



Family Bike Ride Recommendations

Take the family out on some of our great nearby biking paths. To make your planning easier, REI employees have selected some of their favorites below.

Be sure to bring these necessities along on your ride:

- Helmet
- Drinking water
- Lunch or snacks
- Map and route directions
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- First-aid kit
- Tire mini-pump or CO2
- Spare tube or patch kit
- Tire levers



For a complete cycling checklist, visit [Expert Advice](#) on REI.com.

Here Are Four of Our Favorite Kid-Friendly Local Bike Rides

Howard Amon Park

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **3–5 miles. No elevation gain.**

Why This Ride: This popular park in the heart of Richland has plenty to keep the whole family entertained for a full day of adventure.

Ride Description: Truly the heart of the Tri-Cities community, this lovely, kid-friendly park sits along the mighty Columbia River. Its gigantic trees provide blissful shade on hot summer days and offer a perfect canopy for the many festivals—Renaissance Festival, PaddleFest and many more—held there most weekends. There are also, of course, easy paved paths that follow the Columbia, perfect for exploring the park from end to end.

Driving Directions: From Kennewick take I-82 to George Washington Way exit. Follow George Washington Way until you reach Lee Blvd. Take a right on Lee Blvd. and follow this to the main entrance to the park. Parking is free.

Tips: There are numerous areas to swim in the Columbia in the park, so bring along a swimsuit for a post-ride cool off. Restrooms are available all along the route as well as at the trailhead.

Columbia Park Trail Loop

Terrain: **Paved path**

Distance: **Up to 24 miles of pathways. No elevation gain.**

Why This Ride: This is the epitome of kid/family friendly—a 400-acre park with trails, a Family Fishing Pond, the “Playground of Dreams” and even an Audubon Natural Area.

Ride Description: This immensely popular, iconic Tri-Cities park and trail system has many trailside activities that are suitable for all ages and skill levels. Shady spots along the route and picnic tables provide plenty of opportunities to stop for a drink or fuel up. There are access and turnaround points all along the way, so you can explore different sections on different days. And there is always something going on in the park: dog shows, festivals and much more. Be sure to save a little time to visit the Playground of Dreams and run through the water fountain to cool down after your ride.

Driving Directions: From Hwy. 395 take the Hwy. 240 exit to Richland. Take the first right into Columbia Park and park by the Playground of Dreams. Parking is free.

Tips: Eight acres in Columbia Park have been designated as an Audubon Natural Area. Stroll along the Dr. Rod Coler Audubon Nature Trail for a walk on the “wild side” in this otherwise urban setting. There are bathrooms in the park and along the park paths.

Chamna Natural Preserve

Terrain: **Groomed dirt path**

Distance: **Multiple loops of various lengths, 11 miles total. No elevation gain.**

Why This Ride: It's an easy, nature-filled ride along the Yakima River.

Ride Description: The river, trees, meadows and desert elements you'll encounter in this preserve display the natural diversity of Eastern Washington. Watch for bat houses, a couple of resident otters and plenty of paddlers enjoying the Yakima River. It's possible to visit Chamna several times and never travel the same route twice because the trails are laid out in sections that loop back to one another—you can explore different combinations each time you ride. This well-groomed dirt path has plenty of shade with little picnic nooks along every loop. It is a multi-use trail, though, so practice good trail manners for the hikers and horseback riders you meet.

Driving Directions: From Highway 395, take Highway 240 west toward Richland. Take the George Washington Way exit and a left on Columbia Point Drive at the first light. Take the first left onto Aaron Drive. Stay on Aaron to Jadwin Avenue, where you'll turn left. Go over the overpass, and take the first right at the Chamna Natural Preserve sign. Follow this road to the parking lot. There is free parking at the trailhead.

Tips: Find one of the secluded benches and stop for a quick bite or water break. Be sure to bring enough water for your outing; no drinking water is available there. A pit toilet is located at the trailhead.

Badger Mountain Park Trail

Terrain: **Both paved and dirt trail**

Distance: **3–5 miles one way out and one way back. Minimal elevation gain.**

Why This Ride: This trail is a little out of the way, but it offers a unique perspective on our desert valley environment.

Ride Description: Loved by those who use it, Badger Mountain Park Trail is a well-marked path for easy, level riding. There is a slight incline but that only takes you to the top of a small hill where you can take in panoramic views of Richland. The desert path is paved but offers little in the way of shade and can get scorching hot in the summer. There is a fantastic park with covered picnic area—a great place for a post-ride snack or a cool, refreshing beverage. So bring your best riding buddies, wheels and hydration packs for a fun day of riding.

Driving Directions: From I-182, take the Queensgate South exit to Keene Road. Follow Keene Road for about 1.5 miles and the park will be on your left-hand side. There is free parking at the trailhead.

Tips: For a special treat for the kids, visit Boehm's Chocolates at 1950 Keene Rd. There are restrooms in Badger Mountain Park, next to the baseball fields.



REI's PEAK program uses a fun presentation filled with hands-on activities and games to teach kids ages 6 through 12 about taking care of the outdoors.

Ask an REI team member about scheduling a free PEAK presentation for your classroom or youth group, or visit www.rei.com/PEAK for more information.



First Saturday in June The American Hiking Society's National Trails Day, sponsored by REI, is a nationwide celebration of trails. Celebrate with your family by taking a hike, or volunteering for a trail clean-up project. Ask an REI team member about how to get involved, or visit www.rei.com for more information.