

Skating: Skate buyers should try out several brands

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products all the time.

There are many different kinds of skates out there. Alise Lamoreaux, one of the owners of Campus Skate Co. on 13th Avenue, said finding the right type of skate for your feet is similar to trying on shoes. You need to try out several types to find the one that is the most comfortable for you.

"You should try it out to see what best fits your needs," Lamoreaux said. "We usually recommend that they try a couple different kinds."

For beginning skaters or for those who are looking to purchase some in-line skates, Campus Skate Co. offers rentals of six different types of skates.

If you are thinking about purchasing your own in-lines, Lamoreaux suggested renting several different kinds of skates to see which ones are best for you.

"We rent really high-quality skates," Lamoreaux said. "People can try out something like what they would be buying."

Campus Skate Co. rents regular or deluxe skates for either \$4.50-\$5.50 per hour or \$13.50-\$16.50 for 24 hours. The shop also offers a "Happy Hour" special during the week. Monday through Friday, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., the rentals are half price. All rentals include protective gear.

Lamoreaux emphasized the importance of wearing the protective pads and helmet, especially when you are new to in-line skating. She said many people are worried that they will look funny wearing the protective gear.

"Beginners are always paranoid about wearing the protective gear," she said. "But it's more fun if you don't have to worry about getting hurt."

For beginners, Lamoreaux

recommended trying out your in-line skates at Amazon Park, near 24th Avenue and Oak Street.

"It's smooth and flat and wide with good vision all around you and grass on both sides," she said.

Torres, an avid in-line skater and roller hockey player himself, said most people who come in to the in-line skate section at G.I. Joe's don't have much of an idea of what they are looking for.

Torres recommended trying on as many types of skates as possible to find the right fit for your feet. He also asks the customers a lot of questions to find out what they would be using the skates for.

"There are different skates for different purposes," he said.

Torres also said the more expensive skates are also more likely to be more comfortable and to be of a much higher quality than cheaper models.

"The padding tends to be better and also lasts longer," he said.

According to Torres, advances in the design of in-line skates have made them much more comfortable than they used to be.

"When they started, they were made for like a Ken doll foot — totally flat," he said.

It is important for customers to ask any questions they might have of the salesperson so they can be sure they are getting exactly what they need.

Lamoreaux also sees the communication between the customer and the salesperson as vital in finding the right skates for the customer.

All of the employees at Campus Skate Co. are experts on in-line skates.

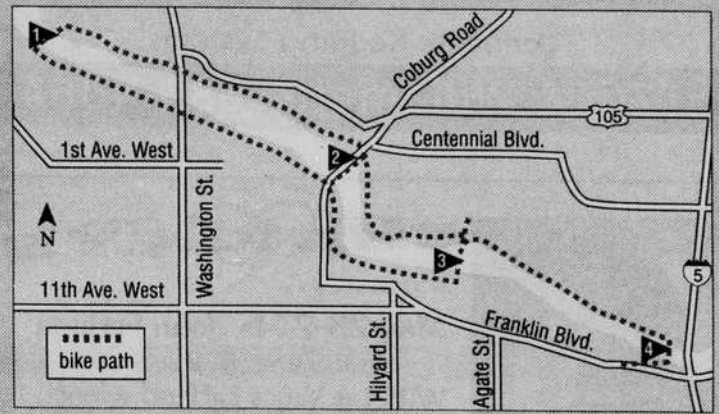
"There's lots to know," Lamoreaux said. "We don't mind educating people."

The ins and outs of in-line skating

Below are some tips and ideas to help keep your in-line skating time enjoyable and safe:

Willamette River bike paths

The bike paths along the north and south sides of the Willamette river in Eugene can be fun as well as challenging. These paths are considered intermediate paths and contain hills, rough pavement and heavy traffic at certain times of the day. The trails can be directly accessed from the University from either the Autzen Footbridge (point 3) or the Willie Knickerbocker Bike Bridge next to Interstate 5 (point 4). The Greenway Bridge (point 1) is located next to Valley River Center.



Distances north side:

- 1-2 Greenway Bike Bridge to Ferry Street Bridge (1.6 miles)
- 2-3 Ferry Street Bridge to Autzen Footbridge (1 mile)
- 3-4 Autzen Footbridge to Knickerbocker Bike Bridge (1 mile)

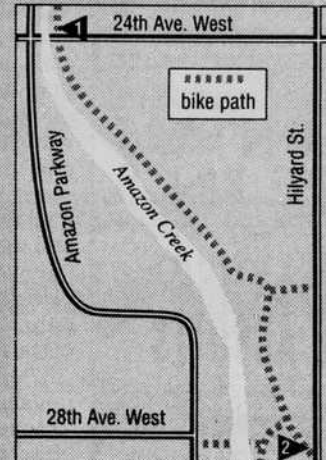
Distances south side:

- 1-2 Greenway Bike Bridge to Ferry Street Bridge (1.6 miles)
- 2-3 Ferry Street Bridge to Autzen Footbridge (1 mile)

The easier path to skate

Starting, or inversely ending, at 24th Avenue and Amazon Parkway is a cement bike path that is flat and wide and provides a great start for beginning skaters. The path ends at 30th Avenue and Hilyard Street and is almost one mile in length.

- 1 24th Avenue and Amazon Pkwy. to 30th and Hilyard Street (1 mile)



Keeping it safe

SKATING TIPS

- Skate under control
- Wear protective equipment
- Pass with care
- Stay alert and watch for other skaters, bicyclists and pedestrians
- Be familiar with the course you are planning to skate

Rules of the road

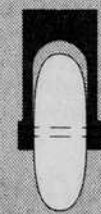
FINES FOR SKATING VIOLATIONS

- Failure to obey a stop sign: \$50
- Clinging to a moving vehicle: \$45
- Wrong way on one-way street: \$30
- Failure to obey a traffic signal: \$50
- Failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian on a sidewalk: \$50

Getting the most out of your in-lines wheels

The part of an in-line skate that has one of the greatest effects on your ability to have fun are the wheels. An in-line skate wheel amounts to some polyurethane rubber on a plastic hub that houses the skate bearings. The skate wheels are a lot like the wheels on a car and need rotation to provide a safe and enjoyable ride. The bearings

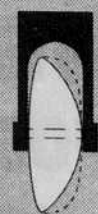
(metal cylinders inside the middle of the wheel) are what allow you to roll smoothly. Dirt, cheaply made bearings will not roll very long when spun. Clean and what are called "precision" bearings can roll for extended periods of time when spun, requiring less effort to continue motion



This is how a wheel should look if viewed from the front or back of the skate.



If a wheel is skated on without rotation, it will get lopsided like this, providing an unstable and uncomfortable ride.



Wheel rotation is necessary so that the point where the wheel contacts the ground is centered.



If wheels are rotated approximately every 15 skating hours, the surface of the wheel should stay well-rounded.

SOURCE: Campus Skate Company brochure and Roces In-line skates manual

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