Creating a Safer Community

As interest in good health and physical fitness grows, more people of all ages are walking and bicycling in Winston-Salem. In addition, our community’s Safe Routes to School Program is working to make it safer for more children to bike and walk to school and teaching children safe walking and biking skills.

WALKING & CYCLING SAFELY IN WINSTON-SALEM

for everyone

1. Residents and property owners in Winston-Salem are responsible for keeping sidewalks across their property clean and clear of debris and snow.
2. Place your trash bin or yard cart where it will not block the sidewalk or bike lane. If you must place your trash bin or yard cart on the sidewalk, please remove it as soon as possible after it’s emptied.
4. Select plantings that will not grow onto the sidewalk or will not attract bees that could sting passersby.
5. Obey Winston-Salem’s leash law and keep your pets restrained for their own safety as well as that of people passing your property on foot or on bicycle.
6. Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians when entering or exiting your driveway and yield to them.
7. If you park your vehicle on the street, look for bicyclists before opening your car door.
8. Always park your vehicle so it does not block any part of the sidewalk.

We all can do our part to keep ourselves and other people safe!
Sharing the Road in Winston-Salem

for bicyclists

1. Bicycles are vehicles and must obey the same traffic laws as motorists.
2. Bicyclists should ride predictably with the flow of traffic, signaling turns and lane changes.
3. Bike helmets are required by North Carolina law for bicyclists under age 16, even on sidewalks and public trails.
4. The City of Winston-Salem is adding bike lanes and shared lane markings to make bicyclists more visible.
5. Be visible by wearing bright, reflective clothing and using strong lights at night.
6. When your bike is parked outside, always secure it with a strong lock.
7. Be courteous to other roadway users and always yield to pedestrians.

for motorists

1. Watch for bicyclists and pedestrians at all times. Bicycles are vehicles, so bicyclists are permitted to take the entire lane where necessary for safety.
2. Look out for children and slow down, especially in school zones and neighborhoods, as children can unexpectedly dart into the street.
3. Look behind you for bicyclists before opening your car door.
4. Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, at intersections, and when entering or exiting a driveway or alley.
5. Check your right-hand mirror for bicyclists before turning right, especially where you can turn right on red.
6. Pass bicyclists with care. Treat bicyclists as you would a slow-moving car—don’t tailgate, and do wait until you can safely pass the bicyclist. Reduce speed when passing bicyclists and allow at least 5 feet of passing space. Check over your shoulder after passing a bicyclist before moving right.
7. Bicyclists know you’re there so, please, no horns.
8. Above all, don’t drive distracted or after consuming alcohol or other drugs.

for pedestrians

1. Where sidewalks are available, use them, as required by North Carolina law.
2. If there is no sidewalk, walk or run facing traffic so you can see approaching motorists.
3. For children walking to school, use the route and crosswalks recommended by your school. If there is a crossing guard, always obey the guard and cross at that location.
4. Be visible with colorful or reflective clothing and use a flashlight at night.
5. Obey pedestrian Walk/Don’t Walk signals where they are available. At some intersections you may need to push a button to activate the pedestrian signal.
6. If there is no pedestrian signal, cross when the traffic signal is green in the direction you are traveling, but be sure to watch for turning vehicles.
7. Always look both ways before crossing a street and keep looking as you cross.
8. People in motorized and manual wheelchairs are pedestrians.