

BIKE SAFETY TIPS

BE PREDICTABLE

- Obey traffic regulations and ride with traffic
- Use hand signals
- Use bike lanes where available
- Yield to pedestrians

BE ALERT

- Look for road hazards
- Be ready to brake
- Maintain a safe speed
- Look behind you before changing lanes

BE EQUIPPED

- Use lights and reflectors at night
- Wear a helmet and bright clothing
- Carry a lock
- Perform regular maintenance checks

BE INFORMED

- For more bike safety information, MSU's regulations regarding bikes and anti-theft tips, see the Safety and Education page of our website.

BIKE RENTALS, REPAIRS AND MORE

The MSU Bikes Service Center provides a full range of bike services for a nominal fee to anyone in the campus community. MSU's large campus is very expansive, so bicycling is a great way to get exercise while saving time and money as well as the environment.

LOCATION

The MSU Bikes Service Center is located in the former canoe rental shelter under the Bessey Hall auditorium just 300 feet northwest of the Farm Lane Bridge on the Lansing River Trail. See website for location info.

HOURS

The center's hours vary by semester. Call 517-432-3400 or visit the website for current hours: bikes.msu.edu.

WANT TO RENT A BIKE ON CAMPUS?

Short- and long-term bike rentals are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Short-term visitors can rent bikes by the hour, day, or week to tour campus or the Lansing River Trail that follows the Red Cedar River all the way to the state capitol and beyond.

Students, faculty, staff and other longer-term visitors and their family members can lease bikes for the summer, a semester or a year for a nominal fee. Our rental bikes are ones that were abandoned or donated and have been repaired and painted green, so they're also "green" in the environmental sense. You can also upgrade to a deluxe bike, which is a nicer, bike-shop-brand bike. General maintenance services are included with the lease fee.

Many thanks to our sponsor for helping to make this brochure possible:



MSU received a bronze award from the League of American Bicyclists in 2011.

MSU Bikes is part of the MSU Physical Plant Division's Transportation Services department. Established in 2006, MSU Bikes promotes and encourages bicycling as a safe, fun, environmentally friendly, and healthy transportation alternative for the campus community.

Questions or looking for more info?

Web: www.bikes.msu.edu
E-mail: bikes@msu.edu
Phone: 517-432-3400
Fax: 517-432-2743

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

MSU BIKES

www.bikes.msu.edu

HELPING MORE PEOPLE DISCOVER THE JOYS OF BICYCLING ON THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS



PHYSICAL PLANT DIVISION
MSU BIKES

INTERESTED IN BUYING A NEW BIKE?

"Fuji University" is an initiative to assist colleges and universities around the United States with their sustainability objectives. Thanks to this partnership, MSU Bikes is able to offer new bikes to the MSU community at reduced prices. A wide range of models are available from Fuji, Breezer, SE, Kestrel, and Terry.

HAVE A BIKE THAT NEEDS PARTS?

A full menu of bike repair services is available, as well as bike sales and accessories like tires, tubes, lights, fenders, helmets, tools and oils. Other services include access to free 24-hour air pumps, long-term bike storage, and bike assembly for those shipping bikes to MSU.

INTERESTED IN TAKING A CLASS?

A number of noncredit classes related to bike maintenance, safety and commuting are offered occasionally. Sign up for classes online or via e-mail. Most incur a small fee; some are free. Bike books and videos/DVDs can be checked out for free.

WANT TO MEET MSU CYCLISTS?

Join an e-mail list via the website and stay in touch with the MSU community of bicyclists on upcoming events and other issues of interest. See "subscribe to our eNews" on our website.

BIKE THEFT AT MSU

Theft is a serious problem in any large community, and MSU is no different. MSU strongly encourages registering all bikes online at police.msu.edu (it's free and quick). If you live off-campus, register with your local community. Also, remember to properly lock your bike. Another option is leasing one of our "green" bikes, which are less likely to be stolen. If your bike is stolen, or to get antitheft tips, see the Safety and Education page on our website.

HAVE A BIKE TO DONATE?

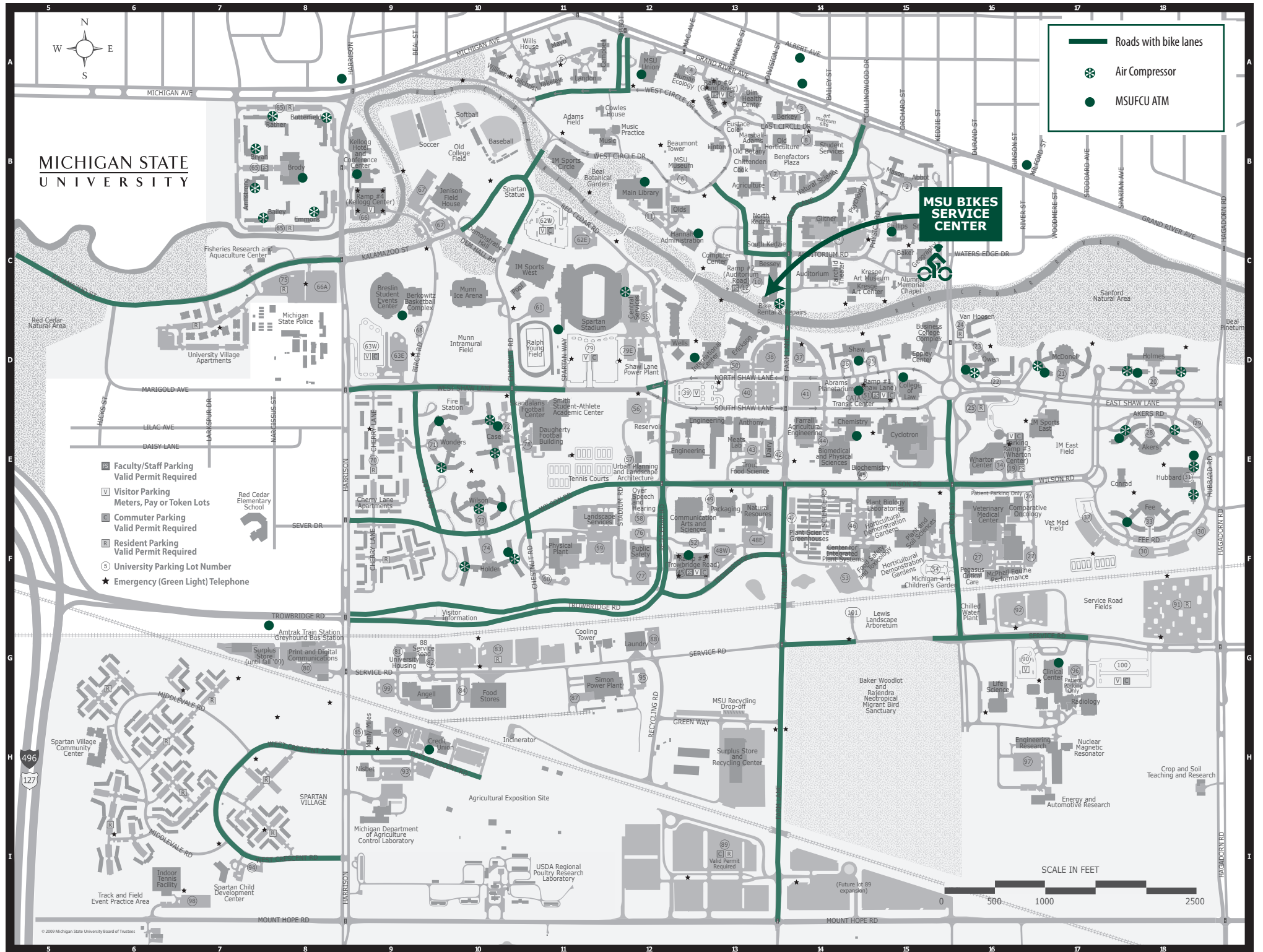
The center welcomes donations of bikes in good working condition, plus any usable bike parts or tools. If you have something to donate, visit the website.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

MSU Bikes grew out of the MSU Bike Project volunteer initiative that began in the spring of 2003 and leased about 400 "green" bikes before becoming established as an official service of MSU. Many "green" bikes are still fixed by volunteers in the original workshop in Demonstration Hall.

You can volunteer and help out, as well as learn skills and earn time to work on your own bike.

www.bikes.msu.edu



CYCLING TIPS

Same roads, same rights, same rules. Bicycling can be a hazardous activity if not done properly. While a bike helmet can prevent some serious or fatal head injuries, the most effective means of avoiding crashes and physical harm is to learn to ride with competence, knowledge and skill.

Use your head ... wear a helmet! If, despite your best efforts to "cycle effectively," you find yourself hurtling toward the pavement or other hard surface, a good bike helmet properly worn becomes a necessity. You don't have to pay a lot of money for an adequate helmet. Do make sure it is certified. Look for a current (since 1999) CPSC sticker inside the helmet. Be sure that it is the right size for your head and that the straps are adjusted to keep the helmet on your head and properly positioned, i.e. level with the ground when you're standing upright. Too many cyclists wear helmets pushed way back exposing the forehead to injury. The straps should be snug enough that you can't remove the helmet without releasing the buckle. Helmets should be replaced after they take the impact of a crash or after about five years of normal use. Keep helmets away from heat and sunlight when not in use.

Parking and locking bikes The best rule of thumb whenever you're unsure of what is a legal bike parking area is to lock your bike at a bike rack or other specific bike parking device. State law prohibits parking bikes on sidewalks where they obstruct pedestrian traffic.

- Park only in places where bike parking devices are located or where "Bicycle Parking Area" signs are posted.
- Bikes may only be locked to bike parking devices. These do not include trees, poles, railings, fences, signs, etc.

Obey traffic signs and signals Cyclists must ride like motorists if they want to be taken seriously. Doing

so is also the safest behavior. When approaching a stop sign or red light, you are required to come to a complete stop (cease forward motion) and proceed only when safe to do so.

Use hand signals Signal to other drivers; your movements affect them. Hand signals tell everyone what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy, and self-protection.

Ride in a straight line Ride to the right of faster traffic in a straight line about a car door's width away from parked cars. It's safe and legal to occupy the full traffic lane if the lane is too narrow to safely share with motor vehicles.

Don't weave between parked cars Don't ride to the curb between parked cars. Motorists may not see you when you try to move back into traffic.

Follow lane markings Don't turn left from the right lane. Don't go straight in a lane marked "right-turn-only"; stay to the left of the right-turn-only lane if you are going straight.

Watch for right-turning traffic Motorists turning right may not notice cyclists on their right. Watch for any indications that the motorist may turn into your path. When approaching intersections try to stay far enough from the curb to allow cars to turn right on your right.

Respect pedestrians' rights Pedestrians in a crosswalk have the

right of way. Don't cross sidewalks via driveways without yielding to pedestrians. Be especially aware of pedestrians with disabilities. Don't ride on sidewalks. Use the street, bike lane or bike path.

Never ride against traffic Motorists aren't looking for cyclists riding on the wrong side of the road, and many other hazards threaten the wrong-way rider.

Position yourself When riding slower than other traffic, ride as far to the right as practicable and safe. Use bike lanes when present, but exit them to make left turns, pass obstructions, and avoid hazards.

Be alert Negotiate with drivers. Make eye contact with motorists and communicate through hand signals and body language so they know what you intend to do.

Scan the road behind Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving left. A rearview mirror is a good idea, but don't rely on it alone in difficult traffic conditions.

Keep both hands ready to brake You may not stop in time if you brake one-handed. Allow extra distance for stopping in the rain, since brakes are less efficient when wet. For a sudden stop, move back on the seat and get as low as possible. If your rear wheel starts to skid or lift, ease up on the front brake.

Watch your speed Observe posted speed limits and obey the basic speed law. Never ride faster than is safe under the existing conditions.

Be equipped See and be seen State law requires bikes ridden at night to be equipped with a front light visible from 300 feet in front and to the sides of the bike, a back reflector visible from 500 feet to the rear, pedal reflectors, and wheel or side reflectors. Wearing light-colored or reflective clothing further increases visibility.

Dress appropriately Wear a helmet whenever you ride. Cycling gloves increase comfort and protect your hands in a fall. Shoes with laces or that are otherwise firmly attached to your feet are strongly recommended. Dressing in layers allows you to adjust to temperature changes on longer rides.

Lock when you leave Buy the best locking system you can afford; none is as expensive as a new bike. U-locks are best, but only when used to secure the bike frame to a legal, fixed object.

Keep your bike in shape Maintain your bike in good working condition. Check brakes regularly and keep tires properly inflated. Routine maintenance is simple. Learn to do it yourself or leave it to an expert at The MSU Bikes Service Center. We also have a 24/7 air station outside the center.

Acknowledgements: Adapted from from the Davis Bike Map (University of California at Davis and city of Davis, California) and the city of Portland, Oregon, bicycle map. Used with permission.