

Let's Ride "around" the Campus

This ride will familiarize you with all types of bicycle facilities: trails, sidepaths, bike lanes, and more. You can try out the pedestrian bridge over Riverside Drive (for those who take the through-campus route shown in gold); the tunnel passing under Park Road, and a little-known, scenic shortcut near the Law School on the east end of Melrose Avenue.

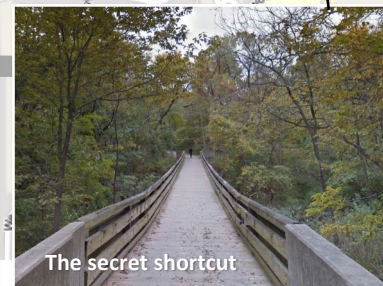
Ride 5 or 6 miles depending on the route you choose.

You'll know you are going the right way when you ride by the Medical Education Research Facility—MERF, like Smurf, the building is an eye-catching shade of blue.



Explore the west campus on bike ...

From Hawkins Drive, take sidewalks and wide paths through the health sciences campus to the pedestrian bridge that passes over Riverside Dr and into the tunnel under Iowa Ave. Ride slowly on sidewalks and yield to pedestrians and be prepared to dismount when pedestrians are present on the pedestrian bridge.



SHARE THE TRAIL

KEEP to the RIGHT
PASS on LEFT
BICYCLISTS:
Watch your speed
YIELD to pedestrians
Alert others when passing

Bicycle Friendly

Manville Heights

Position yourself in right lane to turn right at the bottom of the hill.

WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS

MAY USE FULL LANE

CLINTON STREET BIKE LANES

UPHILL

DOWNHILL

MELROSE AVE BIKE LANES

MYRTLE AVE

NEW TRAIL CONNECTION TO CORALVILLE TO BE COMPLETED IN 2020.

Fourth Week--New Challenge!

This is the 4th in a series of routes designed to get you and your family (or friends) out bicycling. Each week (May-June) a new route will be published for you to ride whenever it is convenient for you. The goal is to introduce you to a new bicycle facility or route in a new part of the community. Each ride will present a new challenge or opportunity to get you feeling more comfortable bicycling in more situations. You will be introduced to new parks, neighborhoods, and adventures.

Ready for a challenge? This ride circles around the University of Iowa Campus and Manville Heights, providing a combination of trails, sidepaths, and on-street riding. The street riding will be mostly in bike lanes (Melrose and Clinton Streets) or on very low traffic streets (Normandy and Myrtle). If you are still feeling uncomfortable riding on the street, consider an early Saturday or Sunday morning ride. Bring a friend or family member along as riding in a pair or groups will help you feel more confident AND make you more visible. You also have the option of taking the shortened route through the health sciences campus shown in gold on the map.

Ride #4

For the full route (just over 6 miles): Where Melrose Avenue curves left (north) you will turn right onto a cool little trail that leads through a wooded ravine this will let out into a large surface parking area. Ride straight through the parking lot to Myrtle Ave. or make a detour to the east side of the parking lot to take in a great view of Iowa City.

There are no bike lanes on Myrtle, but this “Bikeway” is marked with BICYCLES MAY USE FULL LANE signs to alert drivers that bicyclists will be “in” the lane. Occupy the space you need to feel comfortable in the lane—don’t hug the gutter. At the bottom of the hill you want to position yourself in the lane to cross at a signalized intersection to the Iowa River Trail, allowing cars to wait behind you as you cross safely.

On the trail go right (south to Benton St.) where you will cross the river and connect to the Clinton Street Bike Lanes.

Through campus route (just over 5 miles): If you are not ready to do that much on-street riding or if you want to experience biking through campus, you can hop onto the sidewalk on the north side of Hawkins and use a series of paths to wind through the medical campus back to the Iowa River Trail. Remember to ride slow in areas that are shared with pedestrians and to yield or dismount on the ped bridge over Riverside Drive if necessary to make way for pedestrians. If you have never been to this side of campus (or if it’s been awhile) you will be glad to experience this route—you’ll get a great view of the campus and some nice shade on a hot summer day.

Before you go:

- Make sure your tires are inflated and your brakes work.
- Wear a helmet and a light-colored shirt.
- A bike bell is always helpful for trail riding to let others know you are about to pass.
- Remember to ride to the right; pass on the left. Be courteous on trails, sidepaths, and sidewalks.
- Review your hand signals so you can use them to signal turns and stops.

Bring water as many public fountains are closed due to Covid-19.

You can find a helpful one-page guide called “Bicycling Rules of the Road” here: <https://www.mpojc.org/resources/publications>. The guide is provided in 6 languages: English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, and Swahili.

Things to look forward to on this adventure:

- Big hill on Hawkins—you can do it!
- Big downhill on Myrtle—make sure your brakes are working! Shift your weight back so you are not leaning over your handle bars.
- Another uphill on Clinton—again, you can do it!
- Another downhill on Market—again, brakes!
- You are going to cross some big streets, but they are all signalized. Make eye contact with drivers to make sure they see you.
- You’ll also get to try out the pedestrian bridge over Riverside Drive (for those who take the through-campus route); the tunnel passing under Park Road (another on Iowa Avenue for those going through campus); and a little-known, scenic shortcut near the Law School on the east end of Melrose Avenue.