

In this season of construction, often the quickest – definitely the fittest – way to make tracks is on two wheels. Explore the city's best bike routes, and help develop new ones



CROTHERS WOODS



MARTIN GOODMAN TRAIL



RAVINE TRAIL



WATERFRONT TRAIL

FUN FACT
Toronto has 570 km of trails, and a park system that covers roughly 13% of the city's land area.

Help plan Toronto's next bike routes

Have you ever wished for a bike route in your area? Now's your chance to make it happen. This spring, the City of Toronto launched the Toronto Cycling App. The app is free for smartphones and lets users to become part of the bike route planning process.

Just download the app and turn it on every time you make a trip. When you're done, turn the app off. Your route will be sent to city planning so it can track areas that get the most use by cyclists and help them determine where the next trails should be built.

"Cyclists have tripled in the last decade," says Daniel Egan, manager of cycling infrastructure and programs for the City of Toronto. The city plans to improve and expand cycling infrastructure to keep up. "The data we collect from this app will assist in monitoring cycling patterns over time," says Egan. The new bike paths will be a combination of on- and off-road trails.

Information will be collected through fall 2014 and will be presented early next year.

The app is more than just a city-planning tool though. You can download cycling maps and, once phase two is implemented in a few months, cyclists will be able to communicate with each other to report potholes and other hazards. "We want this to be a go to app for cyclists to make it easier to get around the city," says Egan.

– Nancy Ription

MARTIN GOODMAN WATERFRONT TRAIL

The GTA waterfront cycling trail stretches 56 kilometres from Marie Curtis Park in the west to Rouge Park in the east. It is paved, with large portion off-road paths, and is part of a larger waterfront trail that extends 1,400 kilometres to Lake Erie. "Push yourself and if you get tired you can take the GO train back," says Louisa Mursell, projects director of OntarioByBike.ca

DON VALLEY TRAIL

Bike along the east side of the city from the mouth of the Don River to Lawrence Street on the 32-kilometre paved trail. Stop off at Evergreen Brickworks en route or, for a real treat, ride the trail when the DVP is closed for maintenance. "You'll feel like you're stepping back in time," says Mursell.

HUMBER RIVER TRAIL

The paved trail runs 26 kilometres along the Humber River from the Waterfront Trail to Steeles Ave. Access parks (including High Park) or stop for lunch on Bloor St.

TORONTO ISLAND

"Toronto Island paths are ideal for summer afternoons when you want to be in a special place," says Daniel Egan, manager of cycling infrastructure and programs for the City of Toronto. Paths are mostly paved with some gravel sections and a boardwalk along the south side of the island. Bikes can be brought on the ferry (unless there's an event) or rented on the island.

FINCH HYDRO CORRIDOR RECREATIONAL TRAIL

This scenic path runs from east of highway 400 to Yonge Street just north of Finch. "We're in the process of extending the trail to the Toronto Zoo," says Egan. Parts of the new trail in Scarborough have already been completed.

EGLINTON WEST TRAIL

The trail runs alongside Eglinton Ave. and you can join in from Humber Trail and West Dean Trail. The trail is patchy past the 427, but will extend through Mississauga by next year.

GATINEAU TRAIL

This recently opened trail runs primarily along the hydro corridor and travels from Victoria Park diagonally north towards the Toronto Zoo.

CROTHERS WOODS

For bikers who would rather take things off road, Crothers Wood in the Don Valley has 10 kilometers of single and double track trails designated for mountain biking.

MISSISSAUGA ROAD

The scenic bike lane down Mississauga Road is a feeder for trails such as the waterfront, David J. Culham Trail along the credit river, and the Glen Erin Trail. You can also access U of T's Mississauga campus.

TOMMY THOMPSON PARK/ LESLIE STREET SPIT

Get in touch with nature biking down this man-made peninsula, which extends five kilometers into Lake Ontario. The spit grows each year and is a refuge for birds and other small animals. No cars allowed