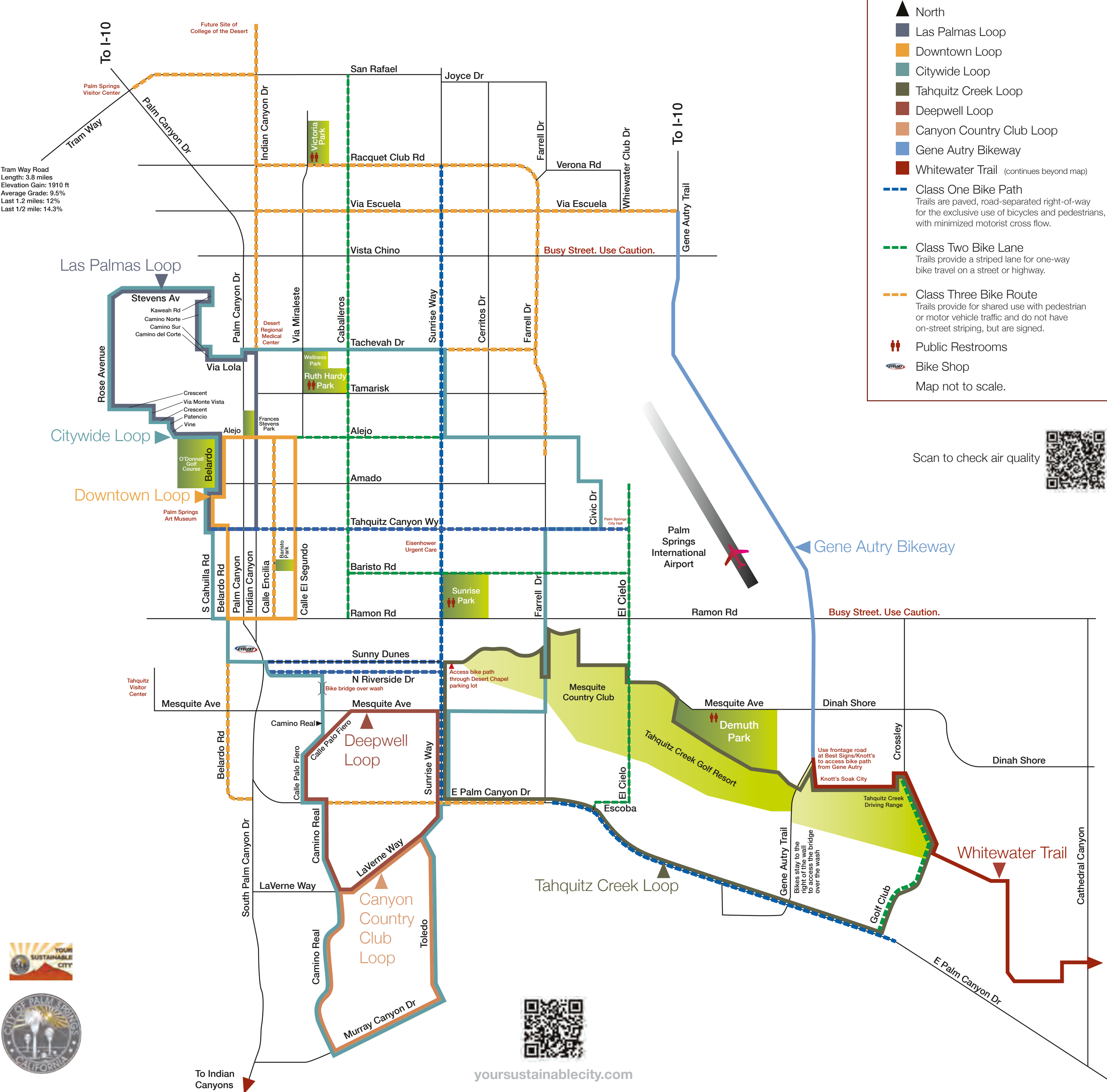
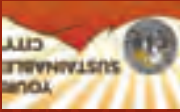


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Sharrows



A **shared-lane marking** or **sharrow** is a street marking placed in the center of a travel lane to indicate that a bicyclist may use the full lane.

According to the U.S. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, shared-lane markings are used for bicyclists and motorists for the following purposes:

Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist’s impacting the open door of a parked vehicle.

Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane.

Alert motorists of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way.

Encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists and reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.

The name sharrow was coined by Oliver Gajda, of the City and County of San Francisco Bicycle Program, and is a portmanteau of **share** and **arrow**.

5 Tips for Sharing the Road

Five tips for both drivers and cyclists

1. Both drivers and cyclists should know the laws and their responsibilities and should abide by both.
2. It’s okay to ride bikes on residential area sidewalks. However, in business districts it is against the law. When in a business district, bike riders must dismount and walk on sidewalks or ride in the street. When in the street, cyclists have all the rights and responsibilities of a car.
3. Reducing distractions and being aware of your surroundings improves safety. Watch to make sure that other cyclists or motorists are noticing your movements.
4. All traffic signals and stop signs must be followed. Disregard of signals and stop signs by bicyclists and motorists leads to crashes. Everyone can prevent accidents.
5. Check both directions before pulling into traffic. Even if it’s a one-way street, looking both ways can prevent a crash.

Five tips for drivers

1. Cyclists need to have the entire width of a lane when there’s not enough room for a vehicle and a bike to travel side-by-side.
2. Drivers need to be patient and must give cyclists three-feet or more clearance when passing.
3. Whenever making left or right turns, drivers should always be cautious. Check for oncoming and rear-approaching cyclists, and give cyclists right-of-way when required.
4. Expect to see cyclists on the sidewalk. When there are bikes on sidewalks, drivers should yield to them as they would pedestrians. When stopping at street corners, alleys and driveways, drivers should come to a halt before crosswalks.
5. Slowing down makes the streets safer. A cyclist’s chances of survival in a crash are greatly improved when the vehicles involved are traveling at a slower speed.

Five tips cyclists need to know

1. Cyclists should ride just right of center in the lane that best serves their destination. Bike riding along curbs and in street gutters is dangerous because it makes it harder for drivers to spot them and increases the risk of riding into debris. Also, cyclists should not ride too close to parked cars to avoid colliding with an opening car door.
2. Cyclists need to ride with the flow of traffic, unless a bike lane allows travel the opposite direction.
3. Cyclists should use caution when riding on residential sidewalks, particularly when crossing streets, alleys, and driveways. They’re considered pedestrians when not on the street, and should slow down and watch for traffic.
4. Stoplights and stop signs must be followed. Cyclists should use hand signals to indicate turns and when switching lanes.
5. Helmets make for safer travel. Cyclists should also use headlights, taillights and wear reflective light-colored clothing at night.

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