



Bikeways

Santa Clara Valley
March 2024

VTA Contact Information

VTA Downtown Customer Service Center
2 North Market Street, San José, CA 95113
Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays

Customer Service Call Center
(408) 321-2300
Automated information available 24 hours in English/Spanish
(800) 894-9908 outside Santa Clara County
(408) 321-2330 TTY
customer.service@vta.org

Lost and Found
If you forget your bike on the bus or train, you can claim it at 3331 North First Street, San José, CA 95134 in the Protective Service's Department located in Building C between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call (408) 321-7171 to check for your bicycle before arriving.

Get Involved

VTA and County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee . . . vta.org/about/board-and-committees
Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition bikesiliconvalley.org
California Bicycle Coalition calbike.org
California Walks calwalks.org

Many cities have a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) comprised of residents who provide input on bicycle and pedestrian issues. Contact your city government for more information.

Report a Hazard

The Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition lists contact information for reporting hazards in your area. Visit bikesiliconvalley.org/resources/report-a-hazard.

The VTA Bikeways Map illustrates the bike lanes, multi-use paths, and bicycle/pedestrian bridges throughout Santa Clara County. The map also rates the level of difficulty for selected streets. The ratings were developed jointly by VTA, local jurisdictions, and bicyclists. This map is also available at: vta.org/go/maps



Bikes on Transit

General Rules:

- All bicyclists must pay the appropriate fare. There is no additional charge for bringing a bicycle on board.
- Allow other passengers to enter or exit before loading or unloading your bicycle.
- Bicyclists are responsible for loading and unloading their bicycles.
- Do not block doors, aisles, or stairwells with your bicycle while on board.
- Avoid getting chain grease on transit vehicles and other passengers.
- Muddy bicycles are not permitted on board at any time.
- Bicyclists must attend to bicycles not secured in racks while on board transit vehicles.
- Only human powered and sealed dry cell or gel cell electric-assisted bicycles are allowed on board.
- In emergency situations, please leave your bicycle on board.
- Always walk your bicycle on station platforms and at transit centers.
- Do not lock your bicycle to poles, light fixtures, railings, etc. at transit centers or on rail platforms.

Bikes on VTA Buses

All VTA buses have exterior racks that accommodate up to three bikes. Sixty-foot articulated buses also have bike parking inside the bus, accessible through the rear door. Let the operator know before loading or unloading your bike.

Bikes on VTA Light Rail

Each VTA light rail vehicle has interior racks with space for up to eight bicycles. Please enter through the doors marked by a bicycle symbol.

Bikes are allowed on Caltrain and BART

See caltrain.com and bart.gov for details.

Bike Share

On-demand bike rental is available in some cities through BayWheels. For a map of locations, pricing, and more information: lyft.com/bikes/.

E-Scooters

On-demand e-scooter rental is available in several cities. Check city websites for availability, pricing, and locations.

Electric Bicycle (E-Bike) Safety Tips

General Rules:

- Start slow and practice before traveling at the highest speeds.
- Brake sooner than you would with a regular bike and look farther in the distance for hazards.
- Wear a helmet. It's the law if you are 17 or under or if your bike has a maximum motor-assisted speed greater than 20 mph.
- Know where you can go. Check local rules to find out if you can ride your e-bike on trails or sidewalks.
- When on trails, ride the speed limit, and slow down and call out when passing others.

Secure Bike Lockers

Secure bike parking is provided at various locations throughout Santa Clara County. See the map on the reverse side for locations.

Day-Use Lockers

VTA provides first-come first-serve electronic bike lockers at VTA transit centers and most light rail and Caltrain stations. A nominal fee, deducted from a "smart card" is charged for each use. To view locker locations or to sign up for a BikeLink smart card: bikeink.org (888) 540-0546.

Caltrain Stations

Most Caltrain stations in Santa Clara County offer secure bike parking. For inquiries: Bike lockers at stations Tamien northward: contact Caltrain at caltrain.com or (650) 508-6350.

Bike lockers at stations south of Tamien: contact VTA Customer Service.

Bicycle storage shed in Mountain View: City of Mountain View public. works@mountainview.gov or (650) 903-6311.

BART Stations

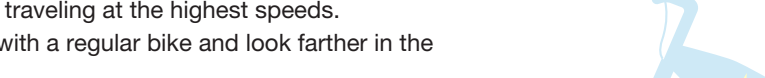
Secure bike parking is available to BikeLink card holders at the Milpitas and Berryessa/North San José BART stations. The Milpitas BART station has an indoor self-service bike station with 185 spaces as well as 24 on-demand e-locker spaces. The Berryessa/North San José BART station has an indoor self-service bike station with 181 spaces as well as 10 on-demand e-locker spaces. For more information, please visit BikeLink.org.

Preventing Bicycle Theft

Locking your bike to a bicycle rack can prevent most bicycle thefts. If you are leaving your bike at a station, make sure it is locked well. Whether you're taking your bike on board or parking it at a station, make sure you record your bike's serial number along with a description of the bike. This will greatly increase your chance of recovery if it is stolen. Lock frame and both wheels with U-lock and cable.



For How-To Videos



DOs

- Bicyclists and e-scooters are required to obey traffic signs and signals**
Come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.
- Ride in the middle of the lane in slow traffic**
Don't ride the line. Get in the middle of the lane at busy intersections and whenever you are moving at the same speed as traffic.
- Keep clear of the door zone**
Ride a door's width away from parked cars. You have the right to ride in the middle of a traffic lane if it is too narrow to share with a car.
- Avoid road hazards**
Watch out for parallel-slat drainage grates, slippery manhole covers, oily pavement, detour signage, sand, gravel, and debris. Cross railroad tracks carefully at a 90 degree angle.
- You may leave a bike lane**
When a road hazard obstructs a bike lane, or you anticipate a motorist might turn across your path, you may temporarily merge with caution into the adjacent traffic lane for safety.

- Use hand signals**
Hand signals tell motorists what you intend to do. Signal as a matter of law, courtesy, and self-protection.
- Ride with both hands, ready to brake**
You may need to stop suddenly at unexpected times. In rain, allow three times the normal braking distance.
- Ride to see and be seen**
Use a strong headlight and rear reflector or taillight at night or when visibility is poor. Wear reflective or fluorescent clothing. Be sure your bike has pedal and side reflectors.
- Scan the road around you**
Keep your eyes roving constantly for cars, people, sand and gravel, grates, etc. Learn to look back over your shoulder without losing your balance or swerving.
- Yield to pedestrians**
Pedestrians on sidewalks, on transit boarding islands, and in crosswalks have the right-of-way. When entering or exiting driveways, bicyclists must yield to pedestrians on the sidewalk.

- Follow lane markings**
Do not turn left from the right lane. Do not go straight in a lane marked right-turn only.
- Watch for cars pulling out**
Make eye contact with drivers. Assume they don't see you until you are sure they do. When the sun is in their eyes, drivers may not see you.
- Ride the speed limit on trails**
Most trails have speed limits of 15 mph or less. Respect the safety and comfort of other trail users by riding at or below the speed limit, and slowing when passing.
- Proceed with the walk signal**
In California, bicyclists may cross an intersection when the pedestrian walk signal is on.
- Take the lane when sharrow is present**
On roadways with sharrow markings, bicyclists are expected to ride where the sharrow is placed, if comfortable.

- Call out when passing others**
Slow down, call out, or ring a bell before passing other trail users, and always give at least three feet passing distance.
- Wear a helmet**
Wearing a bike helmet improperly is the same as not wearing a helmet at all. **Fitting a Helmet:**
 - Place it on your head without fastening the straps.
 - There should be a two-fingers width between your eyebrows and helmet.
 - There should be little movement when you shake your head from side to side.
 - Start out with the smallest helmet size – you may have to try on different sizes and brands of helmets until you find one that fits.**Adjusting Your Helmet:**
 - The side straps should come to a point just below your ears forming a "Y" shape.
 - When your mouth is closed, there should be about half an inch between the chin strap and your chin.
- Choose the best way to turn left**
There are three ways to make a left turn.
 - Like a vehicle:** Signal, look back for oncoming traffic, then move into the left turn lane. Turn left when it is clear.
 - Like a bicycle:** Ride to the far side of the intersection, stop, turn, and then ride across the street when the light turns green.
 - Like a pedestrian:** Walk your bike across the intersection.

DON'Ts

- Never ride against traffic**
Motorists are not looking for people riding against traffic on the wrong side of the road.
- Don't weave between parked cars**
Motorists may not see you when you try to move into traffic.
- Don't ride on the sidewalk**
The sidewalk is for pedestrians. Riding on the sidewalk is against the law in some cities. If you must ride on the sidewalk, ride slowly, yield to pedestrians, and watch for cars at driveways and intersections.
- In front, or far behind, not beside!**
To ensure drivers of large vehicles (buses, trucks, and motor homes) can see you, stay out of their blind spots. Never pass on the right side. Ride far enough behind for the driver to see you, and at least four feet from the sides to avoid falling under a large vehicle.
- Don't pass on the right**
Motorists may not look for nor see a person passing on the right.
- Earbuds only in one ear**
It is against the law to wear earphones or earbuds in both ears while riding. You must always keep one ear free to listen to traffic.
- Don't bike under the influence**
It is against the law to ride a bicycle or e-scooter under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Weekend Adventures

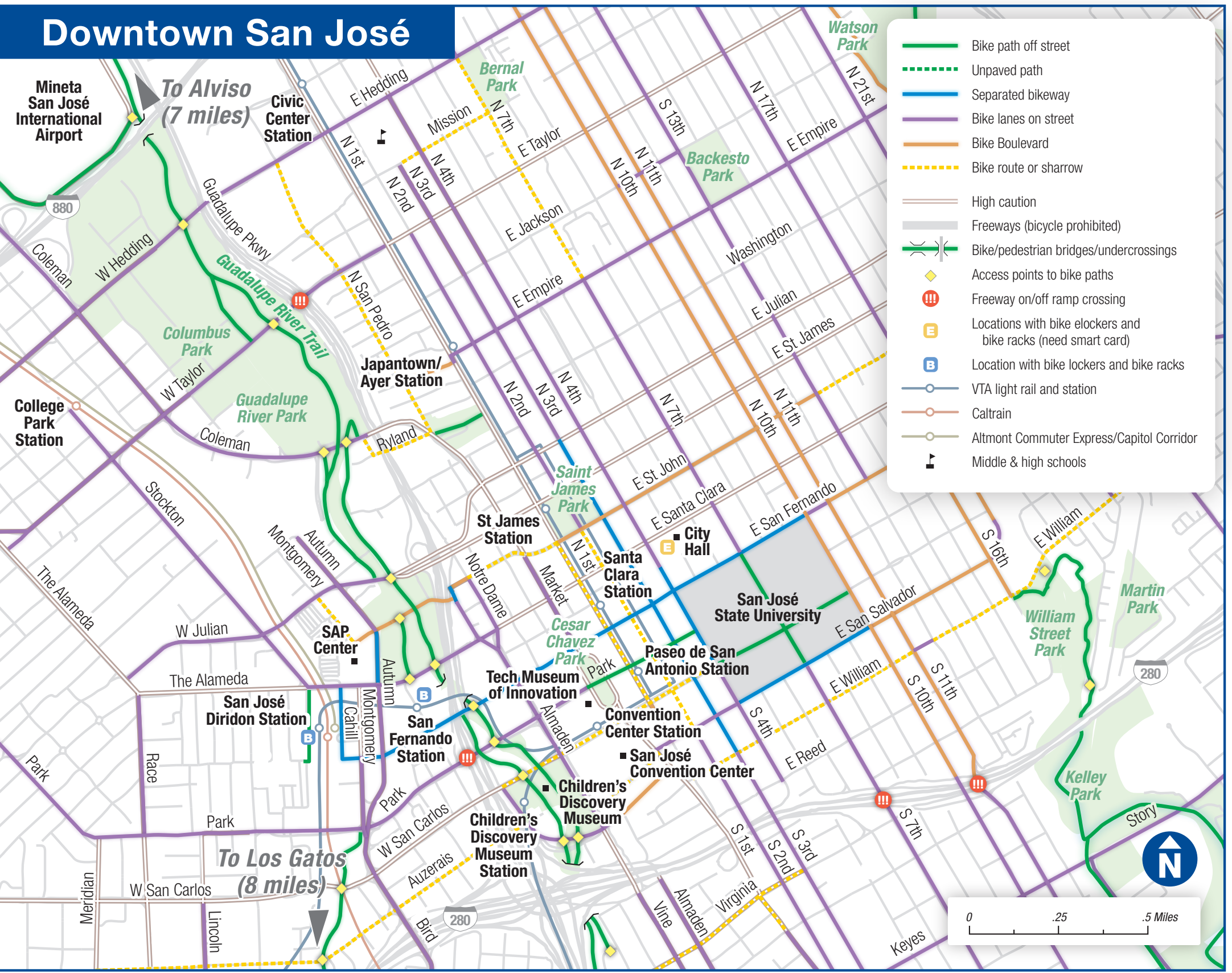
For more recommendations, visit bikesiliconvalley.org/resources

Family Day via Guadalupe River Trail
Explore the Guadalupe River levees on a bicycle adventure with the kids! Spot planes circling the San José Mineta International Airport, play at the Rotary PlayGarden, and enjoy some leisurely birdwatching.

Date Night Ride in Downtown Sunnyvale via Evelyn Avenue
Skip the parking hassles and pedal alongside your date! Go to the movies, play indoor mini golf, and enjoy some drinks along Historic Murphy Avenue.

Visit the Campbell Farmer's Market via Los Gatos Creek Trail
Embark on a vibrant adventure with your bike basket, ready for a Sunday morning ride! Grab some coffee, pick fresh produce, and get your shopping done.

Connect with Nature via Coyote Creek Trail
Relax in the beauty that surrounds us. Indulge in the fragrance of wildflowers, enjoy the views, and breathe in the essence of the landscape of the South County along the Coyote Creek Trail.



Santa Clara Valley Bikeways Map

- Bike path off street
- - - Unpaved path
- Separated bikeway
- Bike lanes on street
- Bike Boulevard
- - - Bike route or sharrow
- BART
- VTA light rail and station
- Caltrain
- Altamont Commuter Express/Capitol Corridor
- + Hospitals/medical clinics
- + Middle & high schools

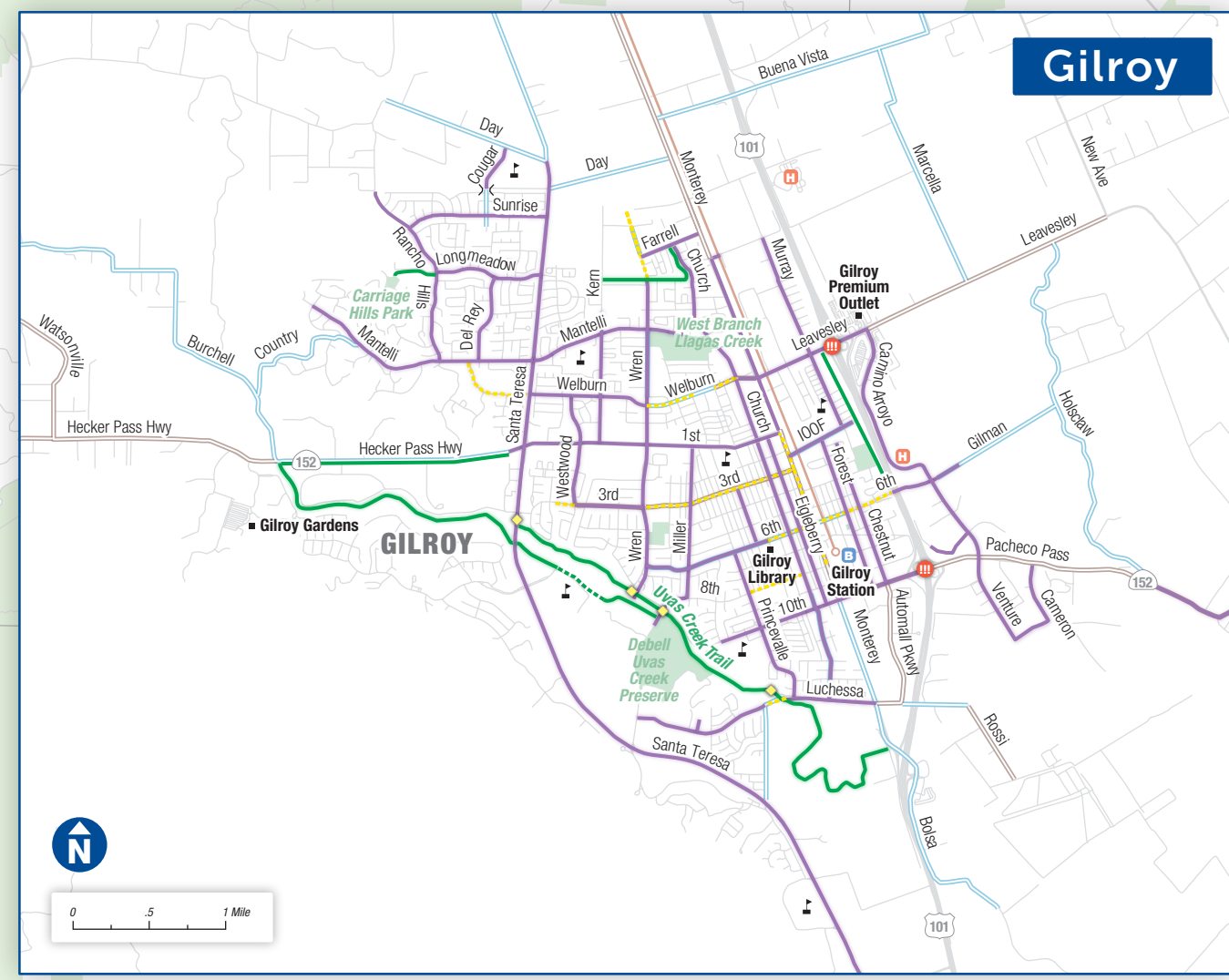
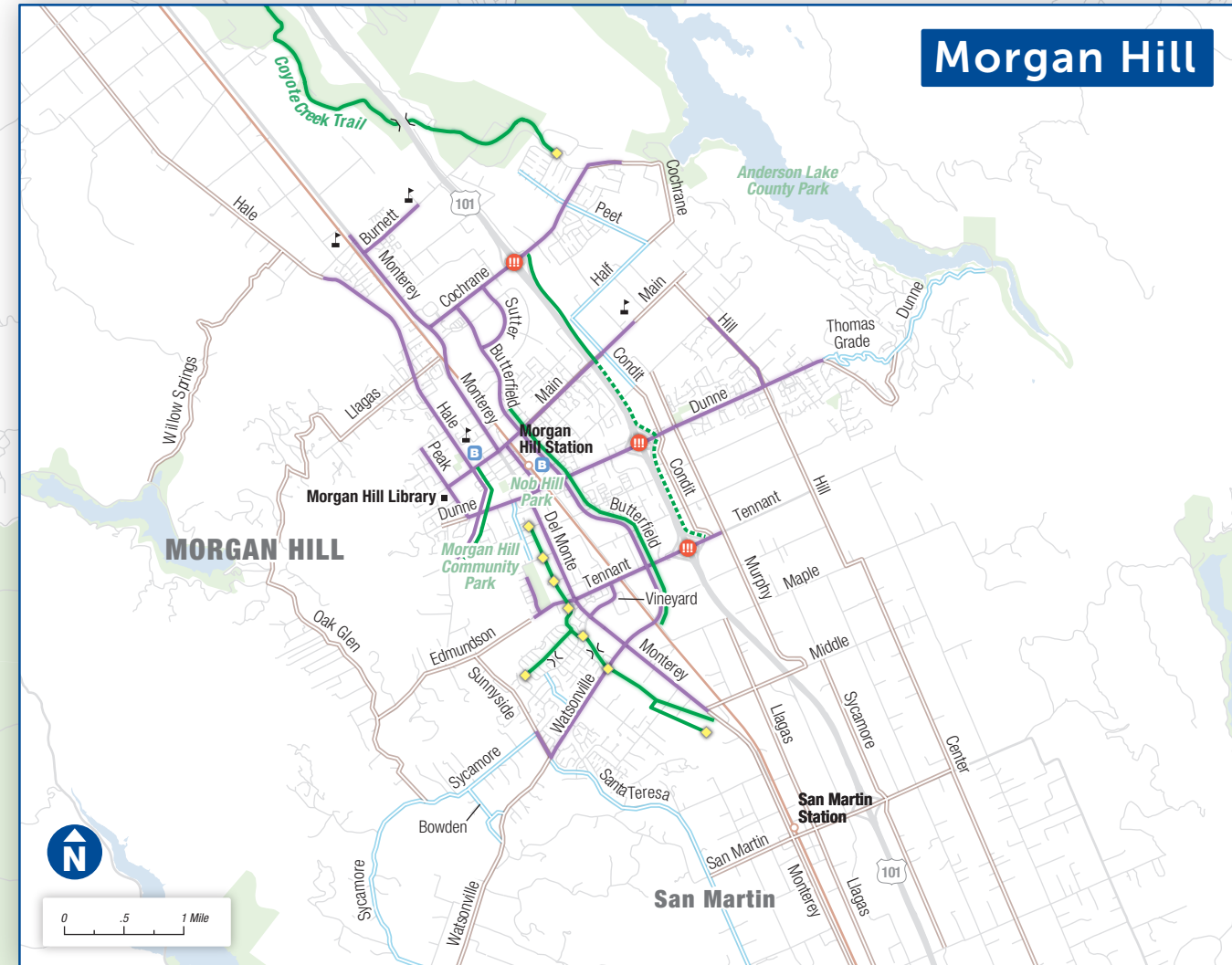
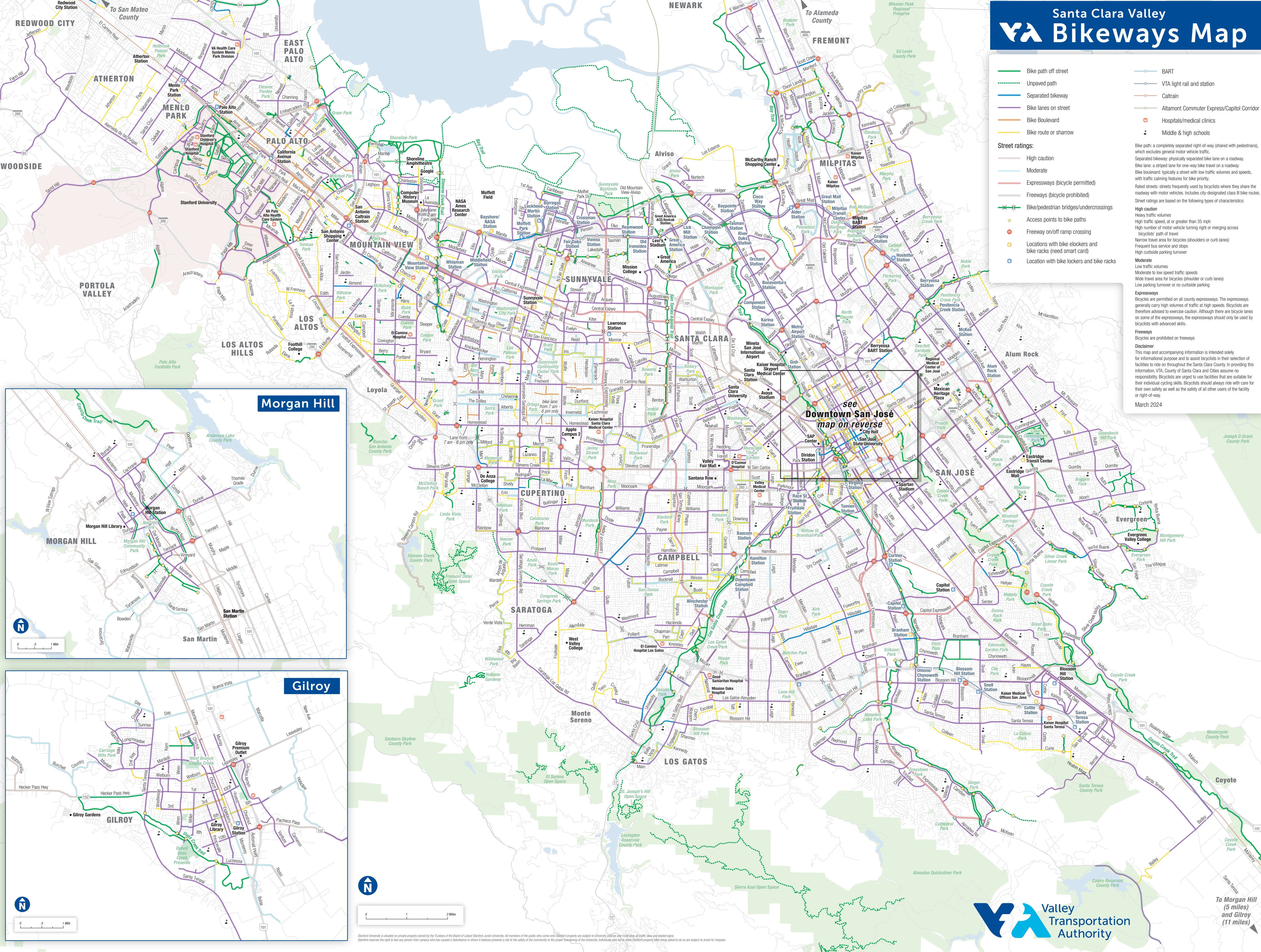
Street ratings:

- High caution
- Moderate
- Expressways (bicycle permitted)
- Freeways (bicycle prohibited)

- Bike/pedestrian bridges/undercrossings
 - + Access points to bike paths
 - + Freeway on/off ramp crossing
 - + Locations with bike lockers and bike racks (need smart card)
 - + Location with bike lockers and bike racks
- High caution**
Heavy traffic volumes
High traffic speed, at or greater than 35 mph
High number of motor vehicle turning right or merging across bicyclists' path of travel
Narrow travel area for bicycles (shoulders or curb lanes)
Frequent bus service and stops
High curbside parking turnover
- Moderate**
Low traffic volumes
Moderate to low speed traffic speeds
Wide travel area for bicycles (shoulder or curb lanes)
Low parking turnover or no curbside parking
- Expressways**
Bicycles are permitted on all county expressways. The expressways generally carry high volumes of traffic at high speeds. Bicyclists are therefore advised to exercise caution. Although there are bicycle lanes on some of the expressways, the expressways should only be used by bicyclists with advanced skills.
- Freeways**
Bicycles are prohibited on freeways.

Disclaimer
This map and accompanying information is intended solely for informational purpose and to assist bicyclists in their selection of facilities to ride on throughout the Santa Clara County. In providing this information, VTA, County of Santa Clara and Cities assume no responsibility. Bicyclists are urged to use facilities that are suitable for their individual cycling skills. Bicyclists should always ride with care for their own safety as well as the safety of all other users of the facility or right-of-way.

March 2024



see
Downtown San Jose
map on reverse
City Hall

To Morgan Hill
(5 miles)
and Gilroy
(11 miles)



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