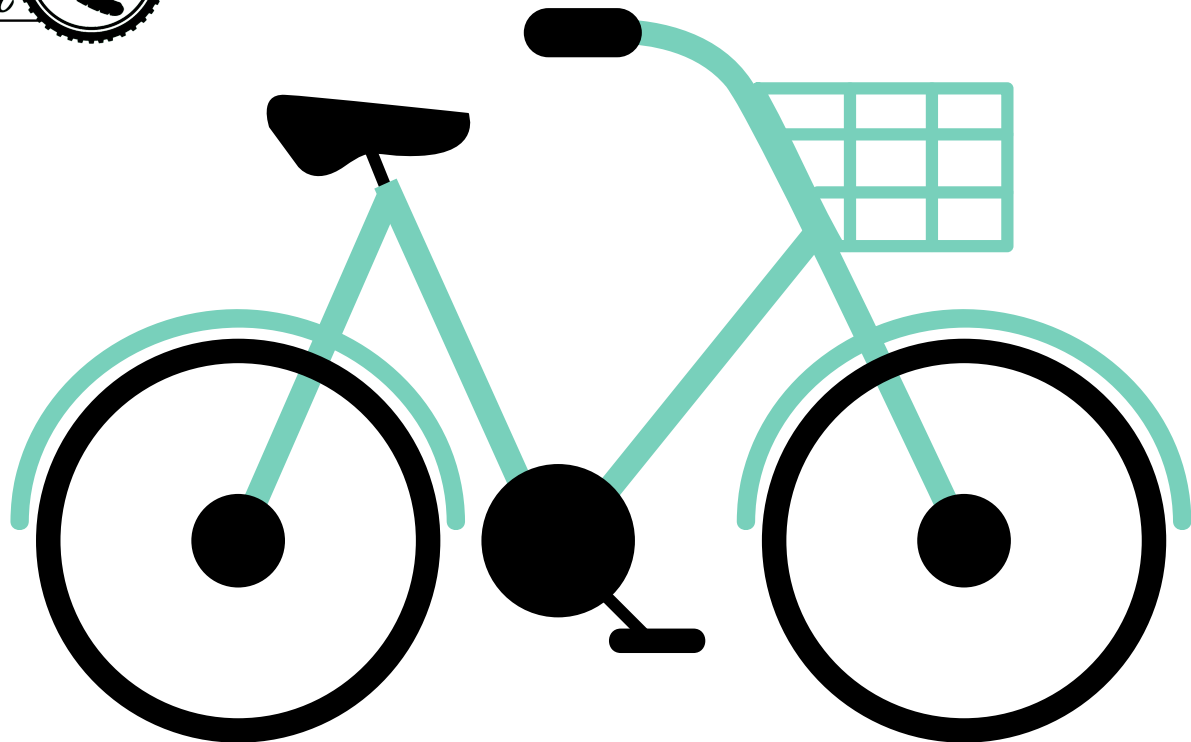
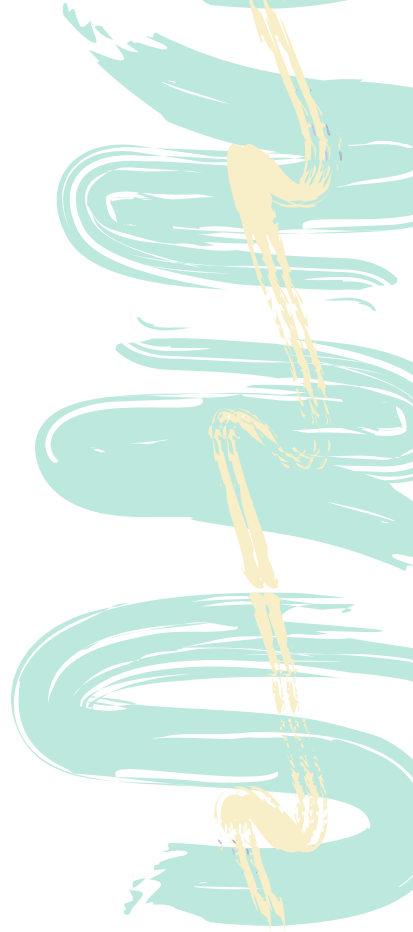


# THE 2019 MACON BICYCLE GUIDE



# GETTING STARTED

## About Bike Walk Macon

Founded in 2015, Bike Walk Macon is leading the movement to make bicycling and walking a safe and convenient option for transportation and recreation for all Maconites. We are Macon-Bibb County's first grassroots bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organization working to enhance mobility to create a more vibrant, healthy, and equitable city based off a three prong approach: advocacy, education, and engagement.

## What You'll Need

**A Helmet** While helmets are only legally required for those sixteen and younger, a well-fitted sturdy helmet can help prevent serious injury in the event of a crash. Also, remember that helmets are only one part of bike safety; lights, practicing safe riding techniques, and driver awareness are also important.

**Lights** In Georgia, bicyclists are required to have a front white light and rear red light or reflector during low-visibility situations. The brighter, the better! You want to be able to see and be seen.

**A Bike Lock** If you're using your bike for commuting, be sure to invest in a bike lock to secure your bike during the day or while you run errands. Always secure both your frame and tire to the bike rack.

**Recommended Add-Ons** While these aren't necessary, here are some additional helpful items for staying safe and comfortable: high visibility clothing or adhesive strips; a basket for storage while bicycling; a water bottle holder; and a handlebar phone holder/GPS for navigating directions or monitoring speed and mileage.

## Finding A Bike

**Zagster** If you aren't looking to invest in a bike of your own just yet, a bike share option could be the perfect choice for you. Zagster bikes are available for rent at downtown locations for just \$3 per hour. Once you're done with the bike for the day, just lock it back up at any Zagster location. Find more information and precise locations online at [bike.zagster.com/macon](http://bike.zagster.com/macon).

**Bike Tech** If you are looking to purchase a bike, stop by our local bike shop, Bike Tech Macon, on Vineville Avenue. At Bike Tech, experienced workers will help you choose or customize a bike that fits your size and needs. As a bonus, all bikes purchased from Bike Tech include free basic tune-ups for life! Bike Tech can also help you find additional items to make bicycling easier and safer for you including lights, repair materials, and cool gadgets. Visit their website at [biketechmacon.com](http://biketechmacon.com).

**Re-Cycle Macon** As part of Re-Cycle Macon's mission to extend resources and transportation options to those who need them, this organization runs a program for individuals to earn a bike. Re-Cycle Macon also accepts donations of used bicycles if you've outgrown your current bicycle and are considering buying a new one! Learn more about Re-Cycle Macon at [re-cyclemacon.org](http://re-cyclemacon.org).

# RIDING YOUR BIKE

## Traffic Riding Tips

**Always travel in the same direction as car traffic.** Riding against traffic (called salmoning) is not only illegal - it's also three times more dangerous. Remember: as a bike, your goal is to blend; if you walk on a road, though, do the opposite and always walk against traffic.

**Always ride on the road, never the sidewalk.** It's the law! Most sidewalks aren't wide enough to accommodate fast, big bicycles alongside pedestrians which leads to a lot of dangerous collisions. If you're over the age of twelve, ride in the street whenever possible.

**Use the rule of thirds while riding.** To make intersections more predictable, imagine the lane is divided into three parts. If you're turning left, use the leftmost third. If you're turning right, use the rightmost third. For going straight, ride towards the middle.

**Be predictable.** Ride in a straight line and signal your turns and intentions. As you first learn to signal, consider practicing in a low-stress environment like the park or an empty lot.

**Make eye contact with drivers.** Never assume a driver sees you. Yield when changing lanes.



◀ LEFT TURN



▶ RIGHT TURN

## Before You Ride: A-B-C Quick Check

**Air** Always check the air pressure in your tires before you ride. The ideal range will be listed on your tire. You can use a tire gauge or pump, or if you're on the go, make sure you can just barely squeeze the tire. Don't overinflate your tire.

**Brakes** Once you get going, you need to be able to stop! Check that your brakes work by lifting up and spinning one tire at a time while you squeeze the corresponding hand brake on your handlebar. When you squeeze the brake, you should still be able to fit your thumb between the brake and the handlebar.

**Chain** Spin your pedals backwards a few times to ensure that your chain is running smoothly and free of debris or rust.

**Quick Release** Some bikes have quick release levers on the tires like the one on your seat. Make sure these levers are pulled closed.

**Check** Look over your bike visually. Take a quick spin down the block. Make sure your helmet is secure on your head.



■ STOP



● SLOW DOWN

# RESOURCES

## Commuter Resources

**Repair Stands** There are currently six repair stands throughout downtown Macon at the following locations: Mercer Village, Mercer University, Washington Memorial Library, Proudeit Park, Bike Walk Macon, and the Tubman Museum.

**Bicycle Parts Vending Machine** Located outside the Bike Walk Macon office on Poplar Street, downtown commuters will now have 24/7 access to purchase all necessary bicycle accessories and repair tools.

**Bike Tech Macon** For professional and friendly maintenance and bike service, head over to Macon's locally-owned shop on Vineville.

## Macon Transit & Bikes

The Macon Transit Authority welcomes and encourages bicyclists to incorporate transit services into their commute! To put your bike on the bus, first alert the driver. Then, lower the rack, put your bike on, and raise the support arm to secure it. Reverse that order to take your bike off the bus. Find complete instructions at [www.mta-mac.com/bicycles.html](http://www.mta-mac.com/bicycles.html).

## Bike Parking

There are more than fifty bike parking locations in the downtown area. For a complete map, visit [bikewalkmacon.com/maconbikemap](http://bikewalkmacon.com/maconbikemap).

## Places to Ride

**Ocmulgee Heritage Trail** The OHT is one of the best riding spots in Macon at a current length of eleven miles and growing. See the full map and future plans at [www.newtownmacon.com/oht/](http://www.newtownmacon.com/oht/).

**Amerson River Park** Enjoy around five miles of trails at this park which is also home to a canoe takeout, playground, and pavilions. Amerson also has outdoor fitness circuit machines to round out your ride.

**Streets with Bike Lanes** Currently, there are stretches of bike lanes or sharrows on: Montpelier Ave., Roff Ave., College St., 3rd St., 2nd St., Sardis Church Road, Napier Ave., and Walnut Street. Additional infrastructure is planned for Columbus Street, Poplar, and other streets downtown.

**Maps & Other Trails** A complete map of these trails and bike infrastructure can be found online at [bikewalkmacon.com/maconbikemap](http://bikewalkmacon.com/maconbikemap). To find other trails great for cycling in Middle Georgia, check out [sorbaomba.org/trails](http://sorbaomba.org/trails).

# HAZARDS & EMERGENCIES

## If There's a Crash

**Write it down.** Record the date, time, and location of the crash, as well as the name and contact information of anyone else involved, including witnesses.

**Save all documentation.** This could include police reports, medical evaluations, damage estimates, and any interactions you may have with others who were involved.

**File an insurance claim.** If you have issues getting your claim approved, you may need to contact an attorney to help you. Visit online or contact Georgia Bikes for more information on crashes.

## If Your Bike Is Stolen

**Contact the police and make a report.** It's important to make a report; even if your bike isn't recovered, this helps notify police of where incidents are occurring and how often, which then can translate into new policy and procedures in the future. Be ready to provide a description of your bike, a photo, and the bike's serial number if you have it. If your bike is registered on any sites like Bike Index, also include that information. The non-emergency number is 478-746-9441.

**Utilize the Internet.** Some sites suggest setting up Google, eBay, Facebook, and similar alerts with keywords to notify you of newly posted bikes for sale. If you do find your bike, go through the police rather than approaching the seller yourself.

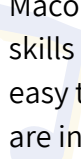
## Reporting Issues

**Street Issues** Using the SeeClickFix software, people can report infrastructure issues like sidewalk maintenance, lighting, street sweeping, or overgrown vegetation blocking the public right of way directly to the Macon-Bibb County departments. Stay up to date with the project status via email reports. Requests can be made and issues reported online at [seeclickfix.com/macon\\_bibb\\_county\\_ga](https://seeclickfix.com/macon_bibb_county_ga) or by using the free mobile application. People without online or mobile capabilities can report issues by calling Customer Service at 478-751-7400.

**Non-Crash Incidents** If you are harassed or endangered by an aggressive driver while walking or biking, please report the driver to the Bibb County Sheriff's Office by calling 911. For non-emergency issues, call (478)746-9441. If you are able, write down their license plate number, car make/model, and any specific, important details about the incident.

# LOCAL EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

## Macon Bike Party



Macon Bike Party is a free, slow-paced community bicycle ride for people of all ages and skills levels. With music the whole way and a fun theme each month, we make it fun and easy to come enjoy our great city and its neighborhoods from a unique perspective. Rides are in the evening every second Thursday of the month, March to June 2019. Up-to-date information is available on our website, Facebook, and Macon365!

## Open Streets Macon

Based off the Ciclovias movement, Open Streets Macon is a day where we close off miles of streets to cars and open them back up to people. For the entire duration of the program, community members are free to walk, bike, play, and otherwise explore our streets as we re-imagine our public spaces. Follow @OpenStreetsMacon on Facebook or visit [openstreetsmacon.com](http://openstreetsmacon.com) for details and opportunities to get involved as an activity partner, route host, sponsor, or volunteer.

## Local Rides & Walks

**My City Bikes Macon App** This free app from Visit Macon features self-guided bicycle tours with turn-by-turn directions highlighting historical sites, musical landmarks, haunted spots, and more around Macon. Routes are also available online at [mycitybikes.com/ga-macon](http://mycitybikes.com/ga-macon).

**Walk-About-Wednesdays** If walking's more your style, this one-hour fun, medium pace fitness walk from Bike Walk Macon meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month (April to September). Look for details on our Facebook page.

**Macon Adventure Ride** For those looking to adventure around Macon, Bike Tech offers a brisk, no-drop ride every Tuesday evening. Find details on Facebook @BikeTechMacon.

**Ocmulgee Mountain Bike Association Beginner & Chill Ride** If you're looking to start, improve, or meet other mountain bikers, this friendly group rides on Thursday nights. Follow this group on Facebook for more information.

**Bike Walk Month** Be on the lookout for Bike Walk Month in May when we host fun events like Bike to Work Day with the Mayor, partnerships with Macon Transit, and other special programs!

**Additional Events and Opportunities** There are always new things going on to learn about and experience biking and walking in Macon! We continuously update our website with these at [bikewalkmacon.com/events](http://bikewalkmacon.com/events), as well as our Facebook page and Macon365.

