The Canal Bike Trails

A bonus for bicyclists throughout Wichita and particularly in east Wichita is the construction of hike and bike trails along the I-135 Canal Route. Two separate paths will be built — one for hikers, one for bikers — between 17th Street and Pawnee. One of the main attractions will be the hundreds of varieties of trees, shrubs, and ground cover that will surround the trails. With appropriate landscaping, lighting, and open space, the hike and bike trails will not only improve the visual aspects of the corridor but improve its usefulness as well. As was originally intended, the project will serve as an example of how an inter-state highway can be used as a multi-purpose facility. (Work on the project is expected to begin in mid 1978.)

Wichita also maintains an 80 mile system of signed, on-street bike routes. A city map detailing this system and all the exclusive bike paths is available at local bike shops, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Planning Department, 12th floor, 455 N. Main, Wichita, Kansas, phone 268-4391. (This map also lists the new licensing requirements, information about the Oz Bike Club, and safety tips.) The map is free of charge. Get yours now!
Wichita's Exclusive Downtown Bikeway

Bicycling is not only fun, it's practical, too. Wichita's first demonstration commuter bikeway is scheduled for completion in May of 1978. Wichita was among 41 cities across the nation to receive a federal grant to build such a facility. This new bikeway connects with the existing River Trails and goes into the heart of the central business district. There you will find business offices, retail stores, government offices, the library, local attractions, and even parks! You won't have to worry about the cars and pedestrians because you'll be on a separate path. Parking won't be a problem either because you will find over 75 bicycle storage units strategically located along the way.

Because this is a demonstration project, considerable effort will be made to assess the demand for commuter bikeways. Surveys were taken before construction and will again be taken after construction for the purpose of evaluating bike ridership, path designs, safety factors, trip purposes, and rider preferences.

When teamed up with the River Trails, this bikeway makes an excellent route for traveling into the downtown area. Give it a try and see for yourself! Bicycling is a great way to go!

The Arkansas River Trails

Wichita's scenic bike trails along the Arkansas River make it easy, safe, and enjoyable to ride from the south end of Wichita to the north. Development of the trails began in the early 1970's in conjunction with the City's riverbank beautification efforts. The trails currently extend from Pawnee (on the south side of Wichita) to 13th Street (on the north). The bikeway now provides easy access to the tri-park area (Riverside, Sims, and Oak park), the central business district (using the new downtown bikeway), and Watson Park (where you can enjoy boating, fishing, pony rides, train rides, and miniature golf).

By 1979 the River Trails should extend to 21st Street, near the Twin Lakes Shopping Center. Sometime later, the trail will be extended south of Pawnee to Galena Street. So whether you want to go shopping, visit a friend, go downtown, or relax at the parks, Wichita's bikeways are the way to go!