**Trail Etiquette**

All Users:
- Obey all trail signs and regulations.
- Show courtesy for other trail users at all times.
- Keep dogs on a leash, no more than six feet long (dogs are not allowed in Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park and Karnesbykle Park and Meadow Crest Flophouse).
- When entering onto a crossing trail at an uncontrolled intersection, yield to traffic already on the trail.
- The group of trail users should occupy more than half the trail right of way to prevent the normal movement of other trail users.
- Motor vehicles are not allowed on City of Renton Trails except when in use by City of Renton personnel.

Pedestrians:
- Use visible signals and allow faster trail users to pass safely on the left.

Bicyclists:
- Cyclists are required to wear safety helmets on all trails in King County.
- Yield to pedestrians. Always give an audible (vocal, bell, horn) warning before passing another trail user.

**Types of Bikeways**

A "bikeway" is a generic term to describe any road, path, or way in which some measure is used for bicycle travel. The bikeway descriptions in this guide are based upon the 1999 edition of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials’ Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (commonly referred to as the “AASHTO Bike Guide”) and include the following four types of bikeways:

**Shaded Roadway:**

Bikeways to ports of a roadway that are open to both bicyclists, motor vehicles, and other users. Examples of this type of bikeway are wide lanes (also referred to as wide curb lanes or wide outside lanes) on both sides of the roadway.

**Paved Shoulder:**

Other examples of a “shaded roadway” are paved shoulders with striping (typically denoted with white edge lines or “fog lines”) on the right side or outer edge of the traffic lane on both sides of the roadway.

**Bike Lanes:**

Bike lanes refer to the portions of a roadway that have been designated by striping (with wider edge lines), pavement markings, and/or signaling for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

**Shared-Use Paths Or Separated Trails:**

Shared-use paths refer to bikeways that are typically physically separated from vehicular traffic. Also referred to as regional trails or multi-use trails—shared-use paths are typically bi-directional, paved, and are used by pedestrians and non-motorized users.

**Tips for Safe Cycling**

**Cycling Best Preparation:**

- Check Your Bike
  Make sure your bike is in good working order, especially the tires and brakes.
- Wear a Helmet
  Make sure your helmet fits well and sits on your head properly.
- Keep Your Eyes and Ears Open and Hands Ready To Brake
  Don't use headphones or cell phones while cycling.
- Make Yourself Visible, Especially at Night
  Light-colored and/or reflective clothing, reflectors on your bike and lights help motormen see you at night and during other low-light conditions. Washington State law requires the use of lights on bicycles at night.

**Cycling Best Practices:**

- Obey Traffic Signals and Signs
  Bicyclists must drive like other drivers if they want to be taken seriously. This means obeying traffic signals, signs, and laws at all times.
- Communicate
  Use hand signals and make eye contact with motorists and others using the roadways to indicate turning and stopping. Make eye contact when possible. The use of hand signals is more than a courtesy for others, it is your legal duty as a user of the roadway, and ensures your safety.
- Be Predictable
  Ride in a straight line, follow lane markings like a motorist. All drivers, don't weave in and out of traffic, or blocked cars, signal your intentions and obey traffic laws.

**Look Before Acting**

Always look both ways before you move left, move right, or stop. Use a mirror or learn to look over your shoulder without swerving.

**Select Safe Routes for Biking**

Pick streets where you can ride safely — streets with lower traffic volumes and speeds. Riding on lower volume, lower speed streets allows cyclists more physical space and time to react to events.

**Ride With, Not Against, Traffic**

Riding against traffic is one of the most common causes for accidents. Motorists are not anticipating cyclists traveling in the opposite direction.

**Use Caution On Sidewalks**

Neither pedestrians nor motorists are anticipating cyclists on sidewalks, especially if cyclists are riding against the traffic flow. If you must use your bike on a sidewalk, use caution and yield to pedestrians.

**Pass on the Left, Not the Right**

Motorists, other cyclists and pedestrians may not anticipate a cyclist passing on the right. For the same reasons that cyclists shouldn't ride against traffic or ride on sidewalks, they shouldn’t ride on the right of the intersection, then dismount and walk your bike across. When riding alongside the driver’s side of a parking lane, be aware of motorists opening doors and give yourself enough time and room to react to door openings in your travel path.

**Ride Against Traffic**

Cyclists shouldn't ride against traffic or ride on sidewalks, they shouldn't pass on the right. Always pass on the left, and use a bell or your voice. "Passing on the left" lets pedestrians or other cyclists know you are overtaking them.

**Assume You’re Invisible to Others**

It is safest to assume that motorists cannot see you, even if you make yourself visible with light-colored clothing and reflectors. Use lights and communicate your intentions with hand signals, voice and eye contact. Ride defensively — assume you are difficult to see and be ready to react.

**Adjust Your Lane Position According to Traffic**

Riding very close to the road edge makes cyclists less visible and puts them at risk of being run off the road, into the curb, or cut off by a right-turning vehicle. There may be times when “using a lane” and riding further left will make you more visible to motorists.

**Be Prepared for Cycling Hazards:**

Intersections
Don’t stop at motorists’ blind spots at intersections. Wait for red lights, stay either ahead of or behind cars, and clear of the blind spot in the right rear of a vehicle. Use your best judgment to select one of the two left turn methods, based on conditions:

1. Turn as a motorist would, from the left turn lane, using hand signals and eye contact with motorists.
2. Cross as a pedestrian would: make two full crossings. From the right side of the road, ride straight to corner at the far side of the intersection, then dismount and walk your bike across.

Road Hazards
Watch for pot-holes, gravel, ice or debris, drainage grates with slats parallel to the direction of travel, and railroad tracks. Give yourself enough time and room to react to hazards. When riding alongside the driver’s side of a parking lane, be aware of motorists opening doors and give yourself enough time and room to react to door openings in your travel path.

**Hand Signals**

- **Bicyclists:**
  • Hand signals for left or right turns, and stopping. Make eye contact when possible. The use of hand signals is more than a courtesy for others, it is your legal duty as a user of the roadway, and ensures your safety.

- **Motorists:**
  • Follow lane markings like a motorist. All drivers, don’t weave in and out of traffic or blocked cars, signal your intentions and obey traffic laws.

- **Pedestrians:**
  • Hand signals and eye contact with motorists and others using the roadways to indicate turning and stopping. Make eye contact when possible. The use of hand signals is more than a courtesy for others, it is your legal duty as a user of the roadway, and ensures your safety.

- **All Users:**
  • Hand signals for left or right turns, and stopping. Make eye contact when possible. The use of hand signals is more than a courtesy for others, it is your legal duty as a user of the roadway, and ensures your safety.

- **Light-colored and/or reflectorizing clothing, reflectors on your bike and lights help motormen see you at night and during other low-light conditions. Washington State law requires the use of lights on bicycles at night.**

**Renton Trails and Bikeways Guide Map**

A guide to getting around on foot and by bike!