

Let's ride the Greenway!



South District Neighborhood Mural

BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



START your near Grant Wood Elementary School on Lakeside Drive. The north trailhead for the Sycamore Greenway marked with two artistic pillars that call attention to and celebrate the trail and the cultural diversity of the surrounding neighborhood.

3-mile loop: ride south on the trail to the Lehman Ave. Return via Sycamore Street bike lanes or sidepath to Lakeside Drive.

From Grant Wood School to Kickers Soccer Park and back is 4 miles round trip.

What is the Sycamore Greenway?

Each time it rains, stormwater passes over roofs, pavement, and other land surfaces, picking up pollutants such as oil, salt, lawn chemicals, and eroded soil before flowing untreated through the storm sewer system into creeks and rivers. This is how most cities handle stormwater, but a one square mile watershed in South Iowa City relies on a unique alternative system.

The Sycamore Greenway is an example of environmental infrastructure unlike any other in the Midwest. Designed by University of Iowa geoscience professor Lon Drake, the 52-acre system consists of a chain of 22 intermittent wetlands that flow into a larger series of crescent-shaped wetland cells, effectively holding and filtering storm water runoff from hundreds of residential properties.

The Greenway also provides wildlife habitat. More than 130 bird species, including sandhill cranes, may be observed along the Greenway, and hundreds of waterfowl visit the area each year during migration season. Also, beaver held to maintain the wetland system. Several species of turtles and frogs also live here.



► Birds in Flight by Mark LaMair



Snail Crossing: Be careful riding through this low-lying portion of the trail after wet weather—small, slow-moving wildlife may be present on the trail.

Watch for turtles on the road in spring.



The sandy soil of South Iowa City makes it ideal for turtles. In Spring, watch for turtles on the roads as they are migrating to lay their eggs.

