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Bike paths, quiet roads plentiful for cyclists in Eugene-Springfield

By Pat Malach
Emerald Associate Editor

Having a reputation as being one of the best cycling towns in the country is not something that comes easily. But Eugene has done it.

Cyclists of all types will find a haven of opportunities in the Eugene/Springfield area.

Whether you are a road racer, commuter, recreational rider or mountain bike fanatic the area has plenty of roads, paths and trails for all.

Eugene has been rated as one of the top 10 "cycling towns" in the United States by *Bicycling Magazine*. One reason for this is the commitment to bicyclists and the special facilities provided for them by the city. Eugene has had a bicycling committee since 1970 when the mayor established it in response to citizen requests. The city also has a full-time bicycle coordinator, Diane Bishop, who monitors and designs new bike projects.

Bicycle commuters in the area will find that many of the roads in town are marked with special bike lanes providing a protected area in which to ride. To find out which roads have the bike lanes you can purchase the Eugene Bicycle Map for \$2 at most area bike shops.

Dave Pompel, business manager for the Eugene Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services department suggested all cyclists should get the map.

"It shows the best routes in town," he said. "It shows all of the bike paths. It also shows which roads have low traffic and which roads have bike lanes. It is a good idea to get

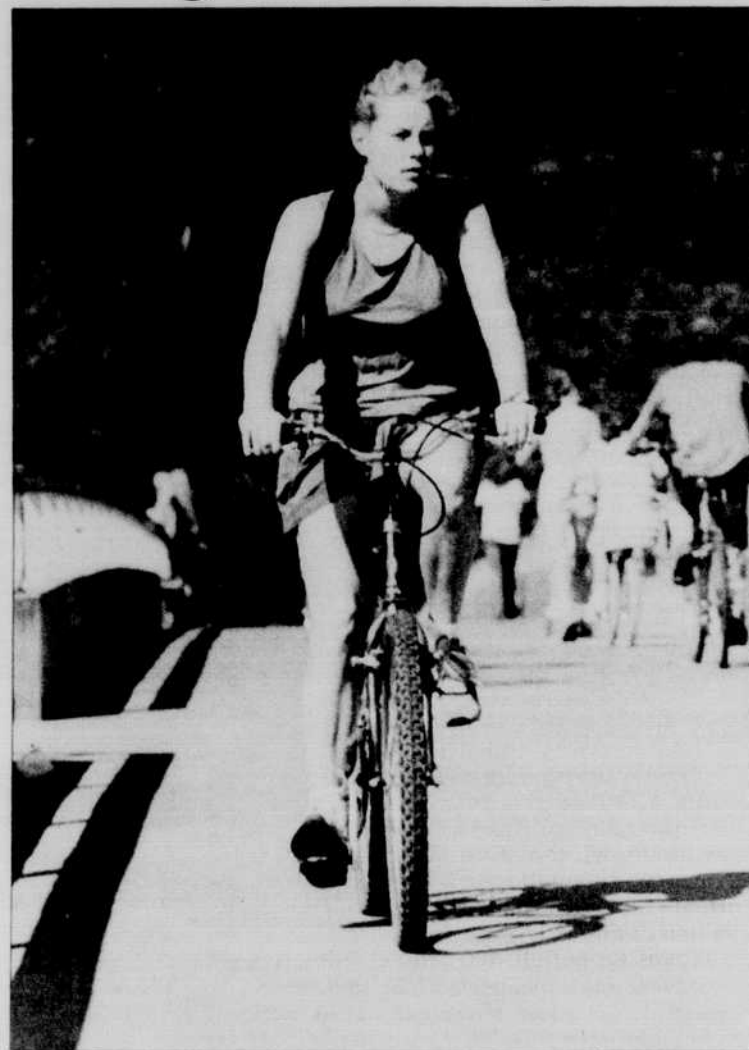


Photo by Sean Poston

The Autzen footbridge is popular with cyclists because it offers automobile-free access to Autzen Stadium.

the map and use it for a guide."

The map lists all of the cycling clubs in town and includes a section on tips for riding in Eugene traffic.

Pompel also advised cyclists

to avoid roads that are not set up for them. He cited streets such as 11th Avenue, 13th Avenue and others in the University area as examples of roads to

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