

Bicycle Infrastructure

5 Types of Bicycle Trails



The Philadelphia area has one of the most extensive bicycle trail systems in the country, with hundreds of miles of interconnected trails and bike lanes. This system contains multiple types of trails commuters should be aware of when using them. An inexperienced bicyclist might want to avoid regular bike lanes and sharrows when getting started with their daily commute, adding them as your confidence grows.



Bicycle/Pedestrian Trails

These trails are pathways dedicated to cyclists and pedestrians. The lack of cars make these routes some of the safest to take while commuting – but watch out for pedestrians!



Buffered Bike Lanes

Buffered bicycle lanes feature a 3-5 foot buffer between the bicycle lane and traffic, improving safety and providing a passing lane for bicyclists. Watch out for parked cars in your lane!



Bike Lanes

Bicycle lanes are the most common type of bicycle infrastructure in the metro region, and generally run 4-5 feet wide. Be aware of wandering drivers and people entering and exiting their cars.



Sharrows

Sharrows, short for “shared-use-arrows,” are a special symbol indicating shared use between bicycles and motorists. Cyclists are entitled to use the whole lane.



Connector Roads

Connector roads offer good routing options on public roads that are not designated bicycle routes. Pennsylvania law requires drivers to pass with a minimum 4 foot buffer!

