additional 23 miles of roadway with wide curb lanes. Almost all of the sidewalks have curb ramps so they are accessible to bicyclists who wish to use them. Many residential and collector streets provide convenient alternative routes to arterial highways, and are designated on this map as "alternative street oriented routes."

The city has an extensive multimodal trail network. The longest existing trail is the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Trail that extends 17 miles and crosses the Paynes Prairie State Preserve on a paved surface. Several other multimodal trails traverse the city connecting major activity centers and residential areas, serving different trip purposes. The system continues to expand to serve the needs of all transportation system users.

Bicyclists must be courteous and yield the right-of-way to pedestrians using these facilities. Bicycles are vehicles, and bicyclists have the same legal rights and responsibilities as motorists. By following the traffic laws and safety tips in this brochure, you can help protect yourself from harm and help promote Gainesville as a bicycle friendly city. Bicyclists are also urged to wear properly fitted bicycle helmets. State law requires helmets for bicyclists under age 16.

Enjoy your Gainesville bicycling experience. If you need further information on routes, safety programs, bicycle clubs, etc. please call the Gainesville Bicycle/Pedestrian Program in the City Public Works Department at (352) 334-5070.

Points of Interest

- Parks/Recreation**
 1. Cofrin Nature Park
 2. Clear Lake Nature Park
 3. Green Acres Park
 4. Forest Nature Park
 5. Broken Arrow Bluff
 7. Florida Field - UF
 8. Loblolly Woods Nature Park
 9. Albert "Ray" Massey Westside Park & Pool
 11. Florida Field - UF
 12. Bivens Am Nature Park
 13. Boulware Springs Nature Park
 14. T.B. McPherson Center & Mickle Pool
 15. Lincoln Park
 16. Depot Park
 23. Fred Cone Park
 25. Morningside Nature Center
 26. Northeast Complex
 29. Northeast Park
 32. Alfred A. Ring Park
 33. 29th Road Nature Park
 34. Greentree & Kiwanis Challenge Park
 35. Hogtown Creek Headquarters
 36. Possum Creek Park
- Public Service/Institutional**
 17. Rosa Parks RTS Downtown Station
 21. City Hall / Bo Diddley Plaza / County Administrative Offices
 22. Alachua County Health Department
 28. U.S. Post Office - Main Street
 31. Greyhound Bus Lines
- Hospitals**
 1. North Florida Regional Medical Center
 2. Shands Hospital
 3. Veterans Administration Hospital
- Cultural/Sports/Entertainment**
 6. UF Convention Center
 7. UF Museums & Performing Arts Center
 10. Stephen C. O'Connell Center
 18. Hippodrome State Theater
 19. Alachua Main Library
 20. Matheson Historical Center
 21. Cone Branch Library
 27. Historic Thomas Center & Gardens
 30. Library Partnership
 37. Millhopper Branch Library

Commuter Resources



CITYOFGAINESVILLE.ORG/BIKEPED
City of Gainesville Information and Resources for Bikers and Pedestrians



GAC.SMARTTRAFFIC.COM
Real-time Traffic Updates for the City of Gainesville and Alachua County



UFL.TRANSLOC.COM
Real-time Public Transit Bus Locator



CITYOFGAINESVILLEPARKS.ORG
City of Gainesville Parks Information

