Road Use Rules and Conventions

Bicyclists' Responsibilities

Bicyclists are valid road users and have all the rights and responsibilities of motor vehicle drivers. Although a license isn't required to drive a bicycle, bicyclists must obey all the rules of the road that apply to motor vehicles. If you break any traffic laws, you are subject to fines. Bicycles are allowed to ride two abreast so long as they do not impede the normal and reasonable flow of traffic. Remember: your bicycle is a vehicle; follow these rules when bicycling in traffic.

Riding Rules

Bicyclists must follow the established conventions of bicycle riding in traffic in order to ensure their safety. Following these rules enables motorists to better interpret the bicyclist's intentions.

Ride with Traffic
Always ride with traffic on the right side of the road. Be aware of passing motor vehicles that are making right hand turns; be prepared to slow down to allow them to make the turn in front of you. Be aware also of cars making a left turn from the opposite side of the road.

Ride in a Predictable Manner
Always ride straight and always be predictable. If the road is too narrow for a bicycle and a car to travel side by side, the bicyclist should occupy the lane until it is safe to move back to the right. Check over your shoulder before changing lane position, and do not weave between parked cars.

Use Appropriate Lane
If you want to go straight in an intersection, avoid being in the right turn only lane. Always move into the through lane early. When the lanes are narrow or there is slow traffic it is safer to take up the whole lane.

Turning Left – 2 Options
1. When acting as a vehicle, signal your intentions in advance. Move to the left lane and turn when it is safe.
2. To act as a pedestrian, ride across the intersection to the crosswalk, and walk across the street on which you were riding.

Signaling Turns

You must always signal your intent to turn, using the proper hand signals. Before signalling, you must look, either with a a quick glance over your shoulder or in your mirror, to make sure the traffic can accommodate your turn or lane change. (Figures below as seen from behind the bicyclist.)

Signaling a Left Turn
Simply extend your left arm out straight out to your left side. *Whenever possible, make eye contact with drivers of oncoming or crossing vehicles to ensure that your signal has been seen prior to executing the turn.*

Signaling a Right Turn
There are two options for a right hand turn:
The first (and more traditional) method is to extend your left arm out and bend the arm up 90 degrees at the elbow.

Optional Right Turn Signal
The second method is to simply extend your right arm straight out to the side. This is the more intuitive gesture, but it requires confidence in steering the bicycle for a short period with the left hand. Make sure you are comfortable with that before doing it in traffic.

Signaling a Stop
In order to signal a stop, extend your left arm down at a 45 degree angle. Be sure to allow enough time both to allow the driver or rider behind you to slow down, and to give yourself enough time to get both hands onto the handlbar before braking.

Road-riding Safety Basics

Avoid car doors and other hazards.
Give yourself three or four feet between parked vehicles or other roadway hazards. If practical, i.e. the vehicular traffic speed is reasonable, command the lane and return to the right when it is safe.

Night riding requires lights.
While most bicycles are equipped with reflectors, they are not sufficient light source, and rely on the lights of other vehicles to work. Always ride with white headlight and red or amber tail-light (preferrably blinking) visible from at least 500 feet away. Reflective materials on the spokes, pedals, helmet and torso provide valuable additional visibility.

A note about Helmets
Riding with a helmet is highly recommended. While riding with a helmet doesn't guarantee that you will not be injured, it significantly reduces the risk of permanent brain injury or death should your head receive an impact from a fall or collision. Remember: wearing a helmet does not make you invincible—do not allow a false sense of security cause you to ride recklessly or irresponsibly.

Printed on recycled paper.

Motorists' Responsibilities

It is important to remember that bicyclists have the same rights and duties as motor vehicle operators. As the number of bicyclists using the streets and highways is growing daily, it is increasingly important for motorists to understand the conventions for sharing roadways with bicyclists. Remember that bicycles are quieter and less visible than motor vehicles; especially at night; it is imperative that the motorist drive defensively around a bicyclist. The slightest mistake involving a car and a bicycle often results in serious injury or death to the bicyclist. Here are some general guidelines to consider regarding bicycles on the roadways:

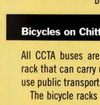
- Be aware of the type of bicycle right-of-way on the roadway. It is easier to pass a bicyclist on a road that has a dedicated bicycle lane than on a road with a shared lane; in either case the bicyclist has the right-of-way. The motorist must slow down and pass the bicyclist only when it is safe to do so. Maintain a sufficient distance such that, should the bicyclist fall, you will have time to stop without having to swerve into the oncoming lane of traffic. If two cyclists are riding side by side, slow down and wait for them to be in single file, and/or it is safe to pass them with sufficient clearance.
- Do not honk at a bicyclist unless you have good cause to warn them. The loud noise could startle the rider and cause them to lose control.
- When entering an intersection and a bicycle is present, try to make eye contact with them to help determine their intentions.
- It is legal for a bicyclist to "command the lane", which they often must do because of hazards not visible to motorist such as potholes, drain grates, high curbs, sand or gravel, and uneven curb edges.
- Leave at least three feet of passing space between the right side of your vehicle and a bicyclist. If the road is too narrow for cars and bikes to ride safely side by side, wait until it is safe to pass the bicyclist without forcing them off the side of the road.
- When turning left at an intersection, yield to oncoming bicyclists. When turning right, yield right of way to cyclists who are going straight.
- Before opening your door, *always* check to make sure a cyclist is not passing.
- Please be courteous and cautious, even if it takes a little longer.

Post-mounted Signs

Dedicated Bicycle Lane
This sign indicates the presence of a lane restricted to bicycle traffic. This lane should *not* be used as a travel lane by motor vehicles.

Parking
The dedicated bicycle lane should *not* be used as a parking zone by motor vehicles. This includes temporary standing by motor vehicles.

Advance Warnings
Both motorists and bicyclists are notified well in advance when a dedicated bicycle lane is about to begin or end by post-mounted signs like this one.



The Right Turn Lane
To continue straight at an intersection where a right turn lane is present, the bicyclist hand-signals a left turn and moves to the right side of the straight-ahead lane. Motorists must yield right-of-way to the bicyclist, and then proceed cautiously to the right side of the bicyclist to make their right turn.

Road-stenciled Signs

Bike Lane Indicator
This marking accentuates the presence of a travel lane reserved solely for the use of bicyclists.

Bike Lane Directional
This marking indicates for the bicyclist the direction of travel reserved for this lane. You must travel in the direction indicated by this arrow.

Shared Lane "Mackay" Indicator
It is commonly not understood that bicyclists may legally ride all roads (except where indicated). This marking clarifies for both motorists and bicyclists that the roadway has been designated as a preferred bicycle route, and is to be shared by both modes of travel.

Recreational Paths & Routes

The Mixed Use Path
This sign indicates a path reserved solely for the use by non-motorized traffic. Bicyclists often must share these facilities with pedestrians, roller bladers, skooter riders, and skateboarders, and must be respectful of these usually slower forms of recreation/transportation.

Bicycles on Chittenden County Transit Authority Buses

All CCTA buses are equipped with a Sportworks® front-mounted bicycle rack that can carry up to two bicycles at one time, enabling commuters to use public transportation and have their bikes for getting around town.

The bicycle racks on the city buses have been designed to make as low an impact as possible on transit operations. All loading and unloading of bicycles can be done by the bicycle rider. Sportworks® recommends that the loading of children's bicycles be done by an accompanying adult, but the rack can be loaded by children as young as ten years of age.

How to Load a Bicycle onto the Bus Rack.

- While waiting for the bus, prepare your bike for loading; remove water bottles, pumps and other loose items that could fall off.
- Inform the bus driver that you will be loading your bike. Load your bike from the curb or in front of the bus; do not step into oncoming traffic.
- Squeeze handle up to release latch (figure 1), then fold down the bike rack (figure 2). You only need to use one hand to unlatch and pull the bike rack down, so you can hold your bike with the other hand.
- Lift your bike up and into the bike rack, (figure 3) fitting wheels into proper wheel slots. Each front wheel slot is clearly labeled to help you orient the bicycle properly. The purpose of the directional placement is to make the bike nearest the bus easier to load.
- Raise the Support Arm over the front tire (figure 4); this will stabilize the bicycle when the bus is in motion. *The rack must always be used with the Support Arm.* The Support Arm needs to be raised so that the hook rests at the highest point on the front wheel (figure 5).
- Board the bus and enjoy the ride! Choose a seat near the front of the bus to keep an eye on your bike. *DON'T FORGET* you have a bike with you when you get off at your stop. New riders often do!

How to Unload a Bicycle from the Bus Rack.

- Inform the bus driver that you will be unloading your bike as you approach your stop. Use the front door to exit the bus. Unload your bike from in front of the bus or from the curb, not from the street.
- Raise the Support Arm off the tire and allow to automatically fold down to a secure position.
- Remove bicycle, and return the rack to the upright position by releasing the catch and, if there are neither other bikes in the rack nor passengers waiting to load their bikes, gently lifting the rack up until it locks against the frame.
- Step away from the bus and onto the curb, and wait for the bus to pull away before attempting to ride with traffic.

Credits & Acknowledgements

The Burlington Bicycle Council is a volunteer advisory council operating under the auspices of the City of Burlington Department of Public Works, and advocating bicycling for transportation and recreational purposes. We wish to thank the following individuals and organizations, without whom this project could not have been possible. Artwork was executed primarily by Zachary Henderson with contributions by Chris Knox and Kristin Bergman, interns at the Champlain College Multimedia & Graphic Design Program, which also graciously provided the digital artwork facilities. The Senior Designer was David Lustgarten with project coordination by Connie Livingston, Bicycle/Pedestrian Planner, City of Burlington Department of Public Works. Consultation was provided by the City of South Burlington Department of Recreation, the South Burlington Recreation Path Committee, the Campus Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA), the Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA), the Winooski Valley Park District (WVPD), and Chapin Spencer of Local Motion.

Cover photograph © 2000 by Alan Jakubek. Motor vehicle information © 2001 by Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles; used by permission. Green Map System and Green Map Icons © 1999 by Green Map System 2000 / Modern World Design, an organization dedicated to increasing public awareness of local, environmentally significant features by providing the Green Map System to map makers around the world (www.greenmap.org). Map artwork © 2002 by the City of Burlington Public Works Department This map is for informational purposes only; distance and location is approximate and cannot be guaranteed by any of the aforementioned participants.

The Burlington Bicycle Council welcomes volunteer participation from the Burlington community. To find out how you can participate, call **802.863.9094**, or visit our web site at **www.burlingtonbikecouncil.org**.

This map is dedicated to the memory of Alice M. and Bennett P. Lustgarten M.D., whose vision and concern inspired its conception.

PL1310.1000.02P

Map Information

About This Map—Its Use and Objective

This map is designed to assist the bicyclist, whether for commuting or recreating, to navigate the safest, most comfortable route by using the color-coded route system to identify the traveling conditions of each street. This map has been produced by the Burlington Bicycle Council to encourage safe bicycling and a healthier community.

Topography

The general topography is illustrated by showing the high and low points with the following color scheme, showing the approximate steepness and direction of hills as a gradation between the two colors.

Higher — Lower

General Icon Key

CCTA Transfer Center	Public Telephone	Bicycle Repair
CCTA Route Indicator	Public Restrooms	Canoe/Kayak Ramp
Train Station	Parking Area	Motor Boat Ramp
Park & Ride Facility	User-Activated Signal	
Bird / Wildlife Watching	Hiking / Walking Trails	Swimming Area
Community Garden	Off-leash Dog Area	Fishing Area
Eco-agricultural Site	Scenic View	Wetlands Area

Map Index

Schools

1	Burlington High School	C6
2	C.P. Smith Elementary School	D3
3	Flynn Elementary School	E2
4	Lyman C. Hunt School	D3
5	Rock Point School	E6

Cultural Buildings

6	Ethan Allen Museum	D2
7	Ethan Allen Tower	E3

Parks

Arms Park	C5	Half Moon Cove Park	E1
Arthur Park	C6	Macrea Farm Park	A3
Delta Park	E1	Mckenzie Park	A5
Derway Island	E1	North Beach	D6
Ethan Allen Park	C4	Schifilliti Park	D3
Leddy Park	E5	Starr Farm Park	D3

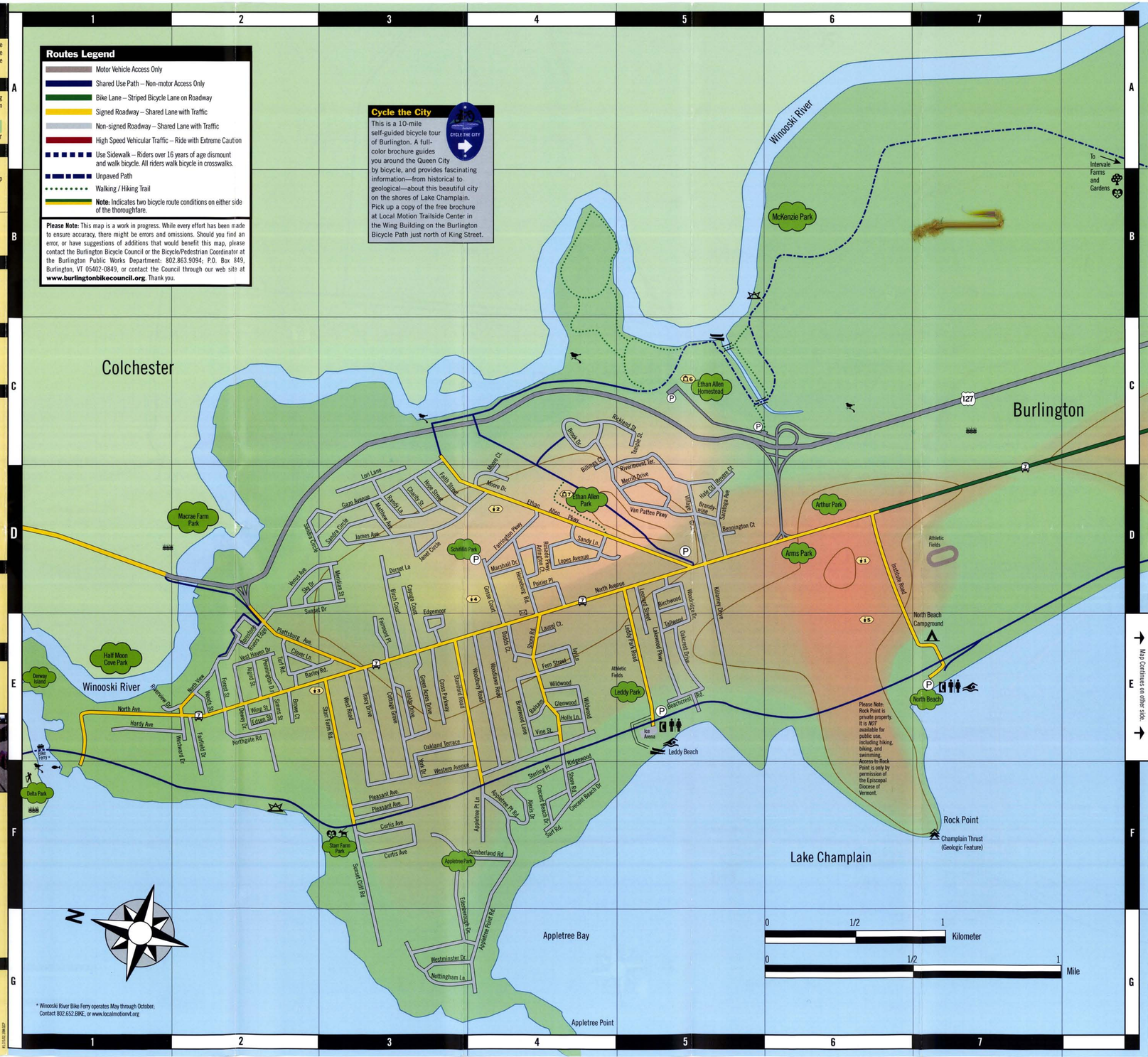
Routes Legend

- Motor Vehicle Access Only
- Shared Use Path – Non-motor Access Only
- Bike Lane – Striped Bicycle Lane on Roadway
- Signed Roadway – Shared Lane with Traffic
- Non-signed Roadway – Shared Lane with Traffic
- High Speed Vehicular Traffic – Ride with Extreme Caution
- Use Sidewalk – Riders over 16 years of age dismount and walk bicycle. All riders walk bicycle in crosswalks.
- Unpaved Path
- Walking / Hiking Trail
- **Note:** Indicates two bicycle route conditions on either side of the thoroughfare.

Please Note: This map is a work in progress. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, there might be errors and omissions. Should you find an error, or have suggestions of additions that would benefit this map, please contact the Burlington Bicycle Council or the Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator at the Burlington Public Works Department: 802.863.9094; P.O. Box 849, Burlington, VT 05402-0849, or contact the Council through our web site at **www.burlingtonbikecouncil.org**. Thank you.

Cycle the City

This is a 10-mile self-guided bicycle tour of Burlington. A full-color brochure guides you around the Queen City by bicycle, and provides fascinating information—from historical to geological—about this beautiful city on the shores of Lake Champlain. Pick up a copy of the free brochure at Local Motion Trailside Center in the Wing Building on the Burlington Bicycle Path just north of King Street.



* Winooski River Bike Ferry operates May through October; Contact 802.652.BIKE, or www.localmotionvt.org.

Map Continues on other side.

Winooski River

Burlington International Airport

South Burlington

Winooski

Burlington

Lake Champlain

Ferry to Port Kent, New York (seasonal)

Redstone Campus

Miller Center for Agricultural (UVM) (Farm & Equestrian Facility)

UVM Bio-Research Complex

USDA Northeastern Research Center

Vermont Botanical Gardens

Dorset Park Athletic Fields

Cairns Arena

East Woods Natural Area

Red Rocks Park

Oakledge Park

Burlington Wastewater Treatment Plant

Burlington Boathouse

Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center

U.S. Coast Guard Station

Waterfront Off-leash Dog Area

Waterfront Park

Battery Park

Leddy Park

Roosevelt Park

Schmanska Park

Overlook Park

Farrell Park

Baird Park

Calahan Park

Centennial Woods Natural Area

Athletic Field

Jacoe Park

Patrick Gymnasium and Gutterson Field House

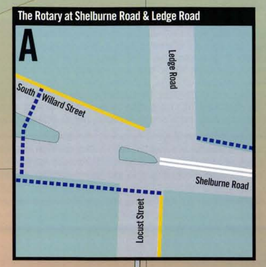
Living/Learning Complex

Athletic Fields

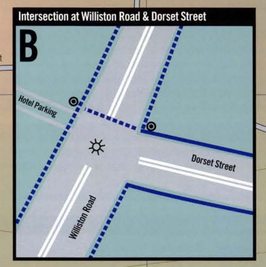
University Mall

Burlington Bicycle Council

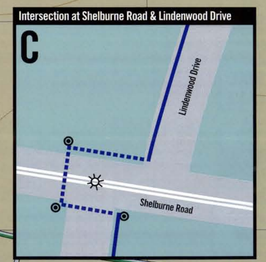
The Rotary at Shelburne Road & Ledge Road



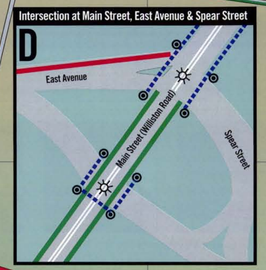
Intersection at Williston Road & Dorset Street



Intersection at Shelburne Road & Lindenwood Drive



Intersection at Main Street, East Avenue & Spear Street



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0 1/2 1 Kilometer

0 1/2 1 Mile

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- Parking Area
- User-Activated Signal
- Bicycle Repair
- Swimming Area
- Off-leash Dog Area
- Boat Ramp

Significant Locations and Green Map® Information

Major points of interest are indexed below; use the grid coordinates to find your destination. The Green Map icons indicate places of environmental significance.

Healthcare

1	Fletcher Allen / Emergency Room	D2
2	Fletcher Allen / UHC	D2
3	Timberlane Medical Center	A6
4	Pine Street Counseling Center	F5

Civic Buildings/Institutions

5	Boys and Girls Club	E1
6	Burlington City Hall	E3
7	South Burlington City Hall	C6
8	Union Station	F3

Cultural Buildings

9	City Arts / Firehouse Gallery	E3
10	Fleming Museum	D2
11	Fletcher Free Library	E2
12	Frog Hollow Crafts	E3
13	Ira Allen Chapel	D2
14	Memorial Auditorium	E3
15	Royal Tyler Theater	D2
16	UVM Music Building	D3

Colleges and Schools

17	Barnes School	F1
18	Burlington College	F1
19	Central School	B4
20	Chamberlin School	A4
21	Champlain College	E3
22	Champlain School	F5
23	Christ the King School	E4
24	Community College of Vermont	E2
25	Edmunds E.S. and M.S.	E3
26	H.O. Wheeler School	E1
27	Mater Christi School	D2
28	Orchard Elementary School	F8
29	Rice High School	D6
30	South Burlington M.S. & H.S.	B5
31	University of Vermont	D2–4

Environmental Sites

32	Intervale Composting Facility	E1
33	Intervale Community Farm	E1
34	Lake Champlain Science Center	F2
35	Maritime Museum	F3
36	McNeill Generating Station	E1
37	South Burlington Living Machine Public tours available. 660-8094.	F9
38	Winooski One Hydroelectric Project and Fishway	C1

- Bird and Wildlife Watching
- Community Garden
- Fishing Area
- Hiking / Walking Trails
- Power Generation Facility
- Remediated Toxic Site
- Scenic View
- Water Reclamation Facility
- Wind Energy Site

Parks

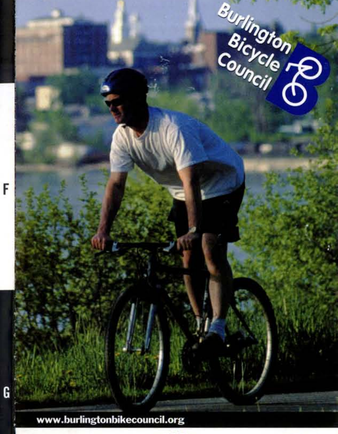
Baird Park	F6	Dorset Park	B7	Red Rocks Park	G7
Battery Park	F2	East Woods	D6	Roosevelt Park	E1
Calahan Park	F4	Farrell Park	E7	Schmanska Park	C2
City Hall Park	E3	Jaycee Park	B4	Szymanski Park	E8
Centennial Woods	C2	Oakledge Park	G5	Waterfront Park	F2
Crescent Woods	E5	Overlook Park	D8		

* Seasonal Facility

Burlington / South Burlington

Bicycle Map

with information on mass transit, recreational areas, environmental sites, and points of interest.



www.burlingtonbikecouncil.org