



NO SPIN CLASS, NO PROBLEM

Close-to-home, safe bike loops



Looking for a way to stretch your legs during the pandemic? This may be the year to discover road biking close-to-home on safe and scenic, low-traffic roads. Experienced cyclists have designed two bike loops in Andover that minimize turns, connect scenic features, and are clearly marked on the road. Join the growing number of people who are discovering that our road network is also a great healthy recreational feature.

Andover Trails (andovertrails.org) is the most comprehensive source of information on places to go for walking, biking and paddling in the community. Its interactive trails and river map is a easy way to discover the opportunities in your neighborhood or close by.

The two marked Andover bike loops lie within the boundaries of the town. The 9-Mile "Shortcut" Loop is ideal for those learning about riding on roads. It is just long enough for a good workout. The 24-Mile "Andover Challenge" includes part of the shorter loop and incorporates more hills as it circumnavigates the town. Both are carefully designed to provide scenic and safety features.

Safe social distancing applies to cycling. It is recommended that riders space themselves 12-20' apart and avoid side-by-side riding. Take plenty of stops to appreciate the surroundings, but do so giving other riders 6' of separation. Both of the loops must cross a few busy roads, so use caution and always be aware of your surroundings.

BICYCLE ROUTES

The Andover bike loops are marked with large stenciled white "A" along the route inside the curb. The markings are located before and after each turn. In addition to the full 24 mile loop there is a shorter 9 mile loop - the "Shortcut" - marked with the same "A" stencil with a small "s" at the bottom. The "Shortcut" is designed for beginners and those seeking gentler slopes and less traffic.



TO USE THE ROUTES –Use the inks below for the route you wish to do. You can send this to your device for riding. And there are cue sheets.

9-Mile Andover Bike Loop: "The Shortcut" (Road Marking Complete 4/10/20)

This route is intended to be ridden in a clockwise direction to minimize left turns. The road is marked with an "A" pointing in the intended direction of all turns, with occasional confidence markers in between. There is an "s" at the base of the "A" only where the "Shortcut" departs from the primary route.

This route starts at the Phillips Academy Bell Tower on Salem Street near the intersection with Main Street (Rt. 28) or hop on at any convenient location.
<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/26738386>
(9.1 mi, 445' elev)

24-Mile Andover Bike Loop: "The Andover Challenge" (Road markings to be complete by 5/1)

This route is intended to be ridden in a clockwise direction to minimize left turns. The road is marked with an "A" pointing in the intended direction of all turns, with occasional confidence markers in between.

This route starts at the Andover Town Offices parking lot on Bartlet Street or hop on at any convenient location.
<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/26781687>
(23.6 mi, 1225' elev)