

Bicycle Suitability Map



ABOUT THIS MAP

The City of Decatur worked in partnership with Bike Decatur to create this bicycle suitability map. The map identifies roadways using three bicycle difficulty rankings with the intention of assisting cyclists in choosing suitable routes to desired destinations. The main city map along with the downtown inset will help cyclists of all levels bicycle to school, work, errands and recreation activities.

Roadway suitability was determined by four factors: traffic speed, traffic volume, roadway width, and frequency of merge lanes. Even though conditions may vary throughout the day and the day of the week, the ratings assume conditions during typical peak commuting hours.

Thanks to cartographer Jeff McMichael for creating this map, as well as to Bike Decatur and the many bicyclists who participated in the development of this map. The map was partially funded through a grant from the Decatur Craft Beer Festival.



TRANSIT AND BICYCLES

Bicycles are allowed on all MARTA trains. MARTA buses, and many buses from other systems have bicycle racks.

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT

If you are involved in or witness a crash involving a motor vehicle and a bicycle, please call Decatur Police at 404-373-6551 or 911 to provide information. If you see roadway conditions that you think the City will want to address, please call 404-377-0494.

DETAIL MAP KEY

- Green routes = Best conditions for bicycling
- Yellow routes = Medium conditions for bicycling
- Red routes = Most difficult conditions for bicycling
- On-road bike lanes
- MUP (Multi-Use Path)
- Bicycle Shop
- Drinking water
- Schools
- Incline in direction of arrow
- Challenging Intersection
- Bicycle parking

GEORGIA RULES OF THE ROAD

(www.gahighwaysafety.org/bikepedsafety/laws.html)

BICYCLES ARE VEHICLES. OBEY TRAFFIC LAWS! Traffic laws that apply to vehicles (except those applying exclusively to motor vehicles) also apply to bicycles. Bicyclists must obey stop signs, speed limits, and traffic signals just as they would if driving a car.

IN GROUPS, ride no more than two abreast, and as a courtesy, ride single file when traffic is present in your travel direction.

RIDE ON THE RIGHT. Georgia Law states that bicyclists should ride as near to the right side of roadways as practicable. Bicyclists can move from the right when turning left; when avoiding hazards; when the lane is too narrow to share safely with a motor vehicle; when traveling the same speed as traffic; and when passing another vehicle.

AT NIGHT, BE SEEN! Every bicycle must be equipped with a white front light and rear red reflector, each visible from 300 feet. Rear red lights may be used as well.

DON'T HIT THE ROAD WITHOUT A HELMET! Bicycle helmets are a good idea for everyone, and required by law for every bicycle rider younger than age 16. They must be fastened on securely.

THREE FOOT RULE. Motorists are required to pass cyclists by a distance of at least three feet.



RIDING TIPS

BEFORE YOU START, ABC: Check the AIR in your tires, the BRAKES and the CHAIN. This habit can prevent many problems.

BE VISIBLE: Bright colored clothing helps everyone see you better. A helmet not only protects your head, it suggests that you are careful and cautious

BE PREDICTABLE. Use turn signals so that other traffic knows what you're doing. Allow time and distance to get in position. Never change lanes without looking back to check for traffic.

"SHARROWS" are the markings on the road with two chevrons (or arrows) above a bike. They are placed so cyclists can ride straight through them and be well positioned.

STAY HYDRATED. It's easy to sweat a lot in a Georgia summer. Be smart and drink a lot of water.

BIKE LANES may still have hazards; leaves, broken glass, or even doors from a parked car. Stay alert! If you spot a hazard ahead and need to move out of the bike lane, slow down and move when it is safe to do so.

AVOID TROUBLE. Watch traffic behind and beside you. Learn to look behind you without swerving, or mount a mirror on your handlebars or helmet. Make eye contact with anyone who might cross your path, and don't assume that others see you, or will yield to you. Don't try to squeeze by or between cars; go around if you need to pass. At intersections, merge with traffic and go when it's your turn.

RESOURCES

JOIN BIKE DECATUR

<http://groups.google.com/group/bikedecatur>

City of Decatur

Updated map, tips and techniques

www.decaturga.com/biking

Clean Air Campaign

www.myridesmart.com

CCTMA (Cliff – Clifton Corridor Transit Management Authority)

www.cctma.com

Atlanta Bicycle Coalition

www.atlantabike.org

Atlanta Regional Commission

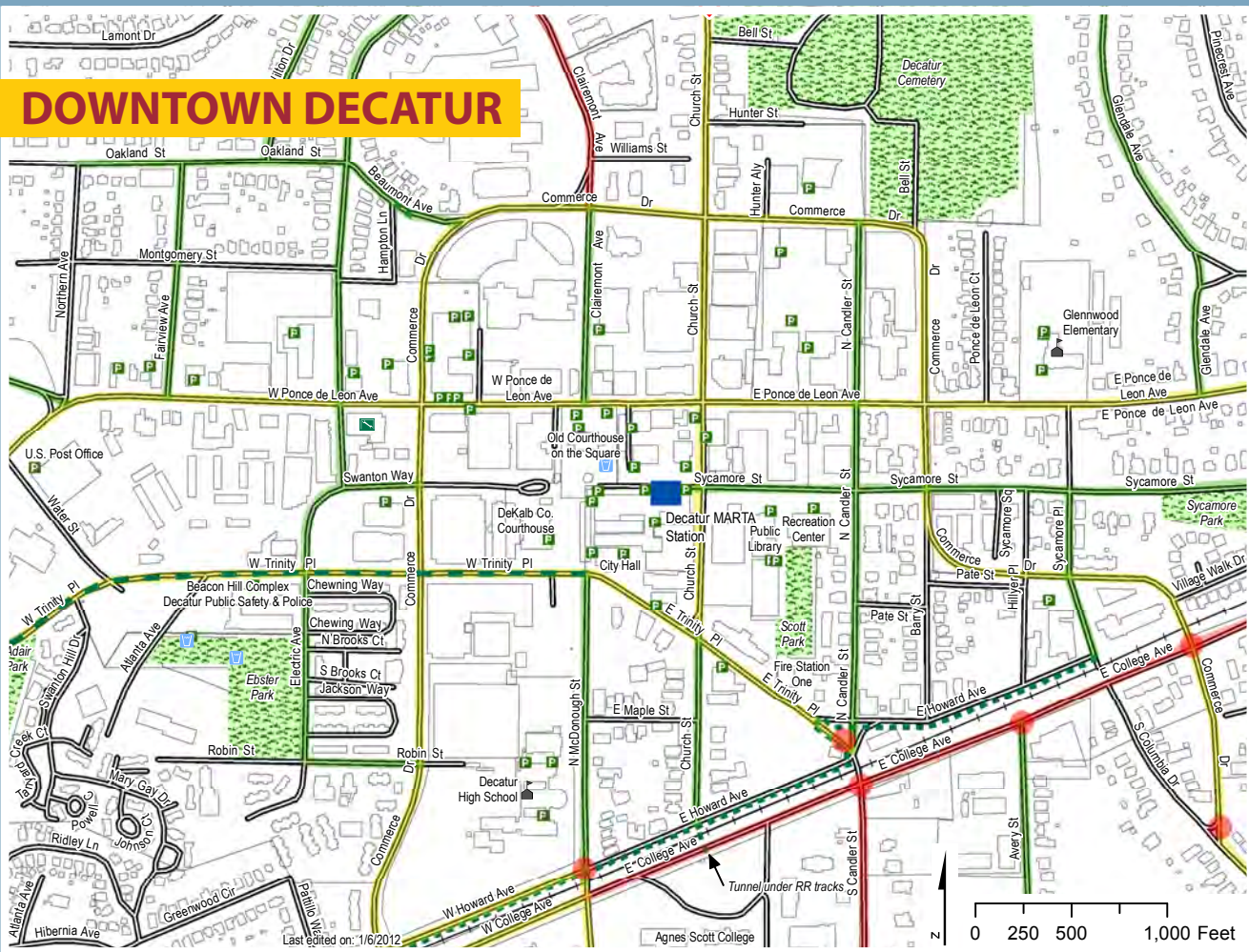
www.atlantaregional.com/bikeped

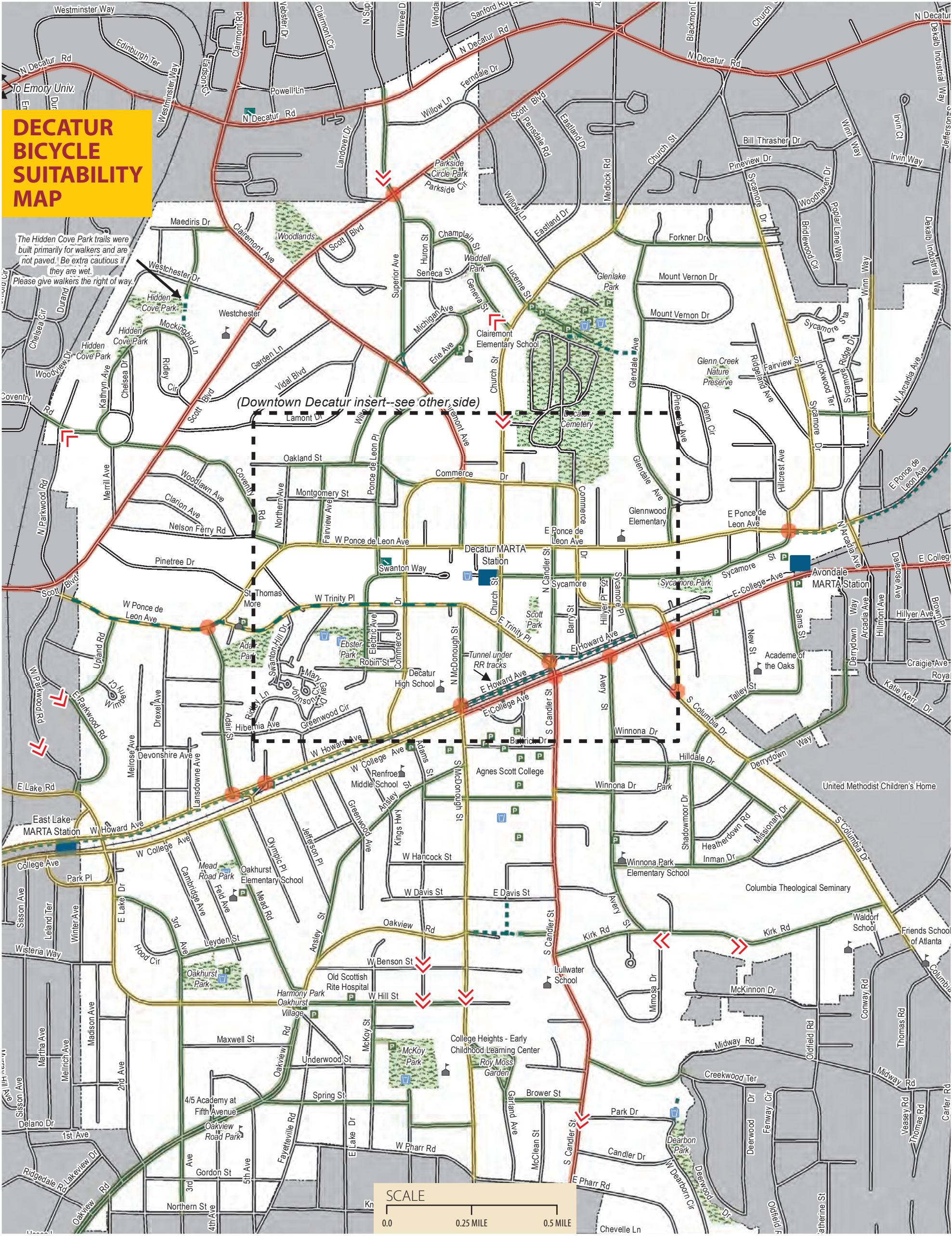
Bike Emory

www.bike.emory.edu

Georgia Bikes

www.georgiabikes.org





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- City Boundary
- Bicycle Shop
- Drinking water
- Schools
- Incline in direction of arrow
- Challenging Intersection
- Bicycle parking

A WORD OF CAUTION

Bicyclists are responsible for their own safety. Most of the roadways on this map have no special facilities for bicycle travel. Neither the City of Decatur nor BikeDecatur warrants the accuracy of information contained on this map or the condition of the roadways or any other facilities shown on this map. The City of Decatur and Bike Decatur disclaim any responsibility for any damages arising from use of this map. Bicyclists assume a risk upon these routes identical to the risks assumed on all other roadways.