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## Ride the loop: New Davis bike route guides residents on a 12-mile tour of city

By Julie Rooney/Enterprise staff writer

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Fall is here and the weather couldn't be better for bicycling. This weekend, take the family on a 12-mile tour of the city using the new Davis Bike Loop as your guide. The loop, marked with a green "Davis Bike Loop" logo, takes bicyclists on a scenic route along paths and quiet residential streets through the neighborhoods of Davis.

Not for hard-core cyclists, this is a slow and scenic route designed for casual riders, families and children. You're just as likely to see inline skaters and strollers as you are bicyclists.

Davis resident Mike Ransom and his son Sylvan recently pedaled the loop.

"The route is long enough that there is a real sense of adventure," Ransom says. "Spotting the next marker became one of the fun aspects of it."

While it took the Ransoms about two hours to ride the route, they went at a leisurely pace, stopping along the way to check out wildlife and snap photos. They found the Putah Creek area of South Davis and the UCD Arboretum among the most scenic areas of the ride.

The loop is easy to navigate. It runs through Arroyo Park and Village Homes in the west; Villanova and Community Park in the north; along Drexel Drive, Loyola Avenue and Mace Ranch in the east; and by South Davis' Putah Creek on through UC Davis.

Even children can use it to get to soccer practice, music lessons, and other activities that typically involve car pools. Parents are urged to ride the route with their children first, to ensure they don't miss a marker along the way.

While the stenciling was completed just last month, plans for a Davis Bike Loop date back to the 1980s when landscape architects Mark Francis, Steve Greco and Kerry Dawson developed the Davis Greenway Plan, an integrated system linking all open spaces in Davis into one seamless system of parks, streets, trails and natural areas.

The Greenway Plan was adopted by the city in 1990 and remains through several General Plan revisions as the central open space framework to guide the

future growth of the city. As of this year, Francis estimates that about 60 percent of the system has been constructed.

The route was marked in September, thanks to a joint effort by local group Davis Bicycles! and the city's Public Works Department.

"I see it as a multi-use system than can be as easily enjoyed walking, running, Roller Blading, by mother's pushing strollers, as it can be on a bike," Francis says.

The loop is just shy of the north part of town, but Public Works plans to build an undercrossing from Wildhorse to Mace Ranch this winter. And while Francis says the Northstar area has a beautiful greenbelt system, it isn't part of the loop. The overcrossing at Community Park is a simple connector to the north area of town.

To learn more about the Davis Bike Loop, visit [www.davisbicycles.org](http://www.davisbicycles.org).

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