

# Share the Road?

## Like your car, a bicycle is a legal road vehicle.

This means that bicycle riders have the same rights and responsibilities as car drivers, even though they are smaller and generally slower. So please, share the road...

**Cyclists, give clear signals** when stopping, changing lanes, or turning. Motorists are more likely to treat you like another vehicle (which you are) if you behave like one.

**Motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians safely share the same road space when each behaves with respect to the others. These are some primary rules to follow.**

**Although bicycles usually ride along the outside** of the road, sometimes they travel in center lanes, such as when making a left turn at a two-lane intersection. Watch for bicycles in front of you, where they may be harder to see.

**The overtaking vehicle - car or cycle - must yield** to slower traffic. At intersections, cyclists must yield according to the same rules as cars.

**Watch for objects that may be obstacles** for the other types of vehicles on the road and drive/ride defensively. Tree limbs, storm drains, and animals may all provoke sudden movements.

**All vehicles should follow the rules of the road.** These include speed limit and other postings, and driving or riding on the right side of the street. Pedestrians, however, should walk facing traffic.

**At night, use your lights.** Cars drive with headlights, so should bicycles use front and rear lights, not just reflectors. Nighttime walkers can carry flashlights. Anyone on the road - walkers, joggers, cyclists- should wear light clothing and reflective strips. Because many town roads are unlit, the only light that will make you visible is that which you bring with you.

## So few people seem to cycle often. Do we really need these routes?

Nationally, only about 1 in 60 commuters cycle to work regularly, and six in ten of all our car trips are under five miles long. As many as 1 in 5 drivers cite the lack of proper facilities as the main reason they keep driving. Raising awareness of cycling rules and helping people feel more comfortable on the roads will help to facilitate general travel by bicycle. As more cyclists take to the roads, they will advocate for better facilities elsewhere in the community.

## How can I better accommodate cyclists when driving?

Make sure to pay close attention for cyclists on bike routes, and per state law refrain from texting while driving. Also, be sure to give cyclists at least 3 feet of clearance when passing; this also has recently become a state law.

## What are the benefits of cycling?

**Health:** Cycling benefits the heart and lungs, lowers blood pressure, and helps weight control. Cyclists are more alert, less prone to stress, and take fewer sick days than sedentary people.

**Quality of life:** Every driver that leaves his car at home reduces air and noise pollution, congestion, and parking problems.

## How can I get involved in improving Mansfield as a bicycle friendly community?

The Town of Mansfield is always looking for concerned community members to aid in making Mansfield more bicycle friendly. If interested, please contact Virginia Walton at (860) 429-3333 or [WaltonVD@Mansfieldct.org](mailto:WaltonVD@Mansfieldct.org)

# Mansfield's Bike Routes

These routes are intended to encourage more people to ride, and to make the roads safer for those who do. Each route's path is designated by green or yellow signs, which suggest how much experience a rider should have. *Your safety depends on your knowledge, skill, and judgement, not on the road itself.*

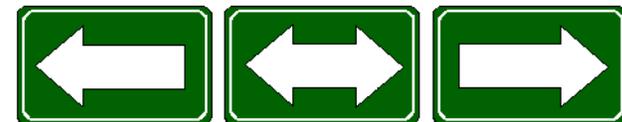


**Green routes** have the least or slowest traffic, the greatest visibility, or the widest shoulders; riders and drivers should easily share space on these roads using common courtesy.

**Yellow routes** may have more traffic moving at higher speeds, sharper curves, or narrower shoulders. Riders and drivers need to exercise more caution on these roads



*This brochure was designed by Mansfield's Department of Public Works to help motorists and cyclists each use our roads to their best advantage. These are suggested routes; the rules outlined here apply to all roads in Connecticut except where cycling is expressly prohibited. If you have any questions or comments, please call us at 429-3333.*



# Points of Interest



## Recreation and Hiking Areas

- (1) **Buchanan Center Library** also offers a playscape.
- (2) **Eastern CT University's Baseball Stadium**: game schedules for this new facility are available at 465-4694.
- (3) **Mansfield Hollow State Park** includes trails, picnic and barbecue areas, ballpark, paved boat-launch, and large mowed sporting fields.
- (4) **Schoolhouse Brook Park** includes Bicentennial Pond, which offers, in season, swimming, canoeing, fishing, a playscape, and a fitness trail. Maps are also available for this parks 19 hiking trails at the trailhead.
- (5) **Shelter Falls Park** for walks near a small waterfall.
- (6) **Southeast Park** playscape, ballfields, and access to Mansfield Hollow's trails.
- (7) **Sunny Acres Park** playscape, ballfield, basketball and tennis courts.

## Shopping, etc.

You can secure your cycle, shop, or catch the bus, at the **East Brook (8)** and **Holiday Malls (9)**, the **A&P Plaza (10)**, or the **Town Office Building (11)**; many other merchants also provide facilities for locking cycles. Full size bicycle lockers are available at the Town Office Building and East Brook Mall. Call 429-3373 for further bicycle locker information.

**UConn (12)** offers cyclists many facilities, ranging from bike racks to showers and lockers (if you are affiliated with the school).

## Wear a Helmet!



A bike helmet not only saves your head, it also makes you much more visible. Most of all, it tells others that you are a serious, sensible cyclist; drivers will treat you accordingly.

## Coming Soon... Bike Commuting Center in the New Downtown!

Construction is now underway for the Town's Zimmer-Nash Transportation Center, which will be located at the junction of Royce Circle and Wilbur Cross Way in the Storrs Center development (on the south end of the new parking garage). Half of this 3000 S.F. building will be devoted to bike commuting, with secure bike storage, showers, locker rooms, bike repair facilities, and information. Look for this to open in the Fall of 2013.

