

## Bike Laws on the Road

### Legal Status of a Cyclist

In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Cyclists have the same rights to the roadway, and must obey the same traffic laws as the operators of other vehicles. Cyclists are allowed on sidewalks except in designated downtown areas. Cyclists riding on sidewalks are considered pedestrians and must yield to other pedestrians.

### Driving on Right Side of Roadway

Upon all roadways of sufficient width, a vehicle must be driven on the right half of the roadway. Wrong way riding is a major contributing factor in bicycle-motor vehicle crashes; motorists entering and leaving the roadway at intersections and driveways do not expect traffic to approach from the wrong direction.

### Ride in a Single Line

Cyclists must ride in a single line when on narrow roadways to prevent impeding traffic flow. Cyclists riding two abreast may not impede traffic when traveling less than the normal speed of traffic and must do so within a single line. Cyclists may not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadway set aside for the exclusive use of bicyclists.

### Obey Traffic Signals and Signs

A person in control of a vehicle on a street or highway is a driver. As a driver a cyclist must follow the traffic rules common to all drivers (signs, markings, and traffic signals) and those specially adopted for bicycles.

### Operating as a Pedestrian: Sidewalk Riding

A cyclist riding on a sidewalk or crosswalk has the rights and duties of a pedestrian. A cyclist riding on a sidewalk or crosswalk must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians and must give an audible warning before passing. At a signalized intersection, a cyclist approaching on a sidewalk must obey the instructions of any applicable pedestrian signal. Infractions of bicycle regulations and moving and non-moving violations are subject to civil penalties.

### One Person Per Bike

A bicycle may not be used to carry more persons at one time than the number for which it is designed or equipped; an adult bicyclist may carry a child in a backpack or sling, child seat or trailer designed to carry children.



### Position on Roadway

A cyclist on a roadway who is not traveling as fast as the "normal speed of traffic" must ride as close as practicable to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, except when passing other vehicles; when making a left turn, a cyclist is not required to avoid conditions including, but not limited to, a fixed or moving object, parked or moving vehicle, pedestrian, animal, or surface hazard; when a lane is too narrow for a bicycle and another vehicle to travel side by side, a cyclist should maintain at least 2 feet of clearance from a curb.



### Beware of Car Doors

A cyclist riding past parallel-parked cars should maintain a clearance of at least 3 feet (1 meter) to avoid risk of collision with an opening car door.



### Use Appropriate Lanes

A cyclist going straight through an intersection should not ride in a lane marked exclusively for right turns.

Paved shoulders - Where a curb is not present, the right-hand edge of a roadway is the line between the roadway and the shoulder. Since the definition of "roadway" excludes the shoulder, cyclists are not required to ride on paved shoulders, although they may prefer to do so. When riding on the shoulder or in a bike lane, cyclists must travel in the direction of traffic.



### Method of Turning at Intersections

A cyclist intending to make a left turn is entitled to full use of the lane from which a driver may legally make a left turn. A cyclist may also opt to get onto the sidewalk and use the crosswalks as a pedestrian to reach their left turn destination. A cyclist may also opt to travel through the intersection to reach the opposite corner, turn and wait for the light and continue along the intended direction of travel.



### Signaling a Turn or Stop

A signal of intention to turn must be given during the last 100 feet traveled by a vehicle before turning. If a cyclist needs both hands for control, the signal need not be given continuously.

A cyclist signals intent to: Turn left by extending the left arm horizontally; Turn right by extending the right hand and arm horizontally, or by extending the left hand and arm upward; Stop or suddenly reduce speed by extending the left hand and arm downward.

### Required Equipment

Every bicycle must be equipped with a brake or brakes that allow the rider to stop within 25 feet from a speed of 10 mph on dry, level, clean pavement.

### Bicycle Helmet

A bicycle rider or passenger under 16 years of age MUST wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted, fastened securely, and meets a nationally recognized standard. Bicycle helmets, properly worn, have been found effective at reducing the incidence and severity of head, brain, and upper facial injury. (Head injuries account for about one third of the hospital emergency room visits of injured cyclists.) Adults are strongly encouraged to wear a bike helmet.

### Lighting Equipment

A bicycle operated between sunset and sunrise must be equipped with a lamp on the front exhibiting a white light visible from 500 feet to the front and both a red reflector and a lamp on the rear exhibiting a red light visible from 600 feet to the rear. Additional lighting is permitted and recommended. The risk of fatal or incapacitating injury increases sharply at night.

### Headsets

A cyclist may not wear a headset, headphone or listening device, other than a hearing aid, while riding. Wearing a headset can shut out the outside world.

### Cycle Smart Tips

- Be Seen and Avoid Injury
- Always wear a bicycle helmet to reduce the risk of head/brain injury, permanent injury or death from a crash.
- To make sure your helmet fits right, put it on then use the "Eyes/Ears/Mouth Test."
- Eyes: When you look up you should see the front rim. If not, your helmet won't protect your forehead.
- Ears: The side straps should come to a "V" just below each ear.
- Mouth: When you open your mouth wide, you should feel the helmet push down on your head. If your helmet doesn't pass the test, adjust the buckles. The buckles move when you adjust the straps.

Wear bright clothing, use lights, reflectors, a bell and a mirror to see, be seen and be heard. Consider using the following equipment to make your ride safer and more comfortable:

- Helmet
- Wheel reflectors
- Fenders
- Headlights\*
- Bell or horn
- Mirror
- U-lock
- Wheel reflectors
- Fenders
- Headlights\*
- Bell or horn
- Mirror
- Brightly colored clothing
- Rear light and reflectors\*
- Rear rack
- Panniers/ bike bags
- Reflective ankle strap or pant clip
- \*Required after sunset.

### Bikes on Buses

Taking your bike on the bus is easy. Permitting is no longer required. To learn how to properly load and secure your bike visit: [www.psta.net/bikesonbuses.htm](http://www.psta.net/bikesonbuses.htm)

For more information call the PSTA Bus Line at (727) 530-9911 or log on to: [www.psta.net](http://www.psta.net)

### Bicycle User Groups

- St. Petersburg Bicycle Club [www.StPeteCycling.com](http://www.StPeteCycling.com)
- St. Pete Mad Dogs [www.stpetemaddogs.com](http://www.stpetemaddogs.com)
- Tampa Bay Freewheelers [www.TBFreewheelers.com](http://www.TBFreewheelers.com)
- Florida Freewheelers [www.floridafreewheelers.com](http://www.floridafreewheelers.com)
- Florida Bicycle Association [www.floridabicycle.org](http://www.floridabicycle.org)

## A Message from the Mayor



It is another great day for cyclists in the city of St. Petersburg! Thousands of city residents and visitors have discovered the joy of riding their bikes in our community. Our gorgeous Sunshine City climate, beautiful park system with miles of shoreline, many fun retail and entertainment destinations, along with a bicycle friendly infrastructure, allow enthusiasts the opportunity to bike for health, recreation, or transportation. We are always looking for ways to enhance and expand our bicycling opportunities and are identifying ways to make our bike trails safer. St. Petersburg has always had this vision, which was further confirmed during the city's Vision 2020 strategy sessions. During these sessions, many citizens identified their desire to have safer, more engaging bicycling and pedestrian activities.

The CityTrails™ Bicycle Map provides cyclists with designated Trail Routes along our roadways and gives riding locations to cyclists of all skill levels throughout the city. I hope all citizens and visitors will take the opportunity to enjoy our new and improved bicycle facilities.

With our designation as a Bicycle-Friendly Community, St. Petersburg will continue to strive to make its bike paths exciting, safe places for citizens and visitors.

Sincerely,

Mayor Rick Baker



City Hall  
175 Fifth Street North  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-3713  
727-893-7171



# CITYTRAILS™ HIGHLIGHTS



Pinellas Trail at Park Street North



"Bikes on Buses" at Third Street South



Skyway Trail



Boardwalk at Boyd Hill Park



Bridge to Rio Vista Trail

**Pinellas Trail**  
The 47 mile Pinellas Trail began as a "rails-to-trails" project in 1983 and connects many of Pinellas County's west coast municipalities creating one of the largest, most used recreation and commuter corridors in the United States. Users can park at one of many trail-head locations and travel to several beautiful coastal destinations. Events are regularly planned along the corridor.

Near the east end of the Cross Bayou Bridge, the Pinellas Trail enters St. Petersburg, Florida's fourth largest city. Heading southbound, the trail continues along Tyrone Boulevard where it turns south adjacent to Tyrone Square Mall. Further south the trail crosses 22nd Avenue North and Azalea Park where covered shelters and play areas abound. The Pinellas Trail continues south where it is met by the West Library Trail, a short half-mile ride to St. Petersburg College, the city's West Library, and Eagle Lake Park. Further south, the trail overpasses two major roadways and continues through residential areas to 34th Street South, also known as US19. The planned Downtown Connector CityTrail™ will extend the Pinellas Trail to the city's picturesque downtown district. (Until the trail is constructed, head downtown via the First Avenue North and South CityTrails™ which can be accessed at 37th Street.)

A good alternate source for navigating the Pinellas Trail is *The Guide to the Pinellas Trail*, a pdf chart map that can be found in .pdf format at: [www.pinellascounty.org/trail/guide/](http://www.pinellascounty.org/trail/guide/)

**Downtown Connector Trail**  
The Downtown Connector Trail is a planned route, now being designed to connect downtown St. Petersburg to the Pinellas Trail, which currently ends at US19. Pinellas Trail users will be able to continue to downtown St. Petersburg along a historic, abandoned rail line that intersects with the 31st Street and 37th Street CityTrails™ and the planned Booker Creek Trail.



Sunken Gardens



Pioneer Park



Rio Vista Trail

**Downtown Waterfront Area**  
Stroll the sidewalks of St. Petersburg's downtown shopping, dining and entertainment district that includes the city's landmark Pier, bustling BayWalk and Mulvico 20 theaters, trendy boutiques along Beach Drive, and a dazzling array of shops galleries, businesses, hotels, restaurants and bed & breakfast establishments. A continuous string of green parks winds along the seven-mile waterfront that is home to many special events and festivals each year. Treasure seekers might want to walk along Central Avenue where antique and thrift shops are mixed in with unique art galleries and retro boutiques. More than a hundred eateries catering to any type of taste can be found in downtown. After the sun goes down, the fun heats up! There are several spots that offer live music and jazz, particularly around BayWalk, Jannus Landing and Central Avenue. Don't miss the monthly *Get Down Town* block parties on Central Avenue between Second and Third Streets, on the first Friday of every month. St. Petersburg's Looper Downtown Trolley offers circulatory service connecting downtown hotels and attractions for just 25 cents a ride. The trolley operates daily with extended service on Friday and Saturday nights.

**Rio Vista Trail**  
The Rio Vista Trail, a 12 foot wide trail that extends through Rio Vista Park, is one segment of the planned North Bay Trail which eventually will lead from downtown St. Petersburg to the Friendship Bridge. The trail begins at Rio Vista Park and the Rio Vista Trail Bridge. A beautiful canal parallels the trail and provides a home for an abundance of wildlife.

**Boyd Hill Nature Preserve**  
1101 County Club Way South  
Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is located along the shores of Lake Maggiore in St. Petersburg. The 245-acre park features more than three miles of trails and boardwalks that lead visitors through many of Florida's unique ecosystems. The park is part of the Great Florida Birding Trail and its aviary is home to many permanently injured birds of prey. The Lake Maggiore Environmental Education Center provides interpretive programming and displays on a variety of environmental and natural history topics.

**Sunken Gardens**  
1825 Fourth Street North  
Historic Sunken Gardens, located on 4th Street and 20th Avenue North is a 100 year old tropical paradise with over 500 species of tropical and subtropical plants. Some of the oldest Cuban Royal Palms and Bougainvillea in the Southeast provide towering backdrops for thousands of exotic plants. Now an educational and cultural facility, this gem in the heart of St. Petersburg provides beauty, relaxation and tranquil fun for all ages.

**Clam Bayou Trail**  
The Clam Bayou Trail is being constructed as an exclusive trail similar to the Pinellas Trail. Clam Bayou is part of a national estuary project and one of the few remaining natural areas in the county. Mangroves provide prime scenery for bicyclists, pedestrians, and kayakers.

The proposed Clam Bayou Trail will connect the Pinellas Trail and the 37th Street CityTrail™ on an off-road multiuse path. The trail will connect with the 15th Avenue South CityTrail™, 18th Avenue South CityTrail™ and 22nd Avenue South, and will be approximately 2 miles in length.

**Sawgrass Lake Park**  
7400 25th Street North  
This park is 400 acres in size and allows people to walk through one of the largest maple swamps on the Gulf Coast of Florida. The park's mile-long boardwalk and half-mile dirt trail provide opportunities to see birds, butterflies, plants and animals in their natural settings within the most densely populated county in Florida. Sawgrass Lake Park is mentioned by the Great Florida Birding Trail and the National Audubon Society as one of the premier birding sites in Florida.



Skyway Bridge

**Sunshine Skyway Trail**  
The Skyway Trail begins at Pinellas Point Drive South at Maximo Park and continues south along Sunshine Lane towards the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Beautiful views of the shoreline at the tip of Pinellas County await bicyclists, walkers, and runners. The trail features a stunning view of both Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico with numerous islands dotting the landscape. The trail concludes at the North Skyway Fishing Pier for a total length of 4.1 miles.

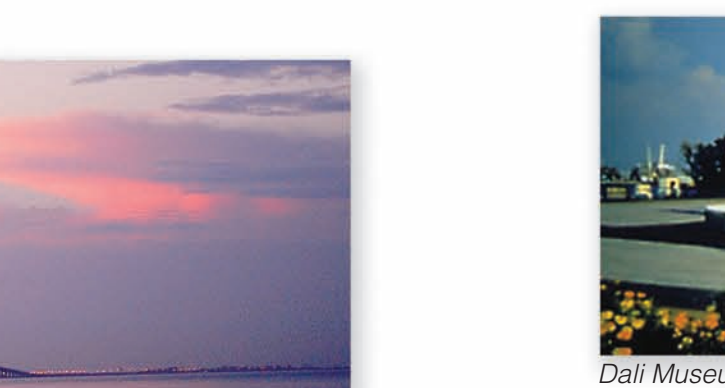
**1st Avenue North/South CityTrails™**  
The First Avenue North and South CityTrails™ are major connectors within the city's bicycle network, stretching between the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. The trail/bike lanes connect the famous Pinellas Trail with St. Petersburg's lively downtown district that features attractions such as Baywalk, The Pier, Tropicana Field, and many museums, shops, and restaurants. Multiple businesses and parks can be found along the way. You can also make connections with the 31st Street and 37th Street CityTrails™.

From the west, pick up the trail at Sunset Park located at Park Street and Central Avenue and continue east to downtown St. Petersburg. The return trip, First Avenue North CityTrail™, begins at Bayshore Drive NE and continues west to 66th Street, where cyclists are led south to the First Avenue South CityTrail™ and the Pinellas Trail. The westbound CityTrails™ path concludes at Sunset Park and will continue to Treasure Island at a future date.

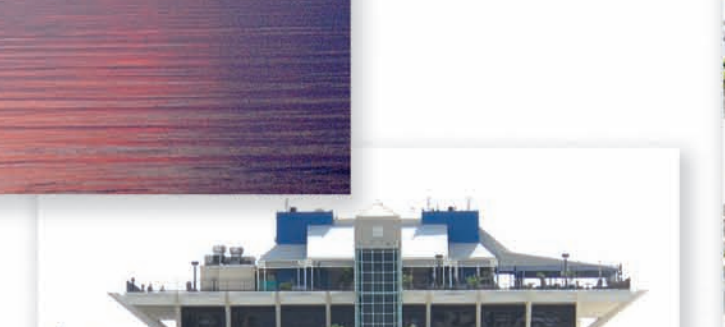
**Friendship Trail**  
Crossing over Tampa Bay, the "old" Gandy Bridge has been replaced and is now a recreation trail named the Friendship Trail/Bridge. It is the world's longest over-the-water recreation trail at 2.6 miles and links Tampa and St. Petersburg over Tampa Bay, a national estuary. Egrets, ospreys, sea gulls, anhingas (or "snake bird") and dolphins are prominent sights while enjoying this scenic corridor.

Plans are underway to connect the Friendship Trail/Bridge to the northeast Progress Energy Trail and into downtown St. Petersburg by way of the North Bay Trail to the south.

**Weedon Island Preserve**  
Stand on the observation platform off the boardwalk at Weedon Island, and you will know why this park is so popular and maintained as a preserve. The views of Tampa Bay, Riviera Bay and the rest of the preserve are simply stunning. The observation deck is the pinnacle of a 3,000 foot trail winding through a mangrove forest where you can observe abundances of water fowl, fish, and protected wetlands. All-terrain biking trails, foot paths, and observation towers and decks are located throughout this preserve located in northeast St. Petersburg not far from the Friendship Trail/Bridge.



Dail Museum



Vinoy Park



St. Petersburg Pier

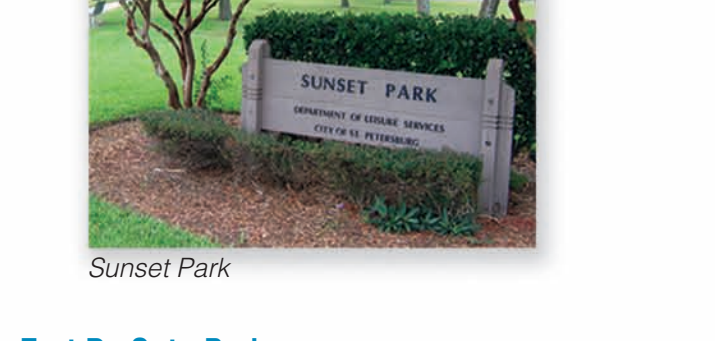
**Maximo Beach & Park**  
34th Street & Pinellas Point Drive South  
Maximo Park, located in South St. Petersburg, provides visitors with three boat ramps, a nature boardwalk, two beach-side playgrounds, miles of bike and nature trails, and plenty of shade trees on a 70-acre archaeological site. The Australian pines provide the perfect setting for a sunset picnic or a lazy day on the beach soaking up St. Petersburg's famous sunshine rays. From its 10-foot observation tower, beachgoers enjoy a breathtaking view of Florida's famous Sunshine Skyway Bridge, the Gulf of Mexico and Boca Ciega Bay. The park also includes the Tocobaga Disc Golf Course, a championship 18-hole course for Frisbee® and other disc enthusiasts that winds through 47 wooded acres.

**Fort De Soto Park**  
Fort De Soto Beach is located off of St. Petersburg's southern tip and has been ranked the number one beach in the United States. Named after the historic fort located in the 1,136-acre park, visitors can tour the five interconnected islands that comprise the park. More than a beach, Fort De Soto includes a year-round campground, miles of nature trails and paved fitness trails, 2.25 miles of canoe trails, an 800-foot boat launch with floating docks, fishing piers, picnic pavilions with grills, a concession stand and restroom and shower facilities. Fort De Soto Park offers many opportunities to cycle or hike along the 6.8 mile recreational trail and through one of the most pristine recreation areas on the west coast of Florida. From the island's southern shores, visitors enjoy a sweeping panorama of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Annual park attendance averages more than 2.7 million visitors.

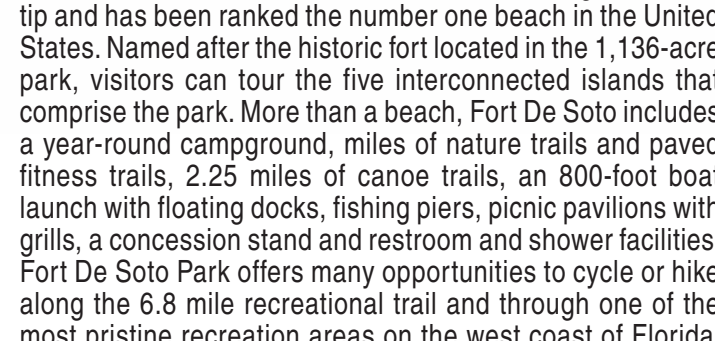
The 12-inch mortar battery, located at the fort for which the park was named, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 7, 1978. Adding to the historical interest at Fort De Soto, two British breech-loading, rapid-fire rifles of 1890 vintage were installed in March 1982. Markers showing the original building locations and a Quartermaster Storehouse Museum, which opened in November 2000, add to the park's historic interest.



St. Petersburg Pier



Sunset Park



Crescent Lake Park

## DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG AREA MAP

