

# Corvallis & Benton County BICYCLE GUIDE



Public Works  
Transportation Division  
www.ci.corvallis.or.us/bikeped  
541.766.6916

## CORVALLIS BIKEWAYS

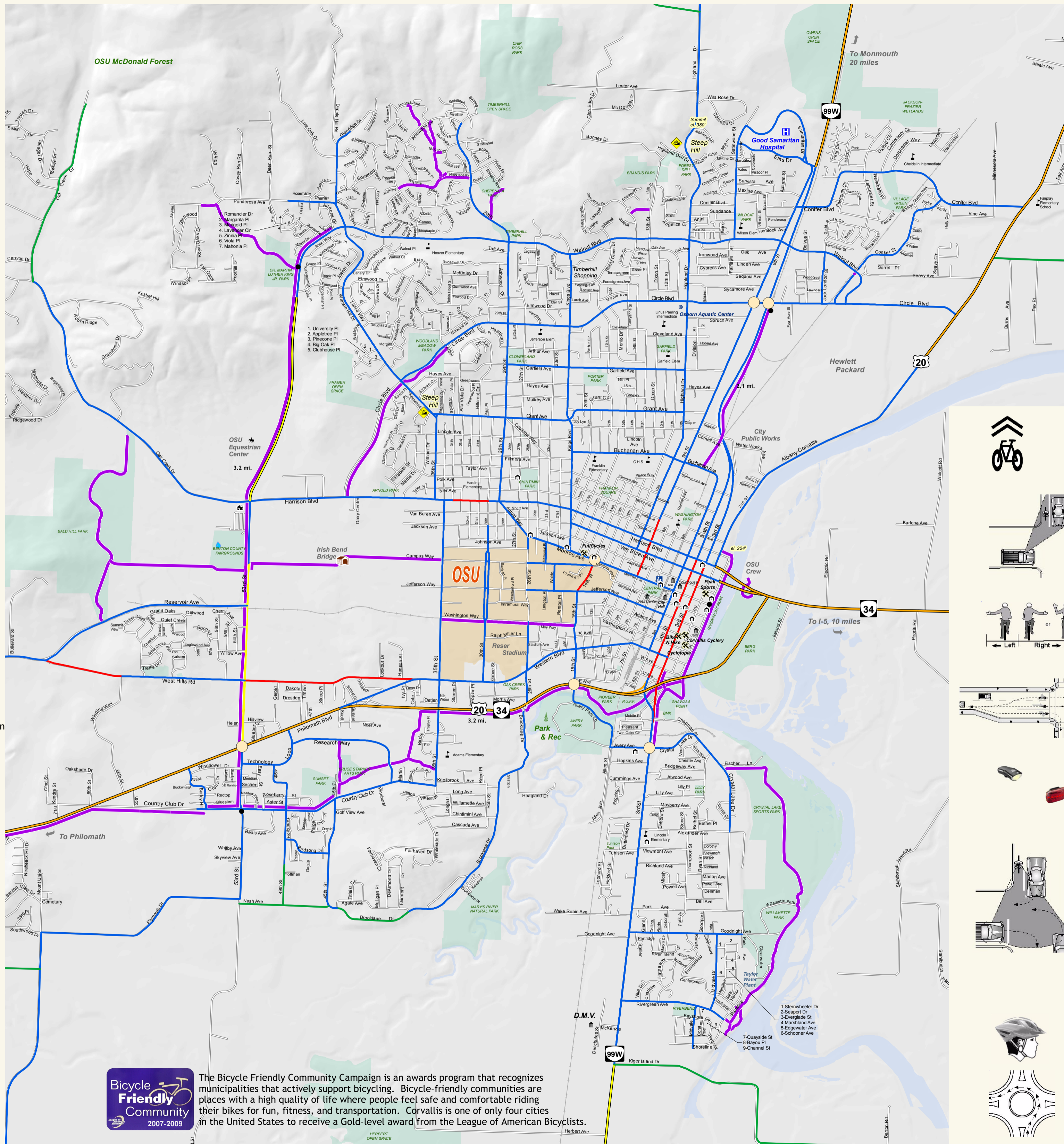
Corvallis has a population of 54,000 people and is the seventh largest city in Oregon. It is located in a beautiful natural setting along the Willamette River and has pleasant neighborhoods, a state University, a diverse economy, and well-planned public facilities. Bicycles have long been recognized as important transportation vehicles in Corvallis. In 1971 the Citizens Advisory Commission on Bicycles was formed. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Commission, working in cooperation with City Staff, facilitates public involvement and advises City Council on bicycle issues. One of the first major improvements in bicycle facilities, accomplished in the early 1970's, was the construction of 2.4 miles of separated bike path along the Willamette river and Marys river. Since that time the City has worked with citizens to establish bicycle facilities on approximately 96% of the major streets! Today, Corvallis has one of the best bicycling systems in the nation. Bike lanes in Corvallis are cleaned and maintained year round. The small size of the city combined with its excellent bicycle system and relatively flat terrain allow almost any trip to be made by bicycle in about 15 minutes. The bicycle is a healthy, non-polluting alternative to the automobile that helps maintain the quality of the environment in Corvallis.



The Corvallis Transit System has bike racks mounted on the front of each bus and each rack holds two bicycles. Use of the bicycle racks is on a "first-come, first-served" basis. Bicycle riders are responsible for loading and unloading their bicycles. A brochure describing the Rack and Roll program and how to use the rack is available at City Hall, the Library, on the buses, at local bicycle shops, and at www.ci.corvallis.or.us/cts. The Philomath Connection and the Linn-Benton Loop also have bicycle racks.



The Bicycle Friendly Community Campaign is an awards program that recognizes municipalities that actively support bicycling. Bicycle-friendly communities are places with a high quality of life where people feel safe and comfortable riding their bikes for fun, fitness, and transportation. Corvallis is one of only four cities in the United States to receive a Gold-level award from the League of American Bicyclists.



- Multi-use path
- Bike Lane
- Low volume traffic
- Medium volume traffic
- High volume traffic
- Caution area
- Residential streets
- Congested Intersections
- Miles between points
- Bicycle Shops
- Municipal Buildings
- Library
- Schools
- Steep Hills
- Elevations
- City or County Parks
- Markets
- Covered Bridges
- Covered Bike Parking

## TIPS FOR THE CYCLIST

**Corvallis Parks**  
Corvallis has a great park system! Cyclists will find many of these facilities useful. A matrix showing which parks offer amenities such as water, restrooms, or picnic sites can be found at www.ci.corvallis.or.us/parks

**Sharrows**  
"Sharrow" pavement markings indicate where travel lanes are shared by both motorists and bicyclists. Sharrows are principally downtown where speeds are slow and streets are narrow. Use caution and share the lane.

**Ride With The Traffic**  
Riding against the traffic places the bicyclist in a location at intersections that may be overlooked by motorists watching for the normal flow of oncoming traffic. Riding the wrong direction endangers other riders and is unpredictable for motorists. Riding the wrong direction in bike lanes is a violation and leading cause of bicycle accidents.

**Be Predictable**  
Obey traffic signs and signals. Motorists need to know what you are planning to do, even in a bike lane. Signal well in advance if you intend to turn or merge into another lane.

**Position Yourself Correctly at Intersections**  
If you are turning, signal appropriately, watch for cars, and merge carefully to the center of the turn lane. Make your turn occupying the same space an automobile would. If you are not turning, follow the bike lane and watch for cars that may be crossing the bike lane.

**Be Visible**  
Wear bright, reflective clothing. Use a bright handlebar light during low visibility, and a red blinking LED rear light anytime. Consider adding additional reflective tape to your helmet, fenders.

**Ride Defensively**  
Avoid riding in the blind spots of motor vehicle drivers. Be sure the automobile driver has seen you before making a maneuver that puts you in conflict with the automobile. Watch for cars turning suddenly at driveways and intersections. Other hazards to look for are opening car doors, loose gravel, and rough pavement. When the road is wet, everything is slippery. Cross angled railroad tracks carefully to maintain control of your bicycle. Pedestrians and roller skaters popping out from between parked cars can also be a hazard. At intersections, be prepared for cars turning across your path. If in doubt, merge into the automobile lane to travel through the intersection.

**Wear a Helmet**  
Head injuries are often severe and debilitating. A safety approved bicycle helmet can protect you from head injuries.

**Traffic Circles**  
Stay right. Traffic already in the circle has the right of way. Don't cut across the center of the circle or go against the traffic flow.

